

### Results of 2024 and 2025 Polls on Skiing Direction on Dog Trails

Note: Only Pooch Paradise and Wild Dog were considered; Hound Heaven was excluded.

#### **2025 Poll (N=403)**

	Ski with dog	Ski without dog	Sometimes with/sometimes without
Make trails one-way for all skiers	77	30	44
Leave trails as is	29	74	63
No opinion	43	24	20

#### **2024 Poll (N=261)**

	Ski with dog	Ski without dog	Sometimes with/sometimes without
Make trails one-way for all skiers	50	18	26
Leave trails as is	7	62	29
No opinion	30	23	16

#### **Results as percentages of total responses (2025/2024)**

	Ski with dog (%)	Ski without dog (%)	Sometimes with/sometimes without (%)
Make trails one-way for all skiers	19/19	7/7	11/10
Leave trails as is	7/3	18/24	16/11
No opinion	10/11	6/9	5/6

#### **Responses to 2025 Question: Do you think that negative interactions declined and/or safety increased this season?**

Yes = 26%

No = 12%

Not Sure = 62%

Note that there were comments that negative interactions increased in 2025 which wasn't well captured in the way that the question was worded. My apologies for that.

## **Comments**

Many comments began with few lines saying Thank-you; sometimes the thanks were specific:

- Expressing appreciation for the dog trails
- Acknowledging the excellent job that groomers did this year (2024) under difficult conditions
- Thanking the club for offering opportunity to express opinions about this issue
- Great grooming on all trails
- Work by board on this issue and in general
- The communications and signage on this issue.

### **1) Safety concerns**

- Dangerous to have 2- way skiing
- Skate skiers are the main problem because dogs run down the centre of the tracks
- Don't care (ski without dog) but recognise safety concern if ski with dogs
- Fear for dogs' safety – skiers coming down hills fast
- Many negative encounters/near misses with skate skiers
- Don't understand why anyone skis in wrong direction – it just causes trouble
- Mystified by why shifting to a safer pattern poses challenge – a public safety issue. Dog trails at other clubs are one-way
- Many trails for humans only whereas only a few for dogs so asking for few to be designated for safety not a big ask
- One way trails might be helpful for those who have experienced negative interactions
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### **2) Unpleasant to have 2 way skiing**

- Stress of anticipating anger, danger negatively impacts ski
- Rudeness (from dog skier x 3; non-dog skier x 1)
- Told by skiers w/out dogs to keep dogs on own side of trail - unrealistic
- Don't want to run into dogs when skiing; one way for all reduces interactions with not nice dogs (from non-dog skier)
- Several times skate skiers made angry comments when dog was in the middle. Stopped coming/partner stopped coming because wasn't enjoying ski

- Skiers w/out dogs on trails should anticipate dog interaction and not be annoyed by that. If uninterrupted skiing is important, could consider other trails.

### **3) change direction mid-season or frequently**

#### **4) Encounters**

- Dogs get in the way – usually at bottom of hills
- Problem is skate skiers with dogs who are far ahead of their dogs
- Issue with dogs is no owners are around and dogs follow us
- Non-dog traffic needs to anticipate that will encounter dogs and “respectfully proceed with caution”/not be angry/grumpy (3 from non-dog skiers; 1 from dog skier)
- Like to meet people with dogs (from a non-dog skier)
- Prefer everyone ski in same direction cz much easier to pass person with dog if know that no one is coming in the other direction
- Skiing in opposite direction from dogs deters dogs from following a faster skier and running ahead of owner
- People without dogs are more negative toward a person with dog when travelling the opposite way
- Split opinions on whether have more time to get dog under control if non-dog skier is approaching from in front or behind
- Split opinions on whether prefer seeing dogs/people coming toward or prefer if dogs/people approach from behind

#### **5) Skiing both directions without dog**

- Feels like different trail when reverse direction
- Appreciate being able to ski in both directions
- Our right to be able to ski in both directions
- Never had a bad encounter
- There have been no collisions
- Wild Dog was designed to ski both ways – people have to take some measure of real vs. perceived risk – real risk is small
- If skiers don't mind running into dogs, then allow to go either way

#### **6) Only 1 trail should be uni-directional**

- Wild dog because of sharp corners and steep hills
- One way on Pooch Paradise but not necessary on Wild Dog because so quiet

## 7) Other patterns

- Want trails 2-way for all
- No dogs on trails period (because of poop)
- Suggest The Pup be both ways for skiers with dogs
- One way for all where there are hills

## 8) Other comments

- Signage could be simplified if one way for all
- Easier to join up loops if not have to think about direction
- Easier to pass if all one way
- Anyone on trails should expect dogs so training that can't be disturbed by the occasional dog should be discouraged on these trails
- Ski without dog so answered "no" but would say "yes" if had dog
- People with dogs are only tolerated on trails
- Disagree with dogs' right-of-way rule: dogs should make way for skiers
- Ticket checkers should follow same rules if ski with dogs

## 9) Hard to know what to do with these comments

- When ski with dog, want everyone to ski in same direction, but when ski without dog, want two way
- Very important to respect needs and wishes of longtime club members
- Collisions are not an issue on other (non-dog) 2-way trails
- Might be helpful to know mountain bike experience
- Good to foster sense that anyone is welcome
- Make the trail connecting the 5, 7 km to Pooch Paradis one way because of unsafe situations

## 10) Comments about survey

- Survey missed day pass holders
- Delete responses because have email addresses, i.e. identifying information **NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN DONE**

- Concerned that if complain then dog trails will be shut down/dogs will be banned from trails

#### **11) Beyond scope of this survey**

- Need/want more dog trails incl. expand to 5K Pine Creek but no more or take over all Pine Creek; open Pine Creek to dogs Mon-Thur but not on weekends
- Keep Pine Creek dog free; want dogs off Pine Creek
- Poop is out of control; I don't ski dog trails because of all of the poop
- Dogs running free in parking lot annoying and unsafe
- Suggest that people bring own trowel
- Want lit dog trails
- Should decrease trail fees for people who only ski with dogs and so are restricted to a limited # trails
- Suggest dog pass/dog membership to reflect added cost
- Suggestion of installing hitching post for people to clip their dog onto while putting skis on (didn't say why couldn't use leash post);
- Suggestion of making optional return route between tunnel and parking lot mandatory because multiple bad interactions with dogs on hill from parking lot;
- Suggestion to create on-leash only ski area for skijorers cz off-leash dogs get tangled in skijoring gear
- Problems primarily in junction of start of Pooch Paradise and Hound Heaven where people stop to chat – suggest dogs should be on leash there
- No more rules
- Request to elaborate on “dogs have right of way” cz don't fully understand
- Should limit dog movement to one direction – some dogs run back and forth
- All dogs should be on leash all the time
- Use of dog trails shouldn't be affected by races. Have limited number of dog trails so not okay to not ski on a Saturday