

May 22, 2006

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Mercedes VanDenBerg

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Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Ft. Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, Ca 94123

Attention: Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

Gentlemen:

I understand that the Park has started a process for new regulations on dog walking. I would like to give you my comments regarding this issue.

I am a 74 year old active woman.

On June 25, 2005, as I was walking at Crissy Field to the rest room next to the parking lot, I was knocked down from the back by a huge weimaraner which was off leash. I was injured and had medical bills associated with the encounter. (The owner will not return my phone calls for payment of my out-of-pocket expenses.)

This dog accident was my third in the years 2004 and 2005. Once I was knocked down while walking on the beach near the East End and the other was when a large dog jumped up and hit me in the jaw as I was leaving the rest room. As you can understand, I am very reticent to go to Crissy Field for fear I will be hurt again.

I have talked with other people, old and young, who are also afraid of walking in the area because of off leash dogs. Even some of my dog-owner friends acknowledge that after hearing about my encounters that perhaps a leash law should take effect.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration when making decisions regarding dogs in the Park.

Very truly yours,

*Mercedes VanDenBerg*  
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