

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 patten 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