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## MASTER THESIS

# Evaluating dog zones in a dense city, a case study in Vienna

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## ABSTRACT

Dog zones and dog exercise areas are the only spaces in Vienna in which dogs may run off-leash and without a muzzle. These spaces are vital infrastructure for most dog owners in Vienna as they are required to properly fulfil a dog's natural needs in the city. With the help of literature reviews, planning document analysis and expert interviews, this thesis develops an in-depth understanding of the subject of dog sites in Vienna. After this, the thesis evaluates all nine dog zones in the fifth district with the help of a standardised survey that was completed by 203 dog owners. Furthermore, quantitative data about the use of dog zones and the use of parks with dogs was collected with 64 hours of systematic, non-participatory observations around two select dog zones and their parks. The results of the analyses can help urban planners and local politicians understand in which goals the different dog zones in the fifth district succeed and in which goals they perform poorly, as well as how dog owners really use dog zones and parks in the fifth district of Vienna. As a conclusion, recommendations for all nine dog zones of the fifth district of Vienna are presented. Furthermore, it is recommended to adopt a holistic planning approach for dog sites in Vienna by introducing the concept of "district level dog site master plans".

### Key Words:

urban planning, dog zone, dog park, evaluation, Vienna



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## ABSTRACT (GERMAN)

Hundezonen und Hundeauslaufplätze sind die einzigen Bereiche in Wien, in denen Hunde ohne Leine und Maulkorb laufen dürfen. Diese Räume sind für die meisten Hundebesitzer\*innen in Wien eine wichtige Infrastruktur, da sie erforderlich sind, um die natürlichen Bedürfnisse eines Hundes in der Stadt zu erfüllen. Anhand von Literaturrecherchen, Planungsunterlagenanalysen und Expert\*inneninterviews entwickelt diese Arbeit ein vertieftes Verständnis zum dem Thema. Anschließend evaluiert die Diplomarbeit alle neun Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk mit Hilfe einer standardisierten Umfrage, die von 203 Hundehalter\*innen ausgefüllt wurde. Darüber hinaus wurden quantitative Daten über die Nutzung von Hundezonen und die Nutzung von Parks mit Hunden mit 64 Stunden systematischer, nicht teilnehmender Beobachtungen rund um zwei ausgewählte Hundezonen und deren Parks erhoben. Die Ergebnisse der Analysen können Raumplaner\*innen und Bezirkspolitiker\*innen helfen zu verstehen, bei welchen Zielen die verschiedenen Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk erfolgreich sind und bei welchen Zielen sie schlecht abschneiden und wie Hundebesitzer\*innen Hundezonen und Parks im fünften Wiener Gemeindebezirk wirklich nutzen. Abschließend werden Empfehlungen für alle neun Hundezonen des fünften Wiener Gemeindebezirks präsentiert. Darüber hinaus wird empfohlen, in Zukunft einen ganzheitlichen Planungsansatz für die Entwicklung von Hundezonen und Hundeauslaufplätzen in Wien zu verfolgen, indem das Konzept der „Hundeinfrastruktur-Masterpläne auf Bezirksebene“ eingeführt wird.

### Stichwörter:

Raumplanung, Stadtplanung, Hundezone, Hundepark, Evaluation, Wien



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## Table of Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION, URBAN PLANNER'S PERSPECTIVE AND METHODOLOGIES .....	7
1 Introduction .....	8
2 Urban planner's perspective: dog sites as shared, public spaces as parts of urban green sites .....	10
2.1 Spatial claims: the inherent conflict between dog owners and other users of urban green sites .....	10
2.2 A relational concept of space .....	11
2.3 The "inclusivity" of a site – developing a theoretical framework for a better understanding of public spaces as shared spaces .....	12
2.4 Influence of perceived interests of other user groups and the perceived atmosphere and climate of a space .....	17
2.5 Dependence on public spaces and relocative resources of user groups .....	18
2.6 Exclusion by rules and regulations and related "rebellion" .....	20
3 Methodology: literature reviews, document analysis and interviews ..	22
3.1 Literature review about sociological research for developing suitable methodologies .....	22
3.2 Literature review about urban studies for understanding dog sites from an urban planning perspective .....	24
3.3 Literature review about planning basis for dog sites in Vienna .....	24
3.4 Literature review about dog sites in Vienna .....	24
3.5 Document analysis about dog sites in Vienna .....	26
3.6 Interviews with experts and dog owners .....	27
4 Methodology: systematic, non-participatory observations .....	28
4.1 Research design for systematic, non-participatory observations .....	28

---

4.2	Limitations of the research method .....	31
4.3	Choice of research sites and hypothesis of expected results when deploying the research method .....	31
5	Methodology: standardised survey for dog owners in Margareten.....	33
5.1	Eleven goals for a successful dog zone from a user perspective and a survey for dog owners.....	33
5.2	Behavioural data collected by the survey .....	34
5.3	Operationalising a successful dog zone for the survey .....	36
5.3.1	<i>Statements for operationalising the goals for a successful dog zone. . . . .</i>	36
5.3.2	<i>Choosing a suitable Likert-type scale for responses to the statements . . . . .</i>	38
5.3.3	<i>Developing a weighted model for rating dog zones. . . . .</i>	40
5.4	Collecting data from dog owners who do not use dog zones in Margareten .....	44
5.5	Collecting data about dog owners" perception of dogs in parks in Margareten .....	46
5.6	Basic demographic data collected by the survey .....	46
PART 2: PLANNING BASIS FOR DOG SITES IN VIENNA .....		48
6	History of dogs in Vienna.....	49
6.1	Domestication of wolves and the emergence of dogs .....	49
6.2	Imperial hunting dogs .....	50
6.3	Common working dogs .....	52
6.4	Non-working luxury dogs .....	52
6.5	Problems with dogs in the city across centuries .....	53
6.6	The emergence of animal protection efforts in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century .....	55
6.7	Conclusion about dogs in Vienna before the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.....	56
7	The modern understanding of the needs of dogs in Vienna and relevant legislation.....	58
7.1	Development of modern legislation related to dogs in Austria .....	58
7.2	Number of dogs in Vienna .....	59
7.3	Modern role of dogs in Vienna .....	61

---

7.4 Modern understanding of the needs of dogs as a species .....	62
7.5 Life for dogs in Vienna from a dog's perspective .....	63
7.6 Certificate of competence for dog keeping in Vienna .....	63
7.7 Protecting dogs from people: the Animal Protection Act .....	65
7.8 Minimum requirements for keeping dogs in the Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance .....	68
<b>8 Issues with dogs in Vienna and relevant legislation .....</b>	<b>69</b>
8.1 Chapter introduction .....	69
8.2 Protecting people from dogs: the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act .....	69
8.3 Dogs in parks in Vienna .....	71
8.4 Dogs in forests in Vienna .....	73
8.5 Regulations concerning potentially dangerous dogs in Vienna .....	73
8.6 Aggression in dogs, dog bites and children .....	77
8.6.1 Children's awareness of dangerous situations and dog bites .....	77
8.6.2 Children, affective aggression and de-escalating behaviour in dogs .....	78
8.6.3 Children and predatory behaviour in dogs .....	80
8.6.4 Solutions for dogs and children .....	81
8.7 The issue of dog waste and dog fouling in Vienna .....	82
8.7.1 Regulations about dog fouling in Vienna .....	82
8.7.2 Introduction to the issue of dog waste and dog fouling in Vienna .....	83
8.7.3 The Viennese citizens' growing awareness on the issue of dog fouling .....	83
8.7.4 Experiments with "dog toilets" in Vienna .....	84
8.7.5 Protest against dog fouling in Vienna .....	86
8.7.6 Providing information: New advertisement-campaigns against dog fouling .....	87
8.7.7 Fining infractions: WasteWatchers .....	88
8.7.8 Expanding services: Dog waste bag dispensers .....	88
8.7.9 Vienna's success in combat against dog fouling .....	90
<b>PART 3: DOG SITES IN VIENNA .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>9 Introduction to dog sites and their function .....</b>	<b>93</b>
9.1 What if there were no dog sites in Vienna? .....	93

---

9.2 Functions of dog sites in Vienna.....	94
9.3 Proper and improper behaviour in dog sites in Vienna.....	96
9.4 Examples for dog sites around the world.....	98
<b>10 Planning of dog sites in Vienna.....</b>	<b>104</b>
10.1 Planning basis for dog sites in Vienna .....	104
10.2 Process of establishing a dog site in Vienna.....	106
10.3 Difference between dog zones and dog exercise areas .....	108
10.4 Cost of dog sites .....	109
<b>11 Size, structuring, design and equipment of dog sites .....</b>	<b>111</b>
11.1 Size of dog sites.....	111
11.2 Structuring and segmenting of dog sites.....	113
11.3 Fencing and gating of dog sites .....	115
11.4 Terrain of dog sites.....	119
11.5 Vegetation in dog sites.....	122
11.6 Equipment, design elements and furnishing of dog sites.....	125
11.7 Hygienic concerns around dog sites.....	130
<b>12 General analyses of dog sites in Vienna.....</b>	<b>132</b>
12.1 List of dog zones and dog exercise areas in Vienna .....	132
12.2 Popularity of dog ownership in Vienna at a district level.....	139
12.3 Availability of dog sites in Vienna at a district level .....	141
12.4 Use pressure on dog sites in Vienna at a district level.....	143
12.5 Ratio of dog sites to park sites and lawns in Vienna at a district level .....	146
12.6 Limitations of a district level analysis .....	149
<b>PART 4: CASE STUDY – ANALYSIS OF DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA.....</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>13 Introduction to dog zones in Margareten, the fifth district of Vienna .....</b>	<b>151</b>

---

13.1 Introduction to Margareten, the fifth district of Vienna and its dog zones .....	151
13.2 Recent developments around dog zones in Margareten .....	153
13.3 Analysis of accessibility of dog zones in Margareten .....	155
14 Analysis of the survey for dog owners in Margareten .....	158
14.1 Collection of data for the survey .....	158
14.2 Sampling bias through difficulty of data collection .....	160
14.3 Practices used in reporting survey results .....	161
14.4 Demographic data of respondents and sampling bias .....	161
15 General findings about dogs in Margareten .....	164
15.1 Leash use of survey participants in the city .....	164
15.2 How survey participants use dog zones .....	167
15.3 Overall evaluation of all dog zones in Margareten .....	174
15.4 Why dog owners do not visit dog zones in the fifth district .....	179
15.5 How dog owners visit parks with their dogs .....	183
16 Evaluation of dog zones in Margareten .....	187
16.1 Comparison of scoring of all rated dog zones .....	187
16.2 Dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone .....	188
16.3 Dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park .....	196
16.4 Dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm .....	203
16.5 Dog zone in Einsiedlerpark .....	210
16.6 Dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park .....	217
16.7 Dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park .....	224
16.8 Dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park .....	231
16.9 Dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park .....	235
16.10 Temporary dog zone in Bacherpark .....	240
17 Evaluating the observations of the dog zones at Parkanlage am Hundsturm and Rudolf-Sallinger-Park .....	246
17.1 Observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm during a weekday .....	246

---

17.2 Observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm during a weekend day	249
17.3 Observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park during a weekday	252
17.4 Observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park during a weekend day	255
17.5 Conclusion from the observations	257
18 Recommendations for dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna	258
18.1 Chapter introduction	258
18.2 Recommendation for dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone	260
18.3 Recommendation for dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park	262
18.4 Recommendation for dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm	266
18.5 Recommendation for dog zone in Einsiedlerpark	268
18.6 Recommendation for dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park	271
18.7 Recommendation for dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park	273
18.8 Recommendation for dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park	275
18.9 Recommendation for dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park	277
18.10 Recommendation for temporary dog zone in Bacherpark	279
18.11 Recommendations for future planning and research of dog sites	280
19 Conclusion	283
Reference list	285
Appendix	305

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# PART 1: INTRODUCTION, URBAN PLANNER'S PERSPECTIVE AND METHODOLOGIES

# 1 Introduction

After the first creation of modern rules and regulations for leashing and muzzling dogs in the City of Vienna in 1987, the concept of “dog zones” (“Hundezonen”) and “dog exercise areas” (“Hundeauslaufplätze”) was introduced in 1991. In this thesis, the combination of dog zones and dog exercise areas will be referred to as “dog sites”.

Dog sites mark the only public areas in the city of Vienna in which dogs may run off-leash and without a muzzle. As such they are vital spatial infrastructure for dog owners in Vienna. The main difference between dog zones and dog exercise areas is the size: dog zones tend to be smaller, and all dog zones that have been established after 2006 must be fenced in. Dog exercise areas usually consist of bigger areas such as meadows, in which dogs may roam freely. These areas are often not fenced in.

Today – more than 30 years after their introduction – the concept of dog sites has become a regular typology in Vienna, as there are 162 dog zones and 41 dog exercise areas, covering a total of over 134 hectares (cf. City of Vienna, 2022). However, the creation of these spaces for dogs is not regulated by the City of Vienna – the city does not even have any recommendations regarding the creation of these. Instead, the creation and management of these dog sites is completely up to the 23 districts of Vienna. While the planning decisions are made by district level politicians, the management of these dog sites is usually left to MA 42, the Viennese municipal department of “Parks and Gardens”.

Despite being a well-established typology of the city, little effort has been put into studying and documenting dog sites in Vienna as an urban planning solution. Judging by the fact that there are now slightly more than 200 dog sites in the city, with new spaces being established every once in a while, the concept seems to be a well-received one. However, there have not been any scientific studies evaluating how well these dog sites actually work as an urban planning typology: evaluating to what extent they serve their functions and how they could be improved.

The use pressure on space is especially tight in the dense inner city districts of Vienna, resulting not only in less and smaller recreational spaces for humans but also in less and smaller dog sites. With little space to plan with, it can be hard to find a fair balance for the distribution of uses for space. A lack of spatial resources also makes it even more important to use these resources in a rational and efficient way. When there is little space to plan with, a planner or politician might ask: “Why should certain spaces be dedicated to dogs anyway? Do all of these dog sites really serve a function? How well does this concept



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really work, and if it serves a function, how can the functionality be maximised on little space?”

This thesis has chosen the most densely populated district of Vienna as its research area: the fifth district called Margareten. The thesis asks the research questions: “How should an urban planner conceptualise the relationship between dog sites and other types of urban green sites? What is the planning basis for dog sites in Vienna? What goals should a dog site meet, and how well do the dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna meet their goals? How can the dog zones of the fifth district be improved?” The thesis sets out to deeply understand the concept of dog sites, and after developing this understanding it evaluates the existing dog zones of Margareten.

In order to develop this deep understanding, extensive literature reviews and a document analysis were conducted; furthermore, several expert interviews were held. On the basis of this deep knowledge about the subject, two further research methods were developed: a standardised survey for dog owners and a research design for systematic, non-participatory observations which were analysed with the help of a theoretical framework that was built upon urban planning literature.

Naturally, if any flaws in the planning of the evaluated dog zones were to be discovered, recommendations would be given – indeed, as a conclusion, recommendations for all nine dog zones of the fifth district are presented. Furthermore, recommendations that can be applied to the whole city of Vienna are presented, as the concept of “district level dog site master plans” is discussed.

## **2 Urban planner's perspective: dog sites as shared, public spaces as parts of urban green sites**

### **2.1 Spatial claims: the inherent conflict between dog owners and other users of urban green sites**

Space is a valuable and contested resource in a big city such as Vienna. One job of urban planners is to allocate spatial resources in a fair and responsible way.

