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**ORDINANCE: Amend Section 19.13 of the General Code of Winnebago County Regarding the Handling of Domesticated Animals in Specified Areas of the Winnebago County Park System**

**TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

**WHEREAS**, for several decades, Winnebago County has maintained a set of policies that allow owners of domesticated animals access to specified parklands deemed appropriate for facilitating on-leash and off-leash activities, or a combination thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, your undersigned Committee is interested in increasing the recreational opportunities made available to owners of domesticated animals by expanding their access to other areas of Winnebago County park property; and

**WHEREAS**, your undersigned Committee does hereby recommend that Section 19.13 of the General Code of Winnebago County be amended to provide owners of domesticated animals increased on-leash access to specified areas of park property.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:** that it hereby amends Section 19.13 of the General Code of Winnebago County to read as follows:

~~(1) No person shall bring or permit any animal in any County park at any time unless the animal is on a leash of suitable strength and not more than eight (8) foot long.~~

~~(2) No person shall bring or permit any animal except a seeing eye dog, whether on a leash or not, to be in any building or on any designated bathing beach at any time in any County park.~~

~~(3) Animals must be under control at all times so they will not disturb or prevent the public from enjoying the facilities provided.~~

~~(4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or restrict the use of dogs in posted dog training exercise areas.~~

~~(5) No person shall bring a horse into or ride a horse in any park or recreation trail except that horseback riding shall be permitted in areas specially designated for horses.~~

~~(6) There shall be no dog training or running either on or off leash at the Acylum Point Park during the period April 15 through July 15 in any year.~~

~~(7) Dogs shall be allowed to run off leash within the signed designated fenced enclosure located in the northeast portion of the Winnebago County Community Park. No dog shall be permitted in any other area of the Winnebago County Community Park.~~

~~(8) No person shall bring or permit any animal to be present on a county operated recreation trail unless the animal is on a leash of suitable strength and not more than eight (8) foot long.~~

**19.13 PETS AND ANIMALS.**

No domesticated animals shall be allowed onto Park property, except as follows:

42 (1) With the exceptions as noted in Section 19.13(4)(5)(11)(12)&(14), no person shall bring or permit any  
43 domesticated animal onto Park property at any time unless the animal is on a leash of suitable strength with a  
44 maximum length of six (6) feet.

45 (2) Leashed animals are allowed on the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin Valley State Recreation Trails and at  
46 specified times at the Sunnyview Exposition Center during scheduled events and per the edicts set-forth within the  
47 Sunnyview Exposition Center Policy Statement/Administrative Directive.

48 (3) Persons shall be allowed to have domesticated animals on-leash at County boat landings only when being  
49 transferred from vehicles to boats, or boats to vehicles.

50 (4) With the exception of the section of Community Park shared use path crossing through the Community  
51 Park Natural Way, persons shall be allowed to have domesticated animals on-leash on the Community Park shared  
52 use path and such persons shall be permitted to utilize those Community Park parking lots that abut the shared use  
53 path to facilitate direct transfer of their animal(s) from vehicle to path, or from path to vehicle.

54 (5) No person shall bring or permit any animal except a service animal access into any building or onto any  
55 Nature Area, nor onto any parkland including disc golf courses, rugby and soccer fields, prairie plantings,  
56 playgrounds or play areas, shade shelters, ballfields, ponds, picnic or lawn areas, or public event areas.

57 (6) While on the Community Park shared use path domesticated animals shall yield to bicycles, strollers, roller  
58 bladders, skate boarders, walkers, runners, those using mobility assistance devices, and, with the exception of  
59 marked crosswalks, all motorized vehicles.

60 (7) No leashed animals shall be allowed on the segment of shared use path within the Community Park soccer  
61 complex during sports tournament events unless written permission is granted by the Director.

62 (8) Persons making use of either the Community Park on-leash or off-leash facilities shall be allowed to  
63 shepherd a maximum of two dogs at any given time.

64 (9) Animals must be under control at all times so they will not disturb the park setting or prevent the public  
65 from enjoying the facilities provided.

66 (10) No person shall bring a horse into or ride a horse onto Park property except that horseback riding shall be  
67 permitted in areas specially designated for horses.

68 (11) Nothing within Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.13 shall prohibit or restrict dogs from being  
69 present in posted off-leash dog park areas.

70 (12) Service animals as defined by the ADA are allowed onto all Park property with on-leash restrictions  
71 excepting where these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using  
72 these devices.

73 (13) Owners are required to clean up any waste deposited by their domesticated animal and properly dispose  
74 of it off-site.

75 (14) Rules set forth in Winnebago County General Code Chapter 19.13 may be waived by the Director or  
76 his/her designee as circumstances may require for fixed periods of time.

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78 Respectfully submitted by:

79 **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

80 Committee Vote: **4-0**

81 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

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83 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Mark L Harris  
Winnebago County Executive