PRESERVE WINTER BEACH ACCESS FOR DOGS IN FAIRFIELD

We, the undersigned, vigorously oppose rule changes now being considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission for the Town of Fairfield, regarding winter beach access for pets. Specifically, we object to implementing a $400 - $800 permit fee; and additionally the parallel shortening of the season from the current Oct. 1 - Apr. 1 to the shorter term of Nov. 1 - Feb. 28.

We understand the concerns of some town residents who have complained about incidences of dog waste left behind. However, we ask for the Commission to acknowledge that the overwhelming majority of dog owners who look forward to using the beach as a community resource in winter months obey Connecticut's Litter Law and/or hazardous waste statutes [CGS § 22a-250, §22a-248(4); CGS §22a -115, 22a] as well as existing Town of Fairfield ordinances [Definitions, Beaches: §13 (b); §14 (a), (b), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j); Definitions, Town Parks: §29, §33, & §35]; and more explicitly, requiring: 1) that dog owners clean up waste from their pets; and 2) that dog owners keep their animals under voice command at all times, [including: CGS §22- 363, 364(a); Local Ord. §48-1,2,3].

We believe that these proposed fees are unwarranted and mis-directed. We regard these proposed fees as burdensome, and which would immediately exclude many families from enjoying access to Fairfield beaches as a traditional community resource, admired and used by Fairfield residents and out-of-towners alike. Rather than over-broadly penalize all dog owners who use the beaches, we request that Town of Fairfield officials more properly move to rigorously enforce existing rules, and to augment litter fines and/or codify a more punitive dog waste ordinance: which would be sufficient to address the concerns of non-pet owners and other users of Town of Fairfield beaches.

WE INSIST THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO LITTER OR LEAVE DOG WASTE THEMSELVES BE FINED,
AND THAT THOSE WHO OBEY CURRENT LAWS AND ORDINANCES NOT BE PENALIZED.

Name	Address and/or Town	(Optional) Email Address

(If you leave your Email address, we will endeavor to keep you informed).

Need more copies of this petition? Email: preserve_beach_access@yahoo.com (preserve_beach_access)

→ MAIL THIS FORM TO US: Preserve Beach Access, PO Box 321085, Fairfield, CT 06825-6085