The inner city of Vienna – which the research area of Margareten is an example of – has few, small recreational areas and a high population density. High population in combination with the small size and number of “urban green sites” increases the pressure on these inner-city urban green sites which leads not only to filled up recreational areas, but also causes processes of displacement and exclusion at these sites.

An urban green site means a clearly definable section within a city with greenery and a recreational function (e.g. a park), which can consist of several sites (such as a fenced in dog zone or a playground) with different “functional designs”.

Functional design refers to the different functionalities that are coded into the built environment. Examples for different functional designs could be a dog zone, playground, sports court, or a recreational area with seating in a park.

Different user groups (for example dog owners, parents, elderly people, etc.) have distinct needs and wish to use various spaces differently. A “spatial claim” describes the wish of a specific user group to use a certain space in a certain way.

Because of the limited nature of space in a city, it is important to optimise the ratio of different functional designs of an urban green site in a way that satisfies spatial claims of different user groups as well as possible, generates the least amount of conflict of use, and processes of displacement and exclusion of different user groups are avoided as well as possible.

This leads to one of the main planning problems related to dog sites as a part of urban green sites: the spatial claims of a certain user group (dog owners) to the functional design of a dog zone are in direct opposition to the

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spatial claims of other user groups who wish for other functional designs in an urban green site (see also chapter 2.4). How can an urban planner decide a fair and responsible ratio of different functional designs as part of an urban green site? In order to answer this question, this chapter develops a theoretical framework that can be used to better understand the spatial claims of different user groups by observing the use pressure practised by various user groups on different sites.

## 2.2 A relational concept of space

The use of a shared site is always a process of “negotiation” between “user groups”. The term user group refers to a group of individuals who have a relationship with each other, for example a mother and her two sons, or a friend group. A person who is out on their own is also to be considered a “user group”, despite of the fact that it consists of just one person.

The negotiations between user groups are mostly non-verbal and are often conducted unilaterally by the arriving user group in relation to already present user group(s) at the site: the arriving user group evaluates what remaining options to use the site are left and appropriate in relation to the present user groups. For example when a child arrives at a playground, he might want to use the swing, but the swing is already occupied, so he goes use the slide instead. Of course, such negotiations are not only made at the initial arrival to a space, but every time that “placing” happens. The term placing will be defined later in this chapter.

Clearly, negotiation processes and the relations between user groups influence the usability of a site, they change how sites are perceived and used. This kind of human-focused analysis is informed by a relational understanding of space, which closely matches the “relational concept of space” that Martina Löw (2016) developed based on a critical discussion of classic theories of space. Her influential literature popularised (cf. Christmann et al. 2022: 6) a relational view of space in the German-language discourse about (urban) space. Löw’s understanding of space has also influenced the theoretical framework that the author is going to develop in the following chapter.

However, the author does not find Löw’s concept precise enough to incorporate as such in his theoretical framework. For example, Löw defines the term “spacing” as “the creation of space as the placing or positioning of living beings and social goods. Spacing can be considered an activity of arrangement or of building socio-material fabrics.” (ibid.: 7) Löw’s use of “spacing” gives the word multiple meanings, on one hand it is an action of movement, at the same time it describes a placement of a living being, and even the placement or movement of “socio-material fabric”.

In order to use precise language, the author's presented framework breaks Löw's spacing into two different words: "placing" and "placement". The term "placing" refers to the action of positioning of a user group into a specific space, for example the act of sitting down on a bench. "Placement" is what follows a placing: it refers to the presence of a user group in a specific space. A placement extends across the entire space that the user group occupies. For example, if two children are playing by throwing a ball back and forth, the placement of this user group consists of the whole space between the two children which they need for their game – only one user group can use a placement at any given time, unless interaction with other user groups takes place.

## **2.3 The "inclusivity" of a site – developing a theoretical framework for a better understanding of public spaces as shared spaces**

In situations in which urban green sites and dog sites as resources are scarce, the few remaining urban green sites and dog sites should be as "inclusive" as possible, taking into consideration that different user groups have different needs and expectations for the same site.

A site is truly "inclusive" when different user groups can develop a feeling that they can – at all times and in regards to all other user groups – independently decide about and alternate between settings of "coming together" and "spatial juxtaposition" and they always have the possibility of avoiding "opposition". If this is not the case, conflicts arise more frequently and processes of "displacement" and "exclusion" take place.

The concept of the inclusivity of a site does not only apply to traditional recreational spaces such as parks – it also applies to dog zones and dog exercise areas, where each dog owner (and their potential companions) and their dog(s) form one "user group".

The following table presents a key part of the author's own theoretical framework, primarily building on the "conclusions and recommendations for theory building" regarding the inclusivity of spaces presented by Breitfuss et al. (2006: 115), while integrating relevant and applicable concepts and knowledge from other urban theorists and researchers such as Lefebvre, Giddens, Löw, Gehl as well as Hacker and Blum (later in the chapter, these instances include the exact references). The table explains how a site can be shared (or not shared) by different user groups by defining different:

- 
- “placing actions” and “negotiating actions” that a user group can perform in negotiation with other user groups,
  - “relational placements” that a user group can enter in relation to other user groups and
  - reasons for a “non-placing” of a user group in a specific site.

**Table 1.** Part of the author's theoretical framework for understanding the inclusivity of spaces, building on the concept of the inclusivity of a space by Breiffuss et al. (2006: 115) as well as other theorists and researchers.

<b>term</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>explanation</b>	<b>reasoning</b>	<b>implication of inclusivity of site for the user group(s)</b>
coming together	relational placement	using a site in interaction with other user groups, shared placement of user groups (short interactions count)	matching interests	very positive
spatial juxtaposition	relational placement	sharing a site with different placements, placements can be very close to each other, but user groups do not interact	matching interests, neutral interests, mismatching interests, evasion	positive
temporal juxtaposition	relational placement	user groups using a placement or site after each other	evasion, courtesy or happenstance	positive or neutral
action of displacement	placing action	a user group changes its placement within the site when another user group places itself too close or escalates in behaviour (process of displacement)	mismatching interests	neutral
opposition	negotiating action	conflict/negative confrontation between user groups, often leads to an action of displacement or exiting	mismatching interests	negative
exiting	placing action	a user group leaves a site when another user group places itself too close or escalates in behaviour (process of social exclusion)	mismatching interests	negative
disinterest	non-placing	not using a site at all because of no interest in the functional design (process of functional exclusion)	because of no need/interest	very negative
avoidance	non-placing	avoiding a site because of one or more user group(s) who are present at the time (process of social exclusion)	mismatching interests	very negative
habitual avoidance	non-placing	habitually avoiding a site because of other user groups (process of long-term social exclusion)	mismatching interests	extremely negative

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A *coming together* of different user groups is the ultimate proof of the inclusivity of a site for these groups. A coming together of strangers in public spaces strengthens the identification with the space, especially if the interaction happens in the “immediate living environment” (spaces that can be reached within minutes from home) of the user groups (cf. Hacker & Blum 2016: 152). If repeated interactions between the same user groups take place within a site, new social bonds are formed and identification with the site is strengthened.

A *spatial juxtaposition* of user groups implies that these groups perceive the site as inclusive – they can share the space. According to a study about recreational spaces in Vienna, in most cases people simply hope for a peaceful spatial juxtaposition when seeking out recreational spaces. The fact that interactions between user groups usually do not extend beyond courtesy and occasional helpfulness is not seen as a negative thing. (cf. *ibid.*: 141)

The implications of *temporal juxtaposition* in regards to the inclusivity of a site depend on the situation. Especially at small sites, temporal juxtaposition can imply that the site is as inclusive as it can be considering the use pressure: the user groups take turns in using the placement or site with no conflict, the user groups show understanding for each other. This kind of temporal juxtaposition can happen in sequence (a user group spontaneously makes space for another user group) or in a more habituated form (for example when elderly people know that a park will be filled up once school ends so they visit sometime in the morning).

If temporal juxtaposition happens simply because different user groups want to use the same site or placement during different times (independently of each other), no implications about the inclusivity of the site in question can be drawn from the lack of negotiation.

*Opposition*, conflict in a space implies a negative inclusivity of a space: people do not usually seek out opposition and conflict for fun. Conflict usually happens when a group feels the need to defend the space for itself or against a specific group that is not tolerated by the group.

An *action of displacement* happens when a user group (with mismatching interests) places itself too close to another user group, making the other group leave their placement, or if a user group makes another group leave their placement through an escalation of behaviour (for example a behaviour that raises safety concerns in the exiting user group). While an action of displacement can be a result of opposition, it does not necessarily imply a particularly negative inclusivity of a site because the displaced user group still could find a different placement in the site and exclusion from the site was avoided.

*Exiting* behaviour is an action of displacement where the displaced user group leaves the site completely. Exiting behaviour implies a negative inclusivity of the site: it means that there is not enough space for evasion. A user group feels compelled to leave the site. An example for exiting might be a dog owner and their dog leaving a dog zone because a different dog started acting aggressively inside of the dog zone and the dog owner feels like it is not possible to build enough distance to the aggressive dog inside of the dog zone.

*Disinterest* in a site stems from the “functional design” of the site: for example, a playground may not appeal to all user groups, or a dog zone would mostly appeal to people with dogs. If a site excludes user groups through its functional design, the site is obviously not inclusive towards the user groups in question. However, this does not necessarily mean that the site is badly designed or that it needs to cater to the needs of the disinterested user groups. When talking about recreational spaces in particular, what would be important is that the disinterested user groups are presented with at least one optional, differently designed close-by site that caters to their interests.

*Avoidance* is the decision to not use a site because of another present user group or groups: this means that a process of exclusion is taking place. Reasons for avoidance taking place are for example fear of conflict with other present user groups, prejudices towards other present user groups or a feeling of non-belonging with other present user groups. A feeling of non-belonging can stem from a perceived social and/or cultural distance between user groups (cf. Hacker & Blum 2016: 141, 151). One example for avoidance could be that a dog owner does not enter a dog zone because they know that their dog is incompatible with a dog that is already present in the dog zone.

*Habitual avoidance* is a long-term state where a user group has made the decision to not use a site anymore (or use it considerably more rarely) than the user group would ideally like to, despite of its appealing functional design. Habitual avoidance often develops from “prejudices” (cf. Breitfuss et al. 2006: 115) of a user group towards a site that has a “set culture” (cf. *ibid.*) that is reproduced repeatedly by “spatial practices” in the form of habitual “routines” of user groups on the site (cf. Lefebvre 1974: 38 & Giddens 1988: 111f.), and this set culture goes against the interests of the habitually avoidant user group. Since this might sound a bit abstract, please take this for an example: An old man (as an example for a user group) lives next to a small park. The park has a bench in a shady place that the man really likes (the functional design of), and he likes the overall design of the park, too. However, the park is used by children during the morning, noon and afternoon and by teenagers during the evening (these represent a set culture that is reproduced with habitual routines). Thus, the old man never visits the park because of his prejudices towards the park: it would be too noisy and he does not really like children either.



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## 2.4 Influence of perceived interests of other user groups and the perceived atmosphere and climate of a space

Because of the relational and negotiating nature of shared spaces, the inclusivity of a shared space for a specific user group is not an absolute that can be determined. What can be an inclusive (usable) site for a specific user group at one moment can be an exclusionary site in another moment, especially since the finite amount of space and “functional design elements” (e.g. benches) heavily influence the inclusivity of a site. However, conclusions about the overall inclusivity of a site can still be drawn.

An important aspect of the use of a shared space are the perceived “interests” of other user groups. Interests are what a user group wants to do in and with a space. When a user group perceives that it does not have “mismatching interests” with other close by user groups and enough space and relevant functional design elements are available, exclusion at a site does not happen.

When user groups perceive to have mismatching interests and they get too close to each other, processes of displacement and social exclusion follow. Displacement happens when the site still offers acceptable placements with an appropriate distance between the user groups. Social exclusion such as exiting or avoidance happens when the displaced user group cannot find a placement within the site that provides an appropriate distance to the user group with mismatching interests. For example, if a young lady at a park feels threatened or bothered by a group of young men who are consuming alcohol at a table close to her (mismatching interest), she will either look for a different place in the park (process of displacement) or leave the park altogether (process of social exclusion).

The perceived interests and concrete actions of user groups at a site at any given time create interpretations of atmospheres and climates around a site. These terms are to be understood as perceptions and interpretations that form in the heads of individuals. Individuals can have wildly varying interpretations of the atmosphere and climate of a site even at the same time and place.

“Social atmosphere” means the individual perception and interpretation of the “synthesis” of all user groups who are present at a site at any given time. The word synthesis is to be understood as a “composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole” (Merriam-Webster 2022).

“Social climate” means the individual perception and interpretation of the synthesis of all user groups who regularly use a site. An image of a social

climate is formed in the memory of an individual over time with increasing familiarity to a site. The social climate is tied to the individual understanding of set cultures that are repeated by spatial practices (see chapter 2.3).

A “designed climate” means the individual perception and interpretation of the “purpose” of the functional design of a site. User groups can feel excluded by the climate that is set by the design, because they do not feel that the site is meant for them. For example, people without dogs might feel like they are not supposed to enter dog sites, even when there are no other user groups present at the time.

As such the “overall climate” of a site reflects a combination of the individual interpretations of a designed climate and social climate of a site. There is no “designed atmosphere” because design elements are static – as such an individual interpretation of the built environment does usually not change much over time with the increasing familiarity of a site.

The perceived social atmosphere of a site affects the well-being of all present user groups and informs decisions of using or not using (“avoidance”) a site. According to Hacker & Blum (2016: 41, 130, 141), feeling “foreign” (a social and cultural distance) in comparison to the perceived social atmosphere of a site often leads to avoidance of the site.

The perceived overall climate of a site informs decisions of using or not using a site in general. A negatively perceived overall climate of a site can lead to disinterest and habitual avoidance.

## **2.5 Dependence on public spaces and relocative resources of user groups**

The dependence on public spaces in the immediate living environment depends on the need for public spaces as well as the “relocative resources” of the user groups. Relocative resources are to be understood as resources that allow a user group to relocate its activities into different public or private spaces.

The need for public spaces is influenced by (cf. Gehl 2011: 9ff.):

- necessary activities that can be fulfilled by public spaces (e.g. taking a dog out for exercise, a child looking for play activities);
- desired (optional) activities that can be fulfilled by public spaces (e.g. a lunch break in a park);
- social activities that can be fulfilled by public spaces (e.g. meeting friends in a park or in a dog zone).

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Relocative resources are:

- time;
- mobility, including physical fitness and access to methods of transportation;
- public as well as accessible private infrastructure of the built environment, such as additional recreational areas and activities (e.g. cinema);
- private recreational resources of the user group, such as private gardens, terraces, balconies or a secondary home outside of the city;
- money, enabling the use of paid recreational activities;
- the willingness and energy to put up with long(er) journeys.

According to a study by Hacker and Blum that was made on behalf of the City of Vienna, mobile and socio-economically well off groups are typically less dependent on the recreational spaces in their immediate living environment, as they can choose to visit spaces that are further away but more in line with their preferences. Additionally, people with private recreational resources (private garden, terrace, balcony or a secondary home outside of the city) tend to shift some of their recreational activities into these spaces, which leads to greater disinterest towards recreational public spaces. Hacker and Blum also conclude that old people are more likely to meet their need for social contacts in private spaces. (cf. Hacker & Blum 2016: 143) Further relocative resources are time, the available infrastructure of the built environment and the individual willingness and energy to put up with long journeys to reach other spaces.

