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Dog Owners, Advocates Push For More Publicity Of Off-Leash Hours

DIAL UP BROAD BAND

Dog owners and advocates unleashed their concerns Wednesday over whether canines should be restrained in city parks.

For 20 years, dogs have been allowed to run freely in select city parks from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. In a hearing Wednesday the Health Board proposed keeping it that way, but also suggested making a better effort to publicize park rules.

The hearing followed a Queens park association's lawsuit against the city's claims that unleashed dogs can be dangerous.

Advocates support the board, saying leashing dogs could raise their aggression and cause them to bite.

"When dogs don't feel threatened and they feel like they can escape they don't bite," said Animal Behavior Consultant Parvene Farhooody. "And so off-leash time is a wonderful time for both people and dogs, because everyone's interacting in a really health natural way."

A State Supreme Court judge is expected to make his final decision on the case before the year is up.

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[Should dogs be allowed off their leashes in parks with no dog runs?](#)



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The advertisement features a yellow background on the left with the text "Browse off-line. (JAVA OPTIONAL)". On the right, a photograph shows a man in a white shirt sitting up in bed, reading a newspaper. Below the photo, the text reads "The New York Times IN PRINT." and "AS LOW AS \$3.15 A WEEK. DELIVERED." At the bottom right, there is a "CLICK HERE ►" link.

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