

PETITION

Two years ago, we had to stop walking our dog, Jack, on Albert Street in Johnstown after an encounter with loose, unfamiliar dogs. Jack was not raised in this area and he was not accustomed to interactions with other people or pets. We found ourselves in the paradoxical situation of having to protect the loose dogs.

This unfortunate encounter was not an isolated incident. Many dog owners in our community have faced similar situations. The problem arises due to the lack of proper regulations concerning leashing dogs in public spaces. Current regulation allow dogs to roam free in most public spaces, including roads and parks, exposing both dogs and community members to potential risks.

It is crucial to note that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4.7 million dog bites occur in the United States each year. Although we lack concrete statistics in Canada, this number is indicative of the serious risk that loose dogs present. As a result, it is clear that this issue needs to be given the priority it deserves.

Therefore, this petition requests for the implementation of a mandate requiring all dogs to be leashed when in public areas, with exceptions only in designated dog areas. By taking this action, both the safety of our pets and our community will be enhanced.

Please note that the Province of Ontario has a leash law with fines starting at \$395. All surrounding townships have the same leash law (lower fines) with some having length of leash restrictions.

As a resident of Johnstown, I urge you to sign this petition and demonstrate your commitment to safety and well being of all community residents and our pets. It is time to create a pleasant, safe, and harmonious environment for all.

Thank you for your time.

Regards



Cynthia Durant
26 Albert Street