An understanding of dependence on public space and relocative resources lets us identify particularly vulnerable groups – groups that have a “need for public spaces” and limited (or no) relocative resources:

- children and young people: need for spaces to play, often limited mobility and money;
- elderly people with limiting physical fitness: need for public resting areas (benches), limited mobility;
- dog owners: daily need for dog sites, often limited time (on weekdays), limited mobility with dog (often limited to dog sites within walking distance).

Breitfuss et al. (2006: 25) conclude in their Vienna-specific study that in particular children and young people as well as older people with a low income and/or with an immigrant background are often dependent on the use of the immediate living environment due to their low mobility.

However, little academic attention has been paid so far to another type of user group with a need for public spaces and with very limited relocative

resources: dog owners. In order to fulfil the requirements for species-appropriate dog husbandry (see chapter 7.4) as required by law (see chapter 7.8), regular visits to dog sites are a must (see chapter 9.1).

Especially during weekdays, people with dogs often lack the relocative resources to fulfil these needs outside of walking distance from their homes: time during weekdays is very limited especially with working user groups, and there is a low willingness to put up with long daily journeys to dog sites that are further away, even if there was theoretically enough time for such. On the other hand elderly people who do not work (anymore) are often limited in their mobility regardless of the weekday because of their lower physical fitness and a lack of energy to put up with long journeys. Since most dog owners either work or are elderly people, longer journeys to dog sites are mostly realised by young people during weekends.

A different evasion tactic for fulfilling a dog's need for exercise is used by user groups who spend their weekends outside of Vienna at their secondary homes (a rare private recreational resource), as dogs can exercise more freely in the countryside. (cf. interviews with dog owners 2022)

If common exclusion in urban green spaces takes place with user groups that have limited or no relocative resources, and they cannot fulfil the necessary activities that should be fulfilled by public spaces (such as providing exercise for dogs), it can be concluded that urban planning has failed to deliver a fair and responsible allocation of spatial resources.

## 2.6 Exclusion by rules and regulations and related “rebellion”

Exclusion from a site is caused by three major reasons:

- exclusion by social atmosphere and climate;
- exclusion by functional design;
- exclusion by rules and regulations.

In the case of exclusion by social atmosphere and climate (“set culture”) and exclusion by functional design (which have been discussed previously), there is still the theoretical possibility for a user group to visit and utilise a site if desired. For example if there are no opportunities for skateboarding in a park because the park is not designed for skateboarding, a teenager with a skateboard might still choose to use unrelated design elements for his activities, even though the atmosphere might feel unwelcoming. As long as skateboarding in the park is not forbidden by rules and regulations, he theoretically has the choice to do so. Martina Löw calls such actions “counter-cultural” (cf. Löw 2001: 185f.). A habitual repetition of similar

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counter-cultural practices can normalise these practices, which integrates them in the set culture of the site.

Exclusion by rules and regulations is different. It does not leave a theoretical choice to the user group: if the user group wants to use the site despite it being against the rules and regulations, they face the possibility of repercussions (such as a fine). Exclusion by rules and regulations prohibits natural negotiation processes between user groups, the results of which are not obvious.

An example for exclusion by rules and regulations is the “dog ban” present in many parks of Vienna. Anyone taking their dog into such a park risks a fine by the police, regardless of what other user groups in the park might think of taking dogs into the park. The natural negotiation process between user groups that permanently takes place in a shared space is hindered. If going by the law, user groups are not even given a chance to accept dogs as visitors who may or may not exclude other user groups as a result of their presence.

However, several dog owners decide to ignore the rules and regulations that ban dogs from (certain) parks. In this framework, such an illegal action is referred to as “rebellion”.

One real example in which such rebellion happens on a daily basis is the “Einsiedlerpark” in the fifth district of Vienna. There are regular users of the park who always visit with their dogs, and this practice is widely accepted by the other user groups: despite having a point of contact in the Fair-Play-Team – a team of social workers who are responsible for mediating between user groups in the park in order to maintain a pleasant atmosphere – there has not been a single complaint about dogs in recent years. As a result, taking dogs into this park with a dog ban is part of the park’s set culture. (cf. Interview Tretthahn 2022)

If multiple user groups feel compelled to repeatedly rebel by breaking the law at certain sites, planners and politicians might want to pay careful attention to this phenomenon, because it signifies a lack of possibilities to satisfy the needs of the user group in a permitted manner. If rebellion takes place regularly, it can be assumed that urban planning has failed to deliver a fair and responsible allocation of spatial resources, or that the existence of said rules and regulations should be inspected. After all, rebellion risks punishment by law, and no citizen should feel compelled to perform such actions.

## 3 Methodology: literature reviews, document analysis and interviews

### 3.1 Literature review about sociological research for developing suitable methodologies

The research methodologies used for this thesis were “literature reviews”, “document analysis”, “expert interviews”, a “standardised survey” (see chapter 5) and “systematic, non-participatory observations” (see chapter 4). These methodologies were developed and carried out with the help of literature on sociological research methods that will be presented in this chapter.

A “literature review” for a thesis synthesises existing relevant literature, it can serve multiple purposes such as providing a theoretical foundation (see this chapter and chapter 3.2) and providing background information on different topics (see chapters 3.3 and 3.4). By developing an understanding of the state of research of a topic it also identifies gaps in knowledge which can be addressed by the thesis, which helps in developing the own research questions (cf. Barker 2014: 61f.)

A “document analysis” is a type of qualitative content analysis. In this research method, a (pre)defined set of documents is analysed for certain predetermined themes, contents and aspects (cf. Mayring 1988: 82, 2008: 55). In order to understand how planners of the city of Vienna discuss, understand and treat dog sites, official key planning documents as well as urban development studies and publications (“Werkstattberichte”) by the City of Vienna were analysed for mentions and discussion about dog zones and dog exercise areas (see chapter 3.5).

“Expert interviews” are a common academic research method that is used to gain knowledge about specific subjects (cf. Baur & Blasius 2014: 53). A list of questions is developed for each expert, based on the subject of their expertise. The expert interview uses this list of questions as the basis of the interview, additional questions that arise during the interview can also be asked. Unlike other types of interviewees, experts are expected to provide a relatively neutral view and have a broad understanding of the subject. Because of the status of “experts”, information gained from expert interviews is presented similarly to information from other serious sources such as from academic journals. (cf. *ibid*) The expert interviews which were conducted will be further discussed in chapter 3.6.

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“Standardised surveys” are a common academic research method that is used to gain quantitative data from target groups (cf. *ibid.*: 54). To gain information about the way dog zones and parks in the fifth district of Vienna are visited by dog owners, a standardised survey for dog owners (who visit the fifth district with their dogs) was developed. For the sake of its versatility, the survey was designed as an “online survey”. However, the survey was not carried out like a simple online survey, looking for participants by distributing a link through various (online and offline) channels. Instead, all participants were sought out in the real world. The survey was carried out as a “mixed mode design”, meaning that participants also had the chance to fill out the survey like a traditional paper survey on an iPad in the presence of the researcher, and especially some older participants also took the survey as a “face-to-face survey”, having the researcher read out the questions and putting in the answers on behalf of the participant. By giving the participants the choice of their preferred way of participation, this kind of mixed mode design was able to maximise the amount of people who were willing and able to participate. (cf. *ibid.*) Details about the development of the survey are discussed in chapter 5. The survey results were evaluated using the software “IBM SPSS Statistics”, which is commonly used for evaluating sociological surveys. The evaluation practices and methods are further discussed in chapter 14.

“Systematic, non-participatory observations” are a great tool for analysing social practices, interactions and situations and they are often used in urban sociology (cf. Thierbach & Petschick 2014: 855). With this research method, information about the use of a space can be gained that cannot be gained from simple surveying. As such it is a great methodological triangulation to a standardised survey that is also concerned with the use of the same space in question. Scientific observations are planned and executed systematically, they are documented, processed and evaluated and the findings are reported (cf. *ibid.*: 856). “Systematic” means that the observations are conducted in a structured manner after a standardised scheme – for example, the amount of times a certain action is observed is counted. “Non-participatory” means that the researcher does not interact with the user groups of the space (cf. *ibid.*), and in the case of this study it also means that the observations are done from outside of the dog zones: the researcher’s presence in the dog zones could significantly alter the way dog zones are used. Dog owners and dogs would potentially be confused and irritated that “their” space is occupied by someone without a dog and they might for example avoid the dog zone as a result. The highly systematic research design for the observations is presented in chapter 4.

### **3.2 Literature review about urban studies for understanding dog sites from an urban planning perspective**

In order to develop a better understanding of dog sites as urban, public shared spaces, academic literature on sociological urban studies (eg. Gehl 2011, Löw 2016) as well as already conducted urban studies in Vienna (eg. Breiffuss et al. 2006, Hacker & Blum 2016) were reviewed and a theoretical understanding of the subject was developed. This theoretical understanding helps understand how dog sites relate to the rest of the city, especially to parks and other recreational spaces. This “theoretical lens” on the subject was presented and discussed in chapter 2.

### **3.3 Literature review about planning basis for dog sites in Vienna**

The planning basis for dog sites is not directly related to dog sites themselves. In order to understand why dog sites exist in Vienna in the first place, it is important to understand the history of dogs in cities and especially in Vienna (see chapter 6), the nature of dogs as well as all of the legislation regarding dogs in Vienna (see chapter 7) and the issues with dogs in Vienna (see chapter 8), all of which have influenced why dog sites were established and how they are designed. These aspects were carefully researched by reviewing academic and administrative literature on these topics as well as current and old legislation about the issues. The findings are presented in chapters 6 to 8. As the relevant literature is always presented and referenced accordingly, it will not be further discussed here.

### **3.4 Literature review about dog sites in Vienna**

In order to understand the state of knowledge about dog site research in Vienna, publications and studies about the topic were carefully researched. There have been six publications about dog sites in Vienna so far.

The works by Bleiweiss and Böck (1995) and Kofler (1995) could unfortunately not be found and reviewed. Both of these publications were internship works at the Institute of Physiology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (Vetmeduni). Bleiweiss and Böck’s work is titled “Wien ist anders: Hundezonen in Wiens Parkanlagen” (“Vienna is different: Dog zones in Vienna’s parks”) and Kofler’s study is titled “Hund sein in Wien: Beobachtungen des Verhaltens von Mensch und Hund in eingezäunten Hundezonen der



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Wiener Stadtgärten und deren Akzeptanz” (“Being a dog in Vienna: Observations of the behaviour of humans and dogs in fenced-in dog zones in Vienna's city gardens and their acceptance”).

The study by Kose, Krippner and Lička (2000) was made on behalf of the Municipal Department for Urban Development and Planning (MA 18) and is called “Na, Hund? Hundehaltung in Wien” (“Well, dog? Dog ownership in Vienna”). The focus of the study was less on dog zones, as it was more about the thematic of dogs in the city and especially dog fouling in the city. It presented solutions from other cities such as dog toilets, which were also tested in Vienna (see chapter 8.7).

The publication by Purtscher (2001) was written on behalf of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection and is called “Tiergerechte Hundehaltung und Auslaufmöglichkeiten in Wien” (“Animal-friendly dog keeping and exercise options in Vienna”). This publication does not concern itself with any specific case studies in Vienna; it examines why dog sites make sense on a theoretical level and presents related numbers and details about dog sites in Vienna.

The study by Eckl and Ramharter (2006) is called “Leinen Los! Hundefreiräume in der Stadt” (“Unleashed! Dog sites in the city”) and was written as a master’s thesis at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). It uses nine very differently sized and designed dog sites from all around Vienna as case studies to understand how dog sites are designed.

Reviewing these studies helped form an understanding about the topic of dog sites in Vienna and related issues. However, many details in the studies were very outdated, since a big reform of dog site laws (see chapter 10.1) as well as a fundamental change in the way in which the City of Vienna handles dog fouling (see chapter 8.7) happened in 2006. This means that most dog zones were not fenced in during these studies, and that the overall situation of dog sites in Vienna was considerably different from today.

The reviewed studies all recommend very big dog sites, questioning whether small dog sites can even fulfil a meaningful purpose. After this literature review, it was clear that it had never been academically studied how well small dog sites in Vienna can fulfil their function. The “goals” of a dog zone were also never explicitly defined. The gaps of knowledge that were discovered helped greatly in forming the research questions for this thesis.

Coincidentally, during an advanced stage of research and writing of this thesis, a sixth study about dog sites was published: a master’s thesis by Kovacs (2022), written at the Department for Building and Environment at the University

for Continuing Education Krems. The title of the thesis is “(Hund-)gerechte Freiräume: Prototyp einer Hundezone unter Berücksichtigung der Bedürfnisse der Nutzer\*innen am Beispiel der Veterinärmedizinischen Universität Wien” (“[Dog-]friendly spaces: Prototype of a dog zone taking into account the needs of users using the example of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna”). This thesis focuses on the design of dog zones that are located inside of the campus of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. In order to better understand the concept of dog zones, Kovacs conducted several expert interviews, similarly to this thesis. Because Kovacs’ work was published when this thesis was already in an advanced stage of research (late April 2022), it did not have a significant impact on the research design of this thesis. However, on a general level it can be said that the contents of Kovacs’ work support the findings and conclusions of this thesis. Anyone who is interested in the issue of dog sites in Vienna and would like further reading is recommended reading Kovacs’ work as well.

### 3.5 Document analysis about dog sites in Vienna

Key planning documents of the City of Vienna such as the “STEP 2025: Urban Development Plan Vienna” (cf. MA 18 Urban Development and Planning 2014) and its “thematic concepts” were analysed for discussion, planning basis and recommendations about dog sites. The main document of the STEP 2025 does not even mention dog zones or dog exercise areas. Only the “STEP 2025 Thematic Concept: Green and Open Spaces” mentions dog sites on one page in a list of examples for “green and open spaces” (cf. Wieshofer et al. 2015: 84) – no further discussion is dedicated to the concept.

Multiple official urban planning studies, reports and publications (“Werkstattberichte”) about city development, district development and green spaces and public spaces were also analysed for mentions of dog sites. Most studies do not even mention dog sites, even though they could be expected to do so, such as for example the “Wiener Frei- und Grünraumstudie” (“Vienna Open and Green Space Study”) by Hacker and Blum (2016). In some studies, dog sites were briefly mentioned, mostly as something that citizens brought up in interviews (cf. eg. Schwarz-Viechtbauer & Schwarz 2008: 84). However, dog sites were never discussed beyond the mention that they either existed in certain areas or that they were mentioned by interviewees.

In fact, there is only one planning document by the city that really addresses dog sites: The “Wiener Parkleitbild” (“Vienna Park Guideline”) which is further discussed in chapter 10.1. The outcome of the document analysis was further confirmed in an expert interview (cf. interview Lukas 2022).

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### 3.6 Interviews with experts and dog owners

In order to understand how dog sites in Vienna are established and designed and why they are designed in the way they are, four key expert interviews were held and two helpful discussions were conducted:

- interview with Roman Tretthahn, a member of Fair-Play Team Margareten and Parkbetreuung Margareten;
- interview with Bettina Lukas, the employee of the MA 42 who is responsible for dog sites in Vienna;
- interview with Wolfgang Mitis, District Council member of the fifth district of Vienna, lead of the Environmental District Council Committee;
- interview with Simone Gräber, employee of Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection who is responsible for dog sites in Vienna;
- helpful discussion with Sebastian Gstettner, employee of MA 42 Parks and Gardens, person responsible for the fifth district and
- helpful discussion with Ve Maričić, District Council member of the fifth district of Vienna, member of the Environmental District Council Committee.

These interviews and discussions were valuable in gaining knowledge about up-to-date approaches in dog site design and the findings are presented mostly (but not exclusively) in chapters 9 to 11 as well as chapter 13.

Dog owners were also interviewed in order to better understand how dog zones are used and what their opinions about the dog zones are. Some of these 32 short interviews were held before designing the survey for dog owners, so that the information could help with developing better answers to the survey questions (see chapter 5). Further short interviews were held after some dog owners completed the survey: they were given the possibility to tell the author if there was anything that they wanted to add beyond their survey answers to the topic of dog zones in the fifth district.

## 4 Methodology: systematic, non-participatory observations

### 4.1 Research design for systematic, non-participatory observations

This chapter uses the theoretical framework presented in chapter 2 in order to develop a systematic, practicable research design that was then used to analyse two dog zones and parks for two days in each location (see chapter 17).

In this research design, a “target user group” refers to each dog owner, their potential human companions and their dog or dogs. This means that most target user groups would consist of one dog owner and one dog.

The goal of this methodology was to understand how:

- the already present user groups in a dog zone and
- arriving user groups in a dog zone and
- potential user groups (dog owners with dogs) who approach the dog zone but do not enter and
- potential user groups (dog owners with dogs) who choose to use the connected park (urban green site) instead of the dog zone

relate to each other and influence each other’s choices of placement. With this method, the inclusivity of the dog sites can be understood.

The advantage of dog owners and their dogs as the target user group for this methodology is that they are easily identifiable because of the presence of a dog.

By observing and recording how coming together, temporal juxtaposition, actions of displacement, opposition, avoidance, exiting, disinterest and rebellion manifest in dog owners in relation to each other, information about the dynamics could be recorded, understood and be made measurable.

The following formats of information-recording were used in this methodology:

- 
- every target user group was labelled with a unique, anonymous label (e.g. user group AA, AB, etc.)
    - ⇒ a target user group kept its label throughout the whole day and in order to remember user groups, a few recognisable details about each target user group were written down (details are for consistency of methodology only and were not published in order to guarantee anonymity)
    - ⇒ the labelling was reset every day because of the high risk of inconsistencies in recognition of target user groups over multiple observation days
    - ⇒ non-target user groups (people without dogs) that use dog zones or interact with target user groups were also recorded, but labelled differently (N01, N02, etc.)
  - date, starting time of observation period, weather condition, temperature, any drastic changes in weather condition (rain, etc.) were recorded (only days with good weather forecasts were chosen)

Specifically, the following “points of information” were recorded through non-participatory observation by the researcher from the target dog zone:

- any user groups present in the dog zone upon start of observation
- arrival time of every user group into the dog zone
- departure time of every user group from the dog zone
- any negotiating interaction where at least one target user group already in the dog zone and one target user group who entered or wanted to enter a dog zone interacted (for example asking if it is okay to enter the dog zone) – these kinds of interactions do not count as “coming together”
- any combination of human user groups that interacted within the dog zone (e.g. AC-AE or AC-AE-AF etc.) (“coming together”)
- any combination of user groups that interacted over the fence of the dog zone (e.g. AC-N02) (“coming together”)
- any target user groups that walked by the gate of the dog zone but did not enter:
  - ⇒ if the dog zone was empty: display of “disinterest”
  - ⇒ otherwise display of “disinterest” OR “avoidance”
  - ⇒ if a target user group that did not enter before when the dog zone was not empty, but entered later during the day, the non-entry was to be treated as “avoidance” only
- any target user group that attempted entering the dog zone but decided not to enter (“avoidance”)

- any target user group that left the dog zone in order to let another target user group enter (“temporal juxtaposition” AND “exiting”)
- any escalation in behaviour between dogs that lead to extended verbal (more than one command by one of the human users before de-escalation) or any physical human intervention between dogs (“opposition”)
  - ⇒ if any target user group changed placement within the dog zone after opposition: add “action of displacement”
  - ⇒ if any target user group left the dog zone after opposition: add “exiting”

Additionally, the following points of information were recorded through non-participatory observation by the researcher any time they were observed in the park tied to the dog zone:

- arrival time of every target user group into park (if the park has a dog ban: “rebellion”)
- departure time of every target user group from the park
- sections of the park that were used by target user group
- any combination of human target users and other human target users or (non-target) user groups that interacted (e.g. AA-ZA or AA-ZA-ZC etc.) (“coming together”)
- any negative confrontation between target user group and other user group (e.g. a user group telling the target user group to leave the park) (“opposition”)
  - ⇒ if the target user group changed its placement within the park after opposition: also “action of displacement”
  - ⇒ if the target user group left the park after opposition: also “exiting”
- any escalation in behaviour between dogs that lead to extended verbal (more than one command by one of the human users before de-escalation) or any physical human intervention between dogs (“opposition”)
  - ⇒ if any target user group changed placement within the park after opposition: also “action of displacement”
  - ⇒ if any target user group left the park after opposition: also “exiting”

Any additional information that the researcher deemed important was also written down in a free format and was utilised in the analysis of the collected data.

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By accumulating these points of information over whole observation days (from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) on both weekdays and weekends, the use patterns of the target user groups and their relationships to each other could be analysed. With the analysis, an overall image of the inclusivity of a dog zone could be derived. Some of the key questions were: How often do processes of exclusion happen in the dog zone? How often does rebellion happen and how do user groups of the park without dogs react? Can all target user groups use the dog zone at any given time?

Similarly to content-reducing analysis methods of interviews, this research method reduces complexity and categorises complex information (use patterns of spaces), into measurable points of information. The recorded points of information can be interpreted with the help of the theoretical framework, and the quantity of the different types of points of information give the researcher clues about how often different types of relevant interactions happen.

## **4.2 Limitations of the research method**

No research method can capture and explain reality perfectly. This method does not claim to be able to represent a perfect mirror image of reality. It should be understood as a tool to process and understand actions that happen in public space, in this case in and around dog zones. The findings can be used to develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter and draw conclusions and recommendations for urban planning practice.

## **4.3 Choice of research sites and hypothesis of expected results when deploying the research method**

The two chosen research sites were Parkanlage am Hundsturm (see chapter 16.4) and Rudolf-Sallinger Park (see chapter 16.3).

They were chosen as the research sites because prior to the methodological observations, it could already frequently be observed that dog owners visited the lawns in both parks instead of the dog zones.

What was also very important was that both parks have several lawn areas that did not seem to be used much by many other user groups. The idea was that if the observations confirmed this as well as the assumption that many dog owners (illegally) use the lawns in both parks, then both of the parks would have the required spatial potential for increasing the size of the dog zones without putting other user groups at a significant disadvantage. After all, both dog

zones are very small: Parkanlage am Hundsturm even ranks under the five smallest dog sites of the city (cf. City of Vienna 2022).

Before the observations, the hypotheses were that:

- Processes of exclusion happen frequently in and around the dog zones. Some target user groups who would like to use the dog zones do not feel safe to enter because they fear conflict between the dogs and there is not enough space to keep the dogs away from each other when necessary.
- Probably, some target user groups would also exit the dog zones as a courtesy in order to let other target user groups use it.
- “Coming together” between user groups would be commonly observed as the dogs act as subjects of conversation, and many user groups know each other from previous meetings in the (small) dog zones.
- The dog zones have regular visitors, some of which stay for long periods of time (which may lead to exclusion of other target user groups).

These hypotheses were based on unscientific observations of the dog zones in question, unscientific observations of other dog zones in Margareten, as well as on interviews with dog owners and written responses to the survey with dog owners in Margareten (see chapter 5 and appendix 8).



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## 5 Methodology: standardised survey for dog owners in Margareten

### 5.1 Eleven goals for a successful dog zone from a user perspective and a survey for dog owners

With the help of interviews with dog owners, expert interviews and relevant literature (cf. e.g. Eckl & Ramharter 2006, Lee et al. 2009), the following eleven goals were identified as important for a maximally successful dog zone that is accepted and gladly visited by dog owners:

1. Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog's need for off-leash exercise.
2. Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog's need for social interactions with other dogs.
3. Psychologically, dog owners perceive visits to the dog zone positively.
4. Dog owners feel a sense of responsibility for the dog zone.
5. Dog owners identify with the dog zone.
6. Dog owners perceive the dog zone as safe for them and their dogs.
7. Dog owners perceive the dog zone as clean.
8. Social cohesion and social capital is engendered by the dog zone for the dog owners.
9. Dog owners are satisfied with the size of the dog zone.
10. Dog owners are satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.
11. Dog owners think that the dog zone has an overall high functionality.

One goal of this thesis was to evaluate how well the dog zones in Margareten work as a solution for dogs in the most densely populated and fourth-least greenest district of Vienna. This means that the evaluation specifically values the perception of dog owners who walk their dogs in the fifth district of Vienna. In order to gather the necessary data for the evaluation, a survey for dog owners who walk their dogs in Margareten was created.

The survey for dog owners aimed to operationalize all of these eleven goals (see chapter 5.3), making the success of dog zones in fulfilling their functions measurable.

Additionally, the survey collected behavioural data regarding dog walking and using dog sites as well as basic demographic data.

The survey was conducted in both German and English using the website <https://www.soscisurvey.de/> which provides a free service for academic work that is published. The full English and German versions of the survey can be found in appendix 7.

## 5.2 Behavioural data collected by the survey

The survey for dog owners was subdivided into seven blocks which are labelled A, B, C, D, E, F and G for the sake of referencing them in this thesis. The items in the A-block were answered by everyone and collected data about which district the participant lives in, data concerning the participant's dog(s) and where and how the participant moves with their dog(s) in the city.

- A1 Do you own a dog or dogs?
- A2 In which district of Vienna do you live?

Selecting "no" in question A1 immediately ended the survey.

- A3 How many dogs do you own?
- A4 How would you describe the size of your dog?

Dog sizes of the participants were recorded since interviews with dog owners and experts as well as literature suggested that differences in dog sizes can lead to conflicts between dogs. These conflicts were usually brought up by owners of small dogs specifically. Therefore, the differentiation between small dogs and other dogs is interesting when analysing the use of dog zones. Since the dog sizes in the survey were estimated by the participants and there is no clear definition of the dog sizes, "middle size dogs" and "big dogs" were always analysed together as "bigger dogs". When a participant indicated that they owned both small and bigger dogs, the participant was always counted as part of the "bigger dogs" category.

- A5 How often do you do the following activities with your dog?
- A6 How often do you visit bigger dog zones or dog parks (for example in Prater) outside of the fifth district of Vienna?

The fifth item in question A5 differentiates between participants who visit dog zones in Margareten and participants who do not do so. The B-block was answered only if the participant indicated here that they visit dog zones in Margareten. The B-block served to find out regular usage patterns of dog zones

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in Margareten and uncover the opinions about the dog zone which every participant visits most frequently.

- B1 Which of the following dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna do you visit at least twice in a year? (Multiple responses possible.)

On one hand, the specification “at least twice in a year” was used so that no dog zones would be selected which the participant had visited just once, maybe in order to “check out the dog zone” or out of a very unusual circumstance. On the other hand, the restriction “twice a year” was kept intentionally low, so that the question would be easily answered out of memory: the participants would not need to try to remember which dog zones they visit “at least ten times a year” or a more vague amount such as “monthly”, for example. Also, the specification “at least twice a year” does not only help to understand which dog zones the participants might visit more or less frequently – rather, with this specification it can be accurately assessed which dog zones the participants definitely do not visit in Margareten.

- B2 Which of the following dog zones do you visit most frequently?

In the analysis, the answers from questions B3 to B8 were coupled with the answers to question B2 in particular. Through this kind of coupling of answers, quantitative statements about the use patterns and perceptions of the different dog zones in Margareten could be made in the analysis.

- B3 How far is the walk from your home to the dog zone you visit most frequently?
- B4 What is the most important reason you visit this dog zone the most?

The most common reasons for visiting a certain dog zone (question B4) were gauged through interviews with dog owners and literature before designing the survey.

- B5 When do you usually visit the dog zone you visit most often between Monday and Friday? (Multiple responses possible.)
- B6 When do you usually visit the dog zone you visit most often on the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)? (Multiple responses possible.)
- B7 How long do you usually stay in the dog zone that you visit most?

Instead of providing equally long stay times per response (up to 10, 20, 30, 40 minutes etc.), less specific responses were used since dog owners cannot be expected to properly estimate whether they usually stay for example about 30 or 40 minutes. As such the responses are meant to differentiate between participants who usually only stay shortly, which can be easily estimated (up to 10 minutes, 11 – 20 minutes), participants with longer stays, which also means

that they are open to more variability of the stay (21 – 40 minutes, 41 – 60 minutes) and very long stays (1 – 2 hours, over 2 hours).

## 5.3 Operationalising a successful dog zone for the survey

### 5.3.1 Statements for operationalising the goals for a successful dog zone

Question B8 included 19 items (statements) and was designed to operationalise all the goals of a “successful dog zone” as established in chapter 5.1.

Any statements with even a little ambiguity towards correspondence with the goals included control questions. The statements operationalised the goals for a successful dog zone as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Overview of which survey items operationalise which goals for a successful dog zone.

goal	survey item
Psychologically, dog owners perceive visits to the dog zone positively.	I like visiting the dog zone.
	I find visiting the dog zone pleasant.
	I find visiting the dog zone stressful. (measures reverse)
Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog's need for off-leash exercise.	I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for off-leash exercise.
Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog's need for social interactions with other dogs.	I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for play and interaction with other dogs.
Dog owners feel a sense of responsibility for the dog zone.	I always clean up my dog's excrement in the dog zone.
	If I found a stranger's dog's excrement in the dog zone and that dog wasn't around anymore, I would clean up the excrement.
Dog owners identify with the dog zone.	For me, the dog zone is "my dog zone" or "our dog zone" with the other visitors.
	The dog zone is like a kind of "living room" in the open air for me.
Dog owners perceive the dog zone as safe for them and their dogs.	Sometimes I don't go into the dog zone because I feel it wouldn't be safe for my dog or for me. (measures reverse)
	I think that a visit to the dog zone always feels very safe for my dog and me.
Dog owners perceive the dog zone as clean.	I think the dog zone is sufficiently clean.
	I think the dog zone is so dirty that I dislike using it. (measures reverse)
Dog owners are satisfied with the size of the dog zone.	I am satisfied with the size of the dog zone.
	I think the dog zone is too small. (measures reverse)
Dog owners are satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.	I am satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.
	I think the dog zone should be improved in terms of design and equipment. (measures reverse)
Dog owners think that the dog zone has an overall high functionality.	I think the dog zone fulfils its function well.
Social cohesion and social capital is engendered by the dog zone for the dog owners.	I know some of the other visitors in the dog zone and sometimes talk to other dog owners.

### 5.3.2 Choosing a suitable Likert-type scale for responses to the statements

A symmetrical, forced-choice four-point Likert-type scale was used for the responses of the Likert-type-scaled items as an easy to understand and quick to answer scale that forces the participant to take a stance on the presented statements.

The traditional Likert scale as it was developed in the 1930s is commonly used to measure approval of statements in various types of surveys (cf. Chyung et al. 2017: 1). It offers five responses ranging from strong disapproval to strong approval, including a neutral anchor. Likert-like scales with more than five points (responses) have also been used in many studies with the argument that using more points means more information gained (cf. Wakita et al. 2012: 534, Alwin 2007: 191). However, there has been much debate about the optimal number of points on Likert-type scales (cf. *ibid.*). A study by Alwin (2007) for example concluded that “there seems to be little if any support for the information-theoretic view that more categories produce more reliability” (*ibid.*: 194). A study by Revilla et al. (2014) even suggested that Likert-type scales with more than five points seem to produce data of lower validity and quality (cf. *ibid.*: 89ff.).

A widely recognised issue is that using a higher number of points creates more room for individual interpretation of what the different responses actually mean and requires more time and cognitive effort to answer, which can lead to “satisficing” (quickly picking a response that is close enough) rather than “optimising” (putting time and effort into choosing the response that most accurately reflects the participants beliefs) when picking a response (cf. Wakita et al. 2012: 544, Alwin 2007: 191f.). Since there is evidence to suggest that more points do not lead to better data, while more points do lead to lower participant concentration and motivation in accurately answering a survey, it was decided to use a low amount of points in the survey.

The use of a neutral option on Likert-type scales has also been debated heavily (cf. Chyung et al. 2017: 3ff., Alwin 2007: 196ff.). Including neutral or other non-responses (such as “I don’t know”) in a survey does make sense when participants of a study can be expected to be unfamiliar with the subject and truly have no opinion about it (cf. Krosnick 2002: 87ff., Alwin 2007: 196).

In a survey about a topic that the participants are expected to be deeply familiar with – such as dog owners in Vienna when asked about their use of dog zones – neutral responses are much more rare, even when presented with the option (cf. Krosnick 2002: 89). The opinion-based (“I like...”, “I find...”, “I think...”, “for me...”, “I am satisfied...”) and real action-based (“I always clean...”, “if I found...”) statements in this survey have been carefully written in

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a way so that neutral responses cannot be caused by lack of information and that a genuine lack of opinion in participants is not reasonable to expect. For example, what would it mean when a participant gave a neutral response to a statement such as “I like visiting the dog zone”? Even if they had mixed feelings about visiting the dog zone they visit most often, dog owners can be expected to overall “rather like” or “rather dislike” visiting their most visited dog zones – even if they would need to first think about the question. One big problem with providing a neutral response option is that it can lead to some participants choosing a quick and easy “out” instead of providing an “optimal” response, just because it requires less cognitive effort as an answer (cf. Chyung et al. 2017: 4). Nudging the participants to reflect their “latent” opinions (cf. Krosnick 2002: 95) and pick the side they “rather” agree with is the main reason why it was decided not to include a neutral answer on the Likert-type scale in this survey.

A further reason why neutral responses are often “abused” in surveys is social desirability: if participants feel that their response would be socially undesirable, shed a negative light on the respondent, they often tend to answer neutrally (cf. Chyung et al. 2017: 4, Krosnick 2002: 94). An example for this could be the item: “If I found a stranger’s dog’s excrement in the dog zone and that dog wasn’t around anymore, I would clean up the excrement.” A true neutral response to a statement such as this cannot be expected anyway – either the participant does so always (“I agree”), sometimes (“I rather agree” or “I rather disagree”) or never (“I disagree”). However, because of the social desirability bias some participants who would (usually) not perform the task can be expected to choose the neutral response since it might be considered more socially desirable than admitting that they would rather (or definitely) not do the task. Providing a neutral option could make some participants choose it to “save face” while not outright lying because they did not choose an affirmative answer.

Alwin (2007) also concluded that he could not find any support for the idea that four-point scales are less reliable than five-point scales (cf. *ibid.*: 194) and that “nonfactual content” which is assessed using scales without a neutral option is not less reliable than when provided such an option, and that this result was consistent with most of the studies on the issue (cf. *ibid.* 199).

Ultimately, there is no universally accepted “right way” to design a Likert(-type) scale, it is up to the researcher’s judgement to find the “best” fit for their research design. For the reasons that have been presented above, this study implemented two symmetrical extreme poles with the responses “I disagree” and “I agree” as well as two mild responses “I rather disagree” and “I rather agree”.

### 5.3.3 Developing a weighted model for rating dog zones

While the responses to the survey items (statements) provide a detailed understanding of how the dog zones are perceived by the dog owners, it could be a little hard to quickly judge and compare the rating of the dog zones with these 19 statements. In order to better compare the dog zones and understand the evaluation provided by the survey participants, a weighted model using the responses to the survey was developed.

At first, a “score” was calculated for each individual survey item for each dog zone. The purpose of a score is to provide a single number that represents a weighted distribution of different responses given to an item. The weights (multipliers) were chosen so that a purely positive evaluation of an item would result in a maximum score of 100 while a purely negative evaluation of an item would result in a score of 0. “Rather positive” responses were still given a high multiplier (0.75) so that these would contribute to a high scoring while “rather negative” responses were given a low multiplier (0.25) – still contributing to score in comparison to a negative response, but only rather marginally. With these multipliers, the scoring is an effective way of revealing how positively (or negatively) the participants perceive their most visited dog zone.

This means that in order to calculate a score for an item, the percentages of the different responses to the item were multiplied with a multiplier as specified in Table 3. The outcomes of these multiplications were added together to form a final score of the item – see Table 4 for an exemplary calculation.

**Table 3.** Multipliers for scoring of individual survey items.

Item with...	Response			
	I disagree	I rather disagree	I rather agree	I agree
positive contribution	0	0.25	0.75	1
negative contribution	1	0.75	0.25	0
...when agreed to.				

**Table 4.** Example for calculating scoring of a survey item with a positive contribution when agreed to.

	Response				Total
	I disagree	I rather disagree	I rather agree	I agree	
response rate	16%	19%	25%	40%	100%
scoring	$16*0 = 0$	$19*0.25 = 4.75$	$25*0.75 = 18.75$	$40*1 = 40$	63.5

The scoring of the individual items lays the foundation for the weighted model which calculates scores for the eleven goals for a successful dog zone



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(see chapter 5.1). These eleven goals were further divided under four main criterions which were weighted evenly for the “final score” of the dog zone:

1. How well the dog zone fulfils a dog’s needs, judged by their owners.
2. How well the dog zone fulfils a human user’s needs and standards and how well they identify with and take care of the dog zone.
3. How well the dog zone’s physical properties are rated.
4. How well the overall functionality of the dog zone is rated.

The goals and survey items (statements) fall under these criterions as shown in Table 5. In the table, the weight of the goals and individual survey items for the final score is indicated in brackets. Italicised survey items indicate that agreement with the items had a negative contribution to the score.

**Table 5.** Proposed weighted model for rating the “success” of a dog zone.

<b>criterion</b>	<b>goal</b>	<b>survey item</b>
How well the dog zone fulfils a dog’s needs, judged by their owners.	Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog’s need for off-leash exercise. (1/8)	I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog’s need for off-leash exercise. (1/8)
	Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog’s need for social interactions with other dogs. (1/8)	I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog’s need for play and interaction with other dogs. (1/8)
How well the dog zone fulfils a human user’s needs and standards and how well they identify with and take care of the dog zone.	Psychologically, dog owners perceive visits to the dog zone positively. (1/24)	I like visiting the dog zone. (1/96) I find visiting the dog zone pleasant. (1/96) <i>I find visiting the dog zone stressful.</i> (1/48)
	Dog owners feel a sense of responsibility for the dog zone. (1/24)	I always clean up my dog’s excrement in the dog zone. (1/48) If I found a stranger’s dog’s excrement in the dog zone and that dog wasn’t around anymore, I would clean up the excrement. (1/48)
	Dog owners identify with the dog zone. (1/24)	For me, the dog zone is <del>my</del> “my dog zone” or <del>our</del> “our dog zone” with the other visitors. (1/48) The dog zone is like a kind of <del>living</del> “living room” in the open air for me. (1/48)
	Dog owners perceive the dog zone as safe for them and their dogs. (1/24)	<i>Sometimes I don’t go into the dog zone because I feel it wouldn’t be safe for my dog or for me.</i> (1/48) I think that a visit to the dog zone always feels very safe for my dog and me. (1/48)
	Dog owners perceive the dog zone as clean. (1/24)	I think the dog zone is sufficiently clean. (1/48) <i>I think the dog zone is so dirty that I dislike using it.</i> (1/48)
	Social cohesion and social capital is engendered by the dog zone for the dog owners. (1/24)	I know some of the other visitors in the dog zone and sometimes talk to other dog owners. (1/24)
	How well the dog zone’s physical properties are rated.	Dog owners are satisfied with the size of the dog zone. (1/8)
	Dog owners are satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone. (1/8)	I am satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone. (1/16) <i>I think the dog zone should be improved in terms of design and equipment.</i> (1/16)
How the overall functionality of the DZ is rated.	Dog owners think that the dog zone has an overall high functionality. (1/4)	I think the dog zone fulfils its function well. (1/4)

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All of the goals within a criterion were weighted equally, and all survey items within a goal were weighted equally with one exception: “I like visiting the dog zone” and “I find visiting the dog zone pleasant” were weighted together as one half of the goal “psychologically, dog owners perceive visits to the dog zone positively.” This is because both items express positive sentiments, while “I find visiting the dog zone stressful” expresses a negative sentiment and was treated as the other half of the weight within the marker.

At first, it might appear that the single survey item about rating the overall functionality of the dog zone was given too much weight when comparing it to an item such as “I like visiting the dog zone” that was given very little weight. However, it should be understood that the overall rating of functionality of the dog zones is exactly what this model is supposed to evaluate, and this one item directly asked the participants about their opinion on the functionality of the dog zone, as defined and understood by the participants. Other factors which were surveyed such as enjoying the visit and the suitability of the dog zone for various functions that are expected of it were likely to influence this rating, too.

The participant’s rating of functionality was understood as the “basis” for the final score, which was modified and adjusted by the equally weighted aspects of the rating of the fulfilment of a dog’s needs, a human user’s various perceptions and the physical properties of the dog zone. These three criteria were seen as equally important because firstly, the main function of dog zones is to serve dogs. On the other hand, dog zones also have to be viewed positively by the dog owners, otherwise they are avoided and do not get to properly serve their purpose. Finally, the physical properties of a dog zone are very relevant to planning and are therefore weighted equally.

In order to better describe the resulting scores in the evaluation, different score ranges were given labels (see Table 6). Because of the way the scores are calculated, 50 points was considered the line between a (rather) favourable and (rather) unfavourable score. Since extreme results in score (e.g. 7 or 91) are hard to reach because of the unanimous extreme positions that would be necessary for such a score to form, the two extreme categories were given wider score ranges.

With this labelling, an item with a positive contribution to the score when agreed to would score 75 points if all participants voted “I rather agree”, which would result in a “great” rating. Clearly this would be reasonable since after all, all participants have a favourable view of whatever the item measures, but none have an extreme view (“I agree”), so a “very great” result would be out of reach. An item with a majority of positive but some negative views might still score “favourably” and an item with some more negative but still a majority of positive views “rather favourably”.

**Table 6.** Labelling of scores.

score	label
0 – 20	very poor
21 – 30	poor
31 – 40	unfavourable
41 – 50	rather unfavourable
51 – 60	rather favourable
61 – 70	favourable
71 – 80	great
81 – 100	very great

## 5.4 Collecting data from dog owners who do not use dog zones in Margareten

The C-block was answered only by the participants who do not visit dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna and it served to understand why these participants do not do so. Factors that lead to habitual avoidance of dog zones could be uncovered with the answers.

- C1 How long is the walk from your home to the nearest dog zone?
- C2 Why do you not visit any dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna? (Multiple responses possible.)
- C3 Please choose a maximum of three, but at least one reason why you do not visit dog zones in the fifth district.

Question C3 had the participants choose the three most important reasons why they do not visit dog zones in Margareten and rank them as the “1: most important reason”, “2: second most important reason” and “3: third most important reason”. The “answer cards” were dragged into the corresponding slots (see Figure 1).

3. Wählen Sie bitte maximal drei, aber mindestens einen Grund, warum Sie Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk nicht besuchen.  
Bitte verschieben Sie die Kärtchen auf die geeigneten Stellen.

1: Wichtigster Grund	2: Zweitwichtigster Grund	3: Drittwichtigster Grund	
GRÖSSE: Die Hundezonen in der Umgebung sind zu klein	GESTALTUNG: Hundezonen sind zu schlecht gestaltet	AUSSTATTUNG: Hundezonen haben keine geeignete oder von mir gewünschte Ausstattung	SAUBERKEIT: Hundezonen sind meiner Meinung nach zu dreckig
			AUFENTHALTSQUALITÄT: Der Besuch von Hundezonen ist mir zu unangenehm
UNTAUGLICHKEIT: Hundezonen in meiner Umgebung sind untauglich	SICHERHEIT: Ich empfinde, dass der Aufenthalt in Hundezonen gefährlich ist	SICHERHEIT/KONFLIKT: Ich mache mir Sorgen, dass mein Hund in einer Hundezone Schaden erleiden könnte	KONFLIKTPOENZIAL: Mein Hund wird von anderen Hunden angegriffen

**Figure 1.** Interface of survey (in German) for question C3, screenshot from SociSurvey 2022, used with written permission from SociSurvey.

## 5.5 Collecting data about dog owners' perception of dogs in parks in Margareten

Question A5 on page two of the survey differentiated between participants who at least sometimes visit parks with dogs and participants who never do so. The D-block was answered only by the participants who indicated that they never visit parks with their dogs. It helped understand if the perceived social climate of parks contributes to the fact that they do not visit parks with their dog.

The E-block was answered only by participants who indicated that they do visit parks with their dogs. It served to understand how participants who visit parks with their dogs perceive the social climate of parks in regards to visitors with dogs.

## 5.6 Basic demographic data collected by the survey

The F-block was answered by all participants. It served to understand who the survey had reached and give hints about possible sampling bias.

Question F1 asked the participants to specify their gender and question F2 asked about their "age group" with standard intervals of ten. People under 18 years old were not targeted with the survey.

Question F3 asked how well the participant's household gets by on its income because this measures economic affluence more accurately than asking how much money the participant or their household earns in a month: raw income data does not take into account expenses which are influenced for example by family size. This way the participants can judge themselves whether they should be considered economically affluent (answer: very well), more or less economically affluent (satisfactory) or economically disadvantaged (difficult).

Question F4 served to find out whether the participants have a "migratory background" ("Migrationshintergrund") as officially defined by the Republic of Austria. In 2021, 49.7% of the residents in Margareten had a migratory background, meaning that both of their parents were born outside of Austria (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 65).

Answering these four questions was made optional for the case that a participant did not feel comfortable answering them despite the anonymity of

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the survey. As such they would not need to abort the whole survey just because they did not want to answer one or several of the demographic questions.

Lastly, the participants had an opportunity to provide free-form feedback about dog zones in Margareten as a write-in answer (see also appendix 8).

## PART 2: PLANNING BASIS FOR DOG SITES IN VIENNA



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## 6 History of dogs in Vienna

### 6.1 Domestication of wolves and the emergence of dogs

According to scientists, dogs were the first domestic animal, originating from ancient wolves (cf. Bergström et al. 2020: 557). Since the domestication of wolves happened tens of thousands if not over a hundred thousand years ago, the details of the domestication process are not clear – all estimates are based on archaeological findings, DNA-analysis and behavioural studies on human-animal relationships.

The act of domestication describes a process of genetic alteration in an originally wild animal population that is caused by keeping the animals genetically isolated from wildlife for many generations under favourable breeding conditions for the benefit of humans (cf. Zimen 1978: 13). While there is no scientific consensus for where, when and how many times domestication took place with wolves, DNA samples from archaeological records still prove that dogs evolved from wolves. The history of dogs reaches into the Palaeolithic, as by 11.000 years ago there were already at least five different major ancestry lineages with a diverse gene pool for dogs (cf. Bergström et al. 2020: 557). There is even some evidence that allows an estimate, that dogs could have first emerged as long as 135.000 years ago (cf. Vilà et al. 1997: 1689). Either way, since humans and wolves coexisted in the Pleistocene over a wide geographic area, this provided many opportunities for domestication events and genetic exchange between wolves and dogs (cf. *ibid.*: 1687).

It is not clear if the relationship between wolves and humans started as a rivalry or cooperation, but it is widely – but not universally – agreed that the root of the human-wolf relationship was based on the act of hunting (cf. Pierotti 2017: 9f.). Some scientists believe that domestication was achieved by intrusive acts towards wolves, such as forcefully removing wolf pups from their parents. Others believe that the relationship between humans and wolves developed slowly over time through chance cooperation in acts of hunting (cf. *ibid.*). Another theory suggests that wolves might have “domesticated themselves”, with more tame wolves settling in the vicinity of humans and feeding off rubbish heaps left by humans. This could have resulted in less energy required for hunting and good conditions for offspring, resulting in the slow emergence of ancient dogs (cf. Coppinger et al. 2001: 39ff.).

Dogs have always had a special relationship with humans, as dogs played an important role in the everyday life of various cultures across the times, also being commonly referenced in art and literature (cf. Klatt 2008: 50). For

example, dogs appear in ancient Egyptian art and mythology and mummified dogs have been uncovered as well (cf. Brackert et al. 1989: 20f.). Ancient Romans systematically bred big and strong dogs as fighting dogs, for wars and for entertainment (cf. Zimen 1989: 114f.). In Ancient Rome, dogs were also used, inter alia, as hunting dogs, (shep)herd dogs, message delivery dogs, guard dogs and draft dogs (cart pulling dogs).

Documents clarifying the way dogs were used and treated in Vienna reach as far as into the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This chapter summarises the conclusions of the research of historical Viennese documents from the city archives conducted by archivist Dr. Michaela Laichmann. Her research was published in 1998 as a booklet which was included with the 53<sup>rd</sup> issue of “Wiener Geschichtsblätter”.

Before modern times dogs were judged by two criteria: their usefulness and ability to work as well as their status. The high status, “noble” dogs were considered “luxury dogs”, and they were kept by the imperial house as well as noblemen (and starting around the 19<sup>th</sup> century by upper middle class citizens). The low status, “ignoble” or “common” dogs were those of the peasants, millers and butchers. (cf. Laichmann 1998: 3)

## 6.2 Imperial hunting dogs

Vienna used to be a monarchy until 1918. Hunting used to be an important part of noble life and representation, and because of this, hunting dogs were an important part of the monarchy – the various monarchs used to own hundreds of hunting dogs at a time. In order to keep so many dogs in service of the monarchs, special jobs and caring arrangements were developed.

In the Middle Ages and in the early modern times, there were three categories of hunting dogs: firstly sighthounds who are fast runners and hunt by sight, secondly scent dogs, who hunt by the scent of prey and thirdly catch dogs (comparable to modern Rottweiler), which were trained to catch animals. (cf. *ibid.*: 3)

The Hofkammer in Vienna was founded in 1527 under the Habsburg monarchy (1278-1918) as the central financial authority for raising the earnings and covering the expenses of the court and the state. The first official mentions of imperial dog keeping in Vienna from the Hofkammer archives date back to the year 1560. These documents are about the matters of the Rüdenmeister (“dog master”) of Vienna. While today “Rüde” exclusively refers to male dogs in the German language, “Rüde” used to refer to any big, physically strong dogs, male or female (cf. *ibid.*: 3).

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The imperial Rüden were kept in Rüdenhäuser (“dog houses”), in stables with wooden bunks and straw. (cf. *ibid.*: 3) For example, in 1637 one Rüdenmeister, twelve Rüdenknechte (“dog servants”), one gatekeeper and one baker lived in a Rüdenhaus. The Rüdenhaus also had its own bakery to feed the dogs, and the Rüdenhaus even had its own mill in Hütteldorf (part of the modern 14<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna) for the bakery. Back then, dogs were fed mostly vegetarian food (bread, kitchen waste and porridge), because meat was too valuable to feed to animals – only some the noble dogs were fed with certain animal parts. (cf. *ibid.*: 6)

Sighthounds were considered noble dogs and were kept separately from the Rüden, for example in castle Neugebäude (in the modern 11<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna) and castle Laxenburg (in the modern Lower Austria just south of Vienna). (cf. *ibid.*: 3)

This does not mean that imperial dogs were not kept in Vienna before 1560, just that the first extant mentions date back to then. For example, Dr. Laichmann assumes that there was already a Rüdenhaus in Erdberg (in the modern third district of Vienna) during the Babenberger monarchy (976-1246). (cf. *ibid.*: 3)

The hunting regulations from 1570, for example, state that at least 100 hunting dogs and 200 Rüden should be kept for boar hunts. However, only the most valuable Rüden, the specially trained scent dogs were kept year-round in the Rüdenhäuser. During the hunt-free times the less valuable dogs had to be kept and cared for by the citizens. Additionally, the citizens often had to make their own suitable dogs available for the hunts of the court. These kinds of cost-minimising hunting dog arrangements for the nobility were common in all German speaking parts of Europe. (cf. *ibid.*: 4)

In Vienna, two groups of people specifically had to care for the dogs of the court: the citizens of Weißgerberviertel (in the modern third district of Vienna) because of their vicinity to the Rüdenhaus, as well as all civil butchers and other meat-related professionals, because they could more easily feed big dogs. This practice was quite obviously not well received by the citizens, as various documents from the 18<sup>th</sup> century state that these dogs were often starved when returned for the hunts. Some of these dogs were also chased away, sold or killed. Despite the bad experiences with these arrangements, these practices were not abandoned. These insights highlight how these non-noble dogs were only valued for their usefulness in hunts and good animal husbandry was not a concern with them. (cf. *ibid.*: 5)

Because of the bad conditions these dogs were kept in, the Oberrüdenmeister (“senior dog master”) set up the following requirements for the keeping of Rüden of the imperial court in 1759: a covered hut with straw in

the winter and a dry place in front of it, weekly cleaning and a bowl for food and water. Using the dogs for driving oxen and breeding acts was also forbidden. Apparently these quite low seeming standards were already considered high standards back in the day – after all they were imperial hunting dogs. (cf. *ibid.*: 5)

### 6.3 Common working dogs

In various laws and regulations across the centuries, the dogs of butchers, millers and peasants are frequently mentioned. Only these civil groups of people had the right and need to keep big dogs, as well as the means to feed them sufficiently. These “common” dogs were used as guard dogs, cattle dogs and drafting dogs. Cattle dogs served an important role, helping drive cattle to Vienna even from as far as Hungary. Drafting dogs, pulling carts – used by merchants in particular – served as a more affordable means of transportation compared to horses or donkeys. After all, dogs eat less and are cheaper and easier to keep. (cf. *ibid.*: 7)

Because dogs were often fed insufficiently and with vegan food, they tended to go off hunting small game such as rabbits, squirrels or pheasants. While the owners would not care since wildlife could only damage them, the noble huntsmen did not like this at all and regularly countered with harsh punishments. Because of this, according to Weistümer (oral legal traditions) since the late Middle Ages, the laws for dogs of commoners forced them to keep the animals leashed near the house, or to attach a cudgel to the dog, which would limit its ability to move quickly. Alternatively, dogs could be crippled, by breaking one of their legs for example. These long established rules were reiterated several times in writing during the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Vienna, which implies that these laws were often ignored. (cf. *ibid.*: 9f.)

In 1675 Emperor Leopold I. made the rules even stricter: nobody without an authorisation to hunt was allowed to own hunting dogs, not even noblemen without the required authorisation. Any such existing hunting dogs would have to be killed as unnecessary. Any dogs found in forests would now be killed immediately. Only the emperor was allowed to own sighthounds. (cf. *ibid.*: 10)

### 6.4 Non-working luxury dogs

A special kind of “useless” dog were the non-working “luxury dogs” of nobility, at first especially popular among noble women. These usually small companion dogs were considered a status symbol, a sign of demonstrative idleness and wealth because of the ability to keep non-working dogs. Their role as companions does however also highlight how emotional attachment used to

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play a role in dog husbandry even hundreds of years ago. Many noble women had their portraits drawn including their companion dog, including Maria Theresia. (cf. *ibid.*: 18)

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, luxury dogs gained popularity among the entire upper class of Vienna. Being able to not only care for and feed a non-working dog, but also being able to pay the dog tax which was implemented in 1869 (see chapter 6.5) was perceived as a sign of wealth. New professions such as dog breeders, pet dealers and dog groomers emerged, catering to the growing demand for fashionable dog husbandry. Several clubs for breeding specific breeds were formed in Austria and practices for pedigree dog breeding – as held up to this day – were established. Dog training became increasingly important, as any dog with a representative function had to be well behaved. (cf. *ibid.*: 18f.)

Slowly, with increasing prosperity among the middle and lower classes, keeping non-working dogs became possible to most people in Vienna. As the need for working dogs decreased and general prosperity increased, companion dogs became the new norm in dog keeping. (cf. *ibid.*: 19).

## 6.5 Problems with dogs in the city across centuries

Nowadays, the biggest problem with dogs in the city is arguably their excrements (waste), since they are still not removed by all dog owners. Other concerns today are conflicts with strangers (specifically children who do not know how to read the body language of dogs and do not know how to treat them) and the issue of providing dogs enough qualitative spaces to exercise in. However, none of these issues used to be the main concerns across the centuries – the streets used to be full of dog waste and rubbish anyway and the standards and laws for animal husbandry were low if not hostile.

The City of Vienna took action against stray dogs as far back as in the Middle Ages. Knackermen killed strays and removed their corpses. Documents show that for example in the years 1444-1445, 949 dogs were killed by knackermen (cf. *ibid.*: 14). Above all, rabies used to be the biggest problem associated with dogs. Before the invention of the vaccine (1885), an infection always had deadly consequences. Because rabies was usually transmitted to humans by the mean of dog bites, the only way to take measures during rabies epidemics was to kill any free running and potentially rabid dogs, any “useless dogs” were also hunted down (cf. *ibid.*: 11). During a rabies epidemic in 1841 for example over 700 dogs were killed in the months of August and September alone (cf. *ibid.*: 15).

Only knacker men were allowed to kill dogs and remove their corpses. For a long time, this necessary profession – such as any profession related to death – was however deemed “dishonest”. “Dishonest” people had to live separate from the rest of society. In accordance with the Enlightenment movement, emperor Karl VI. declared killing cats and dogs as well as processing their skins (used as leather) as “honest” work in 1732. (cf. *ibid.*: 11f.)

While the common dogs of butchers, millers and peasants were tolerated as necessities (albeit heavily regulated in order to protect game for noblemen), an even lower class of dogs existed: the dogs of “shameful” people (beggars, vagrants, vagabonds and any other “suspicious” person), as well as any other “useless” dogs which were not put to work. Police reports from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century complained about “useless dogs” of beggars, servants and students who could not afford to feed their dogs and left it up to the dogs to look for food on their own. In 1815 there were about 240.000 residents and 30.000 dogs in Vienna – and most of these dogs were left to look for food on the streets. According to the police, some people even kept 30-40 dogs in a small apartment. (cf. *ibid.*: 10) As such, the “dog hunts” by knacker men reached a peak in 1815, as the reward for every killed dog was increased. According to reports, knacker men killed any dogs they could spot, sometimes even breaking into houses in order to catch dogs. Between 1814 and 1816, over 14.000 dogs were killed in Vienna. (cf. *ibid.*: 15)

In 1838 it was regulated that any stray, redundant and troublesome dogs as well as any rabid or potentially rabid dogs should be caught. According to these regulations, even collared dogs were to be considered strays if their owners were not present and the dogs were romping around with other dogs. Bulldogs and Bavarian Catch Dogs had to be kept on a leash; otherwise they would be caught even if present with their owners. All dogs had to be muzzled in public. The muzzle-requirement was withdrawn in 1876 because of widespread public protest and reintroduced as late as in 1921 under the administration of the Social Democratic Workers’ Party of Austria. (cf. *ibid.*: 15f.)

While a dog tax in Vienna (and numerous nearby municipalities) was already discussed in 1783, it was finally implemented in 1869. The tax was supposed to discourage keeping “unnecessary” dogs; upon request, the tax could be reduced in whole or in part for guard dogs and drafting dogs. Tags were attached to the collars of dogs as a sign of properly paid taxes. Dogs that were caught without a valid tag were kept for three days and killed if not claimed by their owners. (cf. *ibid.*: 12f.)

In January of 1921, now under the social democratic government, a new dog taxing system was implemented as part of an offensive to fund social projects with “luxury taxes”. Guard dogs and dogs that were necessary for a profession would be taxed with a yearly tax of 40 crowns, other dogs would be

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taxed with 100 crowns and “luxury dogs” would be taxed with 3.000 crowns if the owner had an income above 120.000 crowns. There was an official list of breeds which would be considered “luxury dogs”, consisting mostly of small companion dogs, sighthounds, very big dog breeds and exotic breeds. These rulings were very hard to enforce, and as such they were changed in December of the same year: a flat rate of 200 crowns per dog was set, with exemption for guide dogs, dogs working for the city, dogs from shelters and dogs from pet dealers that were intended for sale. In 1922, the tax rate was upped to 20.000 crowns because of the post-war hyperinflation. (cf. *ibid.*: 13f.) The current dog tax is discussed in chapter 7.2.

## 6.6 The emergence of animal protection efforts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

The first instance of baiting in Vienna (a blood sport where animals are pitted against each other to fight) can be dated back to 1699. In the years 1735-1796, a famous Hetztheater (“baiting theatre”) existed in the modern third district of Vienna. Dogs were commonly used in baiting matches. However, not all people approved of these cruel practices, as scholars in particular became more sensitive towards animal rights in the course of the Enlightenment movement (about 1700-1800). In 1796, after the theatre had burned down, the reigning emperor Franz I. forbade any further practice of baiting, declaring his disgust for the sport which had become a popular spectacle amongst the Viennese population. (cf. *ibid.*: 17, Stadler n.d.)

In January of 1846 a decree was passed, deeming animal abuse punishable, and supporting the formation of animal protection associations. Two months later, a successful poet and author called Dr. Ignaz Franz Castelli founded the “Niederösterreichischer Verein gegen Mißhandlung der Tiere” (“Association against the mistreatment of animals in Lower Austria”), which would later become “Wiener Tierschutzverein” (“Viennese Animal Protection Association”), which again was renamed into “Tierschutz Austria” (“Animal Protection Austria”) in June of 2020. (cf. *ibid.*: 17)

In 1852, thanks to the efforts of the Animal Protection Association, the use of drafting dogs was regulated for the first time in Vienna. The mistreatment of drafting dogs was forbidden, and humans were no longer allowed to ride the carts. The dogs also had to be muzzled while on duty. In 1876 there was an addendum to the regulations, requiring an inspection of any dogs that were to be used as drafting dogs by an official veterinarian, making sure that the dogs were fit for the job. (cf. *ibid.*: 7)

In 1884 the use of old, sick and pregnant dogs for drafting was forbidden and bringing along a water bowl and blanket were made mandatory. Whippetrees now had to be attached to a harness instead of the collar to avoid strangulation. Using big carts became forbidden and the cart driver was asked to help pull the cart. However, the Animal Protection Association concluded that the regulations were not properly enforced by the police. (cf. *ibid.*: 8)

In 1888 a killing as painless as possible for caught and to-be terminated dogs was discussed with the Animal Protection Association, but any presented alternatives were rejected because of higher costs and security concerns. (cf. *ibid.*: 16)

In 1896, the first dog shelter was opened in the modern sixth district of Vienna. A year later, another dog shelter was opened in the modern third district and in 1902 a third shelter was opened in the modern 16<sup>th</sup> district. (cf. *ibid.*: 8) In 1902 it was announced that caught animals would not be killed anymore, instead they would be brought into shelters. However, these intentions were not followed through. (cf. *ibid.*: 16)

Despite the efforts to regulate better treatment of animals, a newspaper article from as late as 1926 describes how dogs caught by dog catchers were dragged through several alleyways to the wagons, suffocating the dogs in the process, the dog catchers then proceeding to violently throw the dogs into carts. (cf. *ibid.*: 16)

## 6.7 Conclusion about dogs in Vienna before the 21<sup>st</sup> century

At least since the late Middle Ages, the way “the city” regulates and treats dogs has been hugely influenced by the needs of various emperors and select noblemen who used to be the only people with an authorisation to hunt. Hunting was a sport with important representative character and because of this game was protected by putting restrictions on dog keeping of the common population.

Dogs were valued based on their ability to fulfil various tasks, with the exception of rare and valuable breeds, most dogs were seen by “the city” as disposable workers. As such the keeping standards were often low, mostly focused on making sure that the dogs were kept well enough that they were still able to work when needed.

This does not mean that dog owners never had an emotional attachment to their dogs – many people kept “useless” dogs who did not work. Viewed as loyal companions by their owners, these “useless” dogs most resemble the role of the majority of dogs that are kept in Vienna today. Outsiders however frowned upon these dogs as they brought “problems” into the city without



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providing value in the form of labour. The owners of “useless” dogs often did not have the means to feed their dogs sufficiently and the dogs had to look for food on the streets. Because of the problems associated with them, such “useless” dogs were hunted down during certain periods, especially during rabies epidemics.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, non-working luxury dogs became affordable to keep among the broad upper classes and a “pet industry” started emerging. With industrialisation and general increasing prosperity, companion dogs became affordable (and thus less problematic) to keep amongst all classes and working dogs faded into history.

Influenced by the Enlightenment movement, the upper classes started to become more interested in matters of animal protection. Around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, animal protection regulations started to get passed and animal shelters emerged around the turn to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is questionable whether the protection measures were enforced properly at the time.

## 7 The modern understanding of the needs of dogs in Vienna and relevant legislation

### 7.1 Development of modern legislation related to dogs in Austria

The modern Republic of Austria is a federation of nine provinces (“Bundesländer”), one of which is the province of Vienna: “The federal state is formed by the autonomous provinces of Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tirol, Vorarlberg, and Vienna” (Federal Constitutional Law, Article 2, Para 2). Depending on the subject of the law, laws in Austria are categorised into three categories. Federal law (“Bundesrecht”) applies in all nine provinces. State law (“Landesrecht”) only applies in the province in question. Municipal law (“Gemeinderecht”) only applies in the municipality in question. Since Vienna is a province and a municipality at the same time, the category “municipal law” is not relevant for Vienna-centred questions. However, it should be noted that the 23 districts of Vienna regain a level of autonomy (also) in (urban) planning decisions, and the planning of dog sites specifically is, as a matter of fact, currently regulated on a district level in Vienna.

The foundation for the modern laws for dog husbandry in Vienna were first set in 1987 in the “Viennese Animal Protection and Animal Husbandry Act” (“Wiener Tierschutz- und Tierhaltegesetz”) of the time. At this point in time both animal protection and animal husbandry were regulated on the level of state law. These laws for Vienna from 1987 grant two options for dog owners to keep their dogs under control in the public realm, so that the potential damage to the surroundings is minimised. The first option is for the dogs to wear a muzzle in the public realm. A muzzle makes it impossible for a dog to bite anything or anyone and thus cause damage. The second option provided by the law is to keep dogs on a leash in such a way that the animal can be controlled at all times. Keeping dogs on a leash was also made mandatory in all parks of the city, with no option for muzzling the animals in parks instead. The laws also regulated that all biting dogs – meaning dogs that have already bitten a human or another dog before – must wear a muzzle in public at all times. An amendment to the Viennese Animal Protection and Animal Husbandry Act in 1991 introduced the concept of dog zones and dog exercise areas in the city, adding these typologies to the spatial planning toolkit of the City of Vienna for the first time (cf. City of Vienna Court of Audit 2016: 9).

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Until the end of the year 2004, the subject of animal protection was regulated separately by the nine provinces of Austria. With the beginning of 2005, the “Animal Protection Act” (“Tierschutzgesetz”) came into effect. With the responsibility the animal protection being transferred to the federal level, the “Viennese Animal Protection and Animal Husbandry Act” was revised and renamed into the “Vienna Animal Husbandry Act” (“Wiener Tierhaltegesetz”).

While the laws for animal protection are since set by federal law, the nine provinces remain responsible for enforcing the law, as regulated in Article 11, Para 1 of the Federal Constitutional Law. Based on Section 42 of the Animal Protection Act, an “Animal Protection Council” (“Tierschutzrat”) was established with the Federal Ministry of Health and Women, and since 2018 the Council works with the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. The Animal Protection Council consists of several experts from different backgrounds related to animal protection and some other related interests. Nine of the members of the Animal Protection Council are the animal protection ombudspersons of the nine provinces: Based on Section 41 of the Animal Protection Act, each province must appoint an animal protection ombudsperson (“Tierschutzombudsperson”). The animal protection ombudsperson has the status of a party in any administrative proceedings concerning animal protection in the province, representing the interests of animal protection. Additionally, based on Section 41a. of the Animal Protection Act, an “Animal Protection Commission” (“Tierschutzkommission”), consisting of one representative each of the political parties represented in the National Council as well as four experts was established. The Commission works with the Animal Protection Council and the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

The following chapters 7.2 to chapter 8.7 are going to discuss and partially quote all of the legislation that is impactful for the matter of dog husbandry in Vienna while simultaneously discussing the modern understanding of the relationship between dogs and humans. The highlighted legislation and the discussed concepts are important to understand and apply when planning dog sites in Vienna – and by extension, any modern city.

## **7.2 Number of dogs in Vienna**

Since 2010, all dogs kept in Austria must be registered and marked with a read-only microchip in accordance with Section 24a. of the Animal Protection Act. The microchip contains a serial number which is linked to the registered information about the dog and the owner. In this way any dog can be identified and returned to the owner in the case that the dog has run away, was abandoned or left behind. All dogs kept in Vienna must be registered and a dog

tax, as regulated in the “Viennese Dog Tax Act” (“Hundeabgabegesetz”), must be paid:

“The fee must be paid for every dog kept in the municipality that is more than three months old. The owner of the dog is liable for the fee; as such is the head of the household in which the dog is kept, or the business owner if the dog is kept in a business.” (Viennese Dog Tax Act §2, own translation)

If a dog owner has only one dog, the fee for that dog is currently set to 72 euros per calendar year. If a dog owner has several dogs, the fee for the second and each additional dog is currently set to 105 euros per calendar year.

The development of the overall number of dogs in Vienna has been fairly stable in the recent five years, with the exception of the year 2021:

**Table 7.** Registered dogs in Vienna, 2011-2021. (cf. City of Vienna A n.d.; MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 55)

year	registered dogs in Vienna
2011	55,955
2012	56,872
2013	56,619
2014	61,861
2015	55,693
2016	55,800
2017	55,705
2018	55,099
2019	55,604
2020	55,649
2021	56,701

The historical high of registered dogs in Vienna was reached in 2014, with 61,861 dogs registered. Between the years 2015 and 2020, the canine population varied quite steadily between 55,100 and 55,800 dogs. However, in the year 2021, the canine population in Vienna grew by 1,052 dogs.

In an interview, Simone Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had led to many more people in Vienna getting a dog. She also noted that since then, more people are getting dogs without really understanding what keeping a dog really requires of them, which leads to less considerate and inappropriate dog husbandry. At least, the measure of the “certificate of competence for dog keeping” (see chapter 7.6) tries to enlighten ignorant dog owners. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

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It is generally estimated that there are a lot of unregistered dogs in Vienna. For at least well over a decade now, it has been estimated that there are about the same amount of unregistered dogs as there are registered dogs. This estimate has been presented by experts, politicians and various media outlets (cf. e.g. Steinbauer 2005; Kühner 2009: 27; Provincial Parliament of Vienna 2010: 72; Zwickl 2021). However, the original source of this often repeated estimate is not identifiable, and it cannot be determined if it is still up-to-date or if it is an old estimate or an old “rumour” that has been repeated over and over again.

When asked about an estimate for the number of unregistered dogs in Vienna and presented with this commonly repeated estimate, Gräber Simone from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection stated that while there are some unregistered dogs, she does not believe that the number of unregistered dogs in Vienna is even close to as high as the number of registered dogs. However, Gräber cannot present a counter-estimate, because ultimately it is quite impossible to estimate how many unregistered dogs there are. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

### **7.3 Modern role of dogs in Vienna**

While there are no official numbers about the “occupation” of the dogs in Vienna, an overwhelming majority of dogs kept in Vienna are kept by the common citizen as pets, as companion dogs – dogs that would have 200 years ago be referred to as “useless dogs”. Companion dogs do, however, have several, well studied and documented “uses”: they can serve as social contacts, as emotional caregivers and even as “child replacements” for elderly people after their children have moved out, or couples who do not want any children (cf. Kühner 2009: 52f.). Growing up with dogs helps children develop their social skills and empathy (cf. Kitchenham-Ode 2004: 87f.). Additionally dogs act as a repellent for thieves, regardless of the size of the dog and the intention of keeping a dog as a guard dog (cf. Kühner 2009: 52). Living with and caring for a dog also can provide a multitude of benefits for their owners, such as increased life satisfaction, increased self-esteem, improved physical wellbeing, a generally improved health condition and shorter recovery periods after psychological stress (cf. *ibid.*: 43ff.).

Several laws also define “occupations” for dogs. These dogs require special training and they are granted additional privileges in several laws such as in the Animal Protection Act (Section 16 Para 5), Vienna Hunting Act (Section 92 Para 2) and Federal Disability Act (Section 39a.). These “occupations” are: service dogs, assistance dogs, guide dogs, hearing dogs, therapy support dogs, police dogs, army dogs, hunting dogs, disaster search dogs, rescue dogs and shepherd dogs.

## 7.4 Modern understanding of the needs of dogs as a species

Dogs as a species have been well studied and their needs have been identified. While the variation in morphological, physiological or ethnological peculiarities between breeds is large, breeds are a non-scientific construct that is classified according to the subjective judgement of people, specifically experts such as the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) or the American Kennel Club. Despite any morphological differences in breeds, all dogs can identify each other as dogs and communicate with each other, as long as the dogs have been properly socialised. (cf. Schöning 2007: 2) While there is variation in the exact ways in which the needs of dogs may manifest in different breeds (such as the amount of specific stimuli required in a day), as a species, the basic needs of all dogs are still the same. (cf. *ibid.*: 4)

For dogs, there is a regularly recurring need to live out a number of genetically fixed needs and behaviours, as there is a physiological need to stimulate the systems in a dog's brain regularly as well as there is a need to be able to react appropriately. Dogs have both motoric needs and perceptive needs. If the species-specific needs of dogs cannot be met, the dog can develop behavioural disorders as an expression of suffering (see chapter 9.1). (cf. Schöning 2007: 3f.)

It would not be expedient to discuss all the needs of dogs in this thesis. Instead, a focus is set on the four needs of dogs which are relevant to walking a dog in a city as well as when visiting dog exercise areas: locomotion (movement), exploration, communication and social contacts.

Regular, daily exercise is a species-typical need for dogs. The important factor is not the exact distance that a dog walks or runs in a day, but the time that is available for walking and running as well as the different types and speeds of walking and running which are practised. (cf. *ibid.*: 4)

Dogs are social and territorial animals. As such it is important for them to understand and get to know their surroundings and their social partners (or potential enemies). This exchange of information does not only happen in bidirectional communication (with other dogs and people) but also in unidirectional communication, as dogs scan their inanimate environment through the sense of smell. Because of this, marking the environment with anal gland fluids and urine is an important part of communication between dogs. Exploration for the sake of regular intake of smells and communication through smells are species-typical needs for dogs. (cf. *ibid.*: 5)

Dogs have a need for regular social contacts and direct communication through optical, tactile, olfactory and acoustic signals. Social contact with

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humans (or other animals) cannot fully substitute the need for contact with other dogs, since the way dogs communicate with each other is different compared to the communication with other species. Dogs develop hierarchical relationships which help them lead life together as conflict-free as possible. Unknown factors produce uncertainty and stress in dogs, because of this it is important to them to get to know other dogs (and people) who they share spaces with. (cf. *ibid.*: 6)

## 7.5 Life for dogs in Vienna from a dog's perspective

Simone Gräber from the Ombuds Office for Animal Protection thinks that Vienna is a very “dog friendly” city and that there is a lot on offer for dogs. The 203 dog sites (over 41,487 ha) in Vienna are an exceptional infrastructure for dogs even on an international level, and the amount of dog sites has only increased over the years. The City of Vienna has also installed over 3,800 dog waste bag dispensers for dog owners to use all over the city (see chapter 8.7). Dogs are allowed to do a lot of things in Vienna and even the existing rules are not enforced particularly harshly. Even the barrier-free design approach of the City of Vienna benefits dogs, such as there being an elevator in every subway station so dogs do not need to use escalators or stairs. Gräber thought a lot about the question of what the City of Vienna could realistically do to become even more “dog friendly”, but she could not think of anything. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

Even then, with the current situation in Vienna in some parts of the inner districts, one has to consider if the life of a dog might not be too stressful. A big city can overwhelm a dog with all kinds of sensory experiences. The dog sites in some of the inner districts are also so small that they are not sufficient to fulfil the natural needs (see chapter 7.4) of especially big dogs. Gräber also thinks that many dog owners in Vienna do not provide their dogs with sufficient attention and occupation. If people want to get a dog in the inner districts of Vienna, they should be ready to accept and regularly make longer trips to take their dogs to bigger green areas and dog sites. Gräber thinks that many dog owners should pay more attention to the needs of their dogs, not just their own needs that dogs fulfil. (cf. *ibid.*)

## 7.6 Certificate of competence for dog keeping in Vienna

In order to make sure that all dog owners in Vienna understand the basics of dog husbandry (including being aware of the basic needs of dogs), a special measure has been developed by the City of Vienna. Based on Section 5, Paras 12 to 15 of the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act, from July of 2019 onward, anyone living in Vienna is required to acquire a “certificate of competence for dog keeping” before acquiring and registering a dog:

“(12) Starting July 1, 2019, before acquiring a dog, each person must provide a certificate of competence in accordance with Para 14. Section 5a Para 3 applies accordingly.

(13) Persons who can prove that they have owned a dog within the last two years do not require a certificate of competence in accordance with Para 12. Proof of this is the payment of a dog tax for this period, confirmed by an authority, starting in the month in which the dog was registered.

(14) The Municipal Department has to enact more detailed regulations on the certificate of competence by ordinance, in particular with regard to the modalities and content as well as with regard to the qualification of those persons who are allowed to conduct courses for the certificate of competence.

(15) Only those persons who have the necessary reliability (Para 16) are permitted to complete a certificate of competence.

(16) Reliability is not given:

1. in the event of a final court conviction for animal cruelty in accordance with Section 222 of the Criminal Code - StGB, Federal Law Gazette No. 60/1974,
2. in the event of a final punishment due to a violation of Section 5 or Section 6 of the Animal Protection Act - TSchG, Federal Law Gazette I No. 118/2004,
3. in the case of a legally binding imposition of a ban on keeping animals in accordance with Section 39 TSchG,
4. in the case of a legally binding imposition of a ban on keeping and handling animals in accordance with Section 4.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5, own translation)

In order to acquire the certificate-of-competence, one would have to visit a special course, the contents of which were developed by the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection. The contents of such a course are specified in Section 3 of the “Viennese Dog-Certificate-of-Competence Ordinance” (“Wiener Hunde-Sachkundenachweis-Verordnung”):

- “1. Basic considerations before getting a dog (including information about dubious sources and torture breeding);
2. Knowledge of dog husbandry, nutrition, care, health, costs, development from puppies to adult dogs, the dog as a social creature (contacts with attachment figures/with peers), recognizing stress, fear and calming signals, body language, frequent misunderstandings between humans and dog, need for rest/occupation;
3. Knowledge of animal-friendly dog training, this includes at least learning behaviour, positive reinforcement, training aids, behavioural problems (recognition, contact persons), practical exercises, e.g. how to put on a muzzle (dog dummy);



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4. Knowledge of relevant legal regulations (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act, Viennese Dog Tax Act, Green Space Ordinance, Vienna Cleanliness Act, Austrian Road Traffic Act, Animal Protection Act, Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance with regard to the minimum requirements for keeping dogs).” (Vienna Dog-Certificate-of-Competence Ordinance §3, own translation)

## 7.7 Protecting dogs from people: the Animal Protection Act

In an effort to protect dogs and make sure that their needs are fulfilled by their owners, several laws have set minimum requirements for dog keeping in Austria. The Animal Protection Act (“Tierschutzgesetz”) is the most fundamental Austrian piece of legislation in this regard. Hence, this chapter examines the relevant legislation in the Animal Protection Act. As one of the most fundamental acts of the Republic of Austria, the Animal Protection Act has been officially translated and made available in English. The following excerpts are taken directly from the official English translation.

The Act claims the following to be its objective:

“This Federal Act aims at the protection of the life and well-being of animals based on man’s special responsibility for the animal as a fellow creature.” (Animal Protection Act §1)

In order to protect animals, it lists many prohibited harmful acts towards animals and a great number of minimum requirements for animal keeping. I deem the following prohibited acts particularly relevant when considering dog husbandry in a city:

- “(1) It is prohibited to inflict unjustified pain, suffering or injury on an animal or expose it to extreme anxiety.
- (2) Para 1 is violated in particular if a person [...]
- 2. increases aggressiveness and fighting readiness of animals by one-sided breeding selection or other methods; [...]
- 4. sets animals on other animals or trains them to be aggressive towards another animal;
- 5. organises or performs animal fights;
- 6. organises dog races on asphalt or other hard-covered terrain; [...]
- 13. is negligent with regard to, or provides, accommodation, feeding and care of an animal he keeps, in a way to involve pain, suffering or injury for the animal or to put it in a state of extreme anxiety; [...]” (Animal Protection Act §5)

Increasing aggressiveness and fight readiness in any animals – including dogs – by any means is deemed illegal. This is relevant because the potential danger from (aggressive) dogs is one of the main reasons why dog sites exist in Vienna. In order to create spaces for off-leash, not-muzzled dogs to interact with each other and meet their various natural needs, dogs in their least controllable form have been physically separated from the broad public. The legislation deems promoting aggression in animals as illegal, aiming to minimise potential conflict between animals and humans.

In the course of their study from 2006 about nine select dog sites (both dog zones and dog exercise areas) in various districts Vienna, Peter Eckl and Birgit Ramharter (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) interviewed a dozen users of dog sites. In these interviews a few dog zone users reported that some dog zones were used in the evening to train aggressiveness in (fighting) dogs (cf. Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 38).

The legislation also declares dog races on hard-covered terrain illegal. The implications of this should be considered when designing dog sites, where dogs are supposed to be able to run around and play.

“Everybody capable of complying with the provisions of this Federal Act and the regulations based on it and in particular also in possession of the necessary knowledge and capabilities, is authorised to keep animals.” (Animal Protection Act §12 Para 1)

This legislation grants anyone in Austria the right to keep an animal (as long as it is not a prohibited species to keep and) as long as the owner can provide sufficient care for the animal in the sense of the Animal Protection Act. This legislation sets the foundation for dog husbandry in Vienna, granting the people of Vienna the fundamental right to own a dog.

“Who keeps any animals shall ensure that the space, freedom of movement, condition of the ground, structural equipment of buildings and facilities in which they are kept, the climate, in particular light and temperature, care and food, as well as the possibility for social contacts in consideration of the species, age and degree of development, adaptation and domestication of animals corresponds to their physiologic and ethologic needs.” (Animal Protection Act §13 Para 2)

This legislation requires that the physiologic and ethologic needs of any kept animals, including dogs, must be met in the keeping. Considering the physiologic needs of dogs, requirements for meeting these are specified in chapter 7.8. A possibility for social contacts in consideration of the species of dogs requires the possibility of interaction with other dogs. The need for safe off-leash running, exploration and social interaction with other dogs are some of

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the main reasons why spaces for safe off-leash interaction are required in Vienna.

“Dogs must in no case, not even temporarily, be kept tied to a chain or tethered in any other way. In any event, dogs shall not be deemed kept tied or tethered if they are walked on a leash, tethered in the context of lawful dog training measures, disaster relief operations or use as police or army dogs, assistance dogs or therapy dogs as well as tethered for a short time in front of places or buildings that must not be entered with dogs.” (Animal Protection Act §16 Para 5)

This legislation regulates that while keeping dogs on a leash with a human on the other side of the leash is acceptable, dogs may not be chained otherwise even temporarily, with the exception of short times in front of buildings or places that do not allow dogs to enter, such as e.g. super markets. In stark contrast to the way “common dogs” (see chapter 6.3) had to be kept in the pre-modern city, this legislation declares tethering dogs as a form of dog keeping illegal. By allowing dogs to be kept on a leash, it allows a way to traverse the city in a safer manner (for dogs, people, wild animals and traffic) than letting dogs run freely.

“The animals must have access to sufficient quantity of water of suitable quality corresponding to their need.” (Animal Protection Act §17 Para 3)

A lot of, but not all dog sites in Vienna include a drinking fountain. While this legislation does not directly state that including a drinking fountain in a dog site is mandatory, it does shine a questionable light on the decision to not include a drinking fountain in all areas which are designed to accommodate dogs for extended periods of time.

“(1) Materials used for the building design of accommodations and keeping facilities with which the animals may come into contact must not be dangerous for the animals and must be able to be cleaned properly.  
(2) Accommodations and facilities for tethering or caging animals shall be built and maintained in a way that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to the animals.” (Animal Protection Act §18)

These legislations are especially important regarding dog sites, since dog sites are (usually fenced in) areas specifically designed to accommodate free running dogs for extended periods of time.

## 7.8 Minimum requirements for keeping dogs in the Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance

The “Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance” (“Zweite Tierhalterverordnung”) is a supplementary ordinance to the Animal Protection Act. Its multiple annexes specify minimum requirements for keeping multiple species of animals. Part of its “Annex 1” specifically defines minimum requirements for keeping dogs.

### “1.1. General requirements for keeping dogs

(1) Dogs must be given sufficient opportunity to run freely at least once a day, according to their need for exercise.

(2) Dogs that are mainly kept in closed rooms, e.g. apartments, must be given the opportunity to defecate and urinate outdoors several times a day.

(3) Dogs must be allowed social contact with people at least twice a day.  
[...]

(6) Muzzles must be adapted to the size and shape of the dog's head and be breathable; they must allow the dog to pant and drink water.”  
(Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance, Annex 1, own translation)

These requirements are very important for the subject of dog sites in Vienna. While obedient and controllable muzzled dogs are allowed to run off-leash in Vienna, the kind of exercise that is possible on city streets versus a bigger open area such as a dog zone is different (see chapter 9.1). Additionally, many dog owners of obedient dogs do not want to let their dogs run off-leash in the city in fear of the increased risk of accidents. Parks in Vienna which allow dogs to enter still require leashing the dogs (see chapter 8.3). In order for dog owners to be able to fulfil these legal requirements – as well as the species-specific needs of dogs as discussed in chapter 7.4 – dog sites are absolutely required in Vienna.

The definition of a legal muzzle in Austria is also highlighted since muzzles are an important part of the dog related regulations in the public realm in Vienna (see chapter 8.2).

The Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance also lists minimum requirements for how dogs are allowed to be kept indoors, outdoors and in kennels. While these requirements regulate how dogs can be kept in Austria – including Vienna – the specifics of these requirements are not particularly important for the matter of dog zones and dog exercise areas.

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## 8 Issues with dogs in Vienna and relevant legislation

### 8.1 Chapter introduction

The following chapter is going to discuss the main issues which (especially) non-dog owners have with dogs in Vienna: dogs in parks, the fear of dangerous dogs as well as the problem of dog waste which is not always cleaned up. These issues have contributed to the creation of dog sites and other dog related practices in Vienna.

### 8.2 Protecting people from dogs: the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act

The “Vienna Animal Husbandry Act” (“Wiener Tierhaltegesetz”) regulates the way animals are to be kept in Vienna.

At first, the law sets up three definitions that are important to understand:

“(1) An „owner“ is someone who has the right to decide in their own name how an animal is to be cared for or supervised.

(2) A „custodian“ is anyone who exercises direct control over the behaviour of an animal.

(3) Any dog that has once bitten a human or a member of its own species or that poses a risk to the safety of humans or other dogs due to its aggressiveness is to be regarded as a „biting dog“. (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §2, own translation)

The legal responsibilities for a dog are usually held by the current person who is looking after the dog, and owners might only pass this responsibility to suitable people:

“(9) The custodian of the dog must ensure compliance with paragraphs 1 to 5 and 8. If custody is entrusted to a person who is not criminally responsible, these obligations apply to the owner of the animal.

(10) The owner of a dog may only leave his or her dog to be kept or walked in a public place by persons who have the necessary suitability, particularly in physical terms.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5, own translation)

While the Animal Protection Act aims to protect animals from humans, the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act in particular aims to protect people and property from animals. In order to cover for potential damages caused by dogs, a mandatory insurance is required:

“Animals are to be kept in a way which

1. does not endanger people
2. does not unreasonably disturb people who do not live in the same household and
3. does not damage others property.

Whether harassment in the sense of 2. is reasonable, must be assessed according to the standards of a normal person and also on the basis of the local conditions.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §3)

“For dogs kept in the province of Vienna, liability insurance for a sum of at least EUR 725,000 must be taken out and maintained to cover damage to persons or property caused by the dog.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5 Para 11, own translation)

Section 5 of the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act regulates the basics of dog husbandry in Vienna:

“(1) In public places, such as streets, squares, agricultural and forestry areas and freely accessible parts of houses, courtyards, catering trade and allotment gardens, dogs must, despite Section 6, either wear a muzzle (Para 5) or be kept on a leash in such a way that the animal can be controlled at all times.

(2) Dogs must be kept on a leash in public parks and on labelled sunbathing lawns, despite Section 6.

(3) Biting dogs must be muzzled in public places.

(4) Dogs must always be muzzled in public places where there are usually large crowds of people (e.g. in restaurants or inns, on public transport, in shops or at events).

(5) The muzzle must be adapted to the size and shape of the dog's head and must be breathable and allow the dog to pant and drink water. [...]

(8) Insofar as dogs are allowed to be taken to sunbathing lawns, to a publicly accessible park or other publicly accessible green area, the person responsible (Para 9) must ensure that they are not in sandboxes or on children's playgrounds.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5, own translation)

Because of this law, dogs in the public realm always have to at least be kept on a leash or wear a muzzle, with the only exception set up in section 6: dog sites (see chapter 9). The ways in which being leashed impacts dogs is discussed in chapter 9.1.

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It should be noted that Section 5 does grant exceptions for special events and working dogs that might need both freedom of movement and the ability to use their teeth while at work (or in training):

“(6) The obligation to wear a muzzle or be kept on leash within the meaning of Para 1 to 4 and Section 5a Para 12 does not apply to rescue, therapy, assistance and service dogs [...] during their intended use (deployment and training), as well as for dogs as part of their active participation in an event.

(7) The requirements of Paras 1 to 3 do not apply to hunting dogs if they are used for hunting purposes in a hunting area.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5, own translation)

### 8.3 Dogs in parks in Vienna

As regulated in the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act Section 5 Para 2 (see chapter 8.2), dogs are only allowed to enter parks in Vienna on a leash. The regulations are tightened further in the “Green Space Ordinance” (“Grünanlagenverordnung”) of Vienna:

“Dogs are only permitted to enter lawn areas in appropriately marked dog zones or dog exercise areas within the meaning of the law on the husbandry of animals (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act), State Law Gazette for Vienna No. 39/1987, as amended by State Law Gazette for Vienna No. 54/2005.” (Green Space Ordinance §5, own translation)

The only places in the city where dogs are permitted to enter lawn areas are in dog zones and dog exercise areas. This means that even in parks that allow dogs to enter when leashed, lawn areas are always considered off-limits for dogs. In other words: parks that allow dogs to enter only really allow walking through the paths in the park with the dog on a leash, or sitting down somewhere with the dog on a leash.

Since the leash-requirement is regulated in the Viennese Animal Husbandry Act, there is no possibility to even test any other solutions like an alternative muzzle-requirement in a park without first changing the law. Since it is the law, testing alternatives to the leash-requirement have never been discussed in the MA 42, the Municipal Department for Parks and Gardens in Vienna. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

In addition to all these restrictions on dogs in parks, the District Councils of Vienna have the option to place “dog ban” (“Hundeverbot”) on any park in their district. Dogs are not allowed to enter parks with dog bans at all. The reason why a dog ban is placed on a select park is usually because too much dog

waste is left lying in the park or because of complaints about dogs in the park. (cf. *ibid.*)

If a District Council has decided that they want to place a dog ban on a select park, they start by contacting the MA 42. The person who is currently responsible for decreeing dog bans for parks is Bettina Lukas, the employee of the MA 42 who is responsible for dog sites in Vienna. The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection also has party status in the ordinance procedure. This means that they can voice their opinion about a dog ban in the specific park. If there are already many dog bans in the area and no alternative places to visit with dogs, the Ombuds Office might suggest establishing a new dog site to provide an optional destination for dogs in the area. If no dog sites are provided in the area and dog owners avoid parks because of dog bans, it just shifts the problem to other areas, so providing a dog site also serves all non-dog owners by directing dogs away from other places. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

In everyday life, the laws for dogs in parks – meaning the leash-requirement, prohibition of entering lawns and even dog bans – are, however, commonly ignored by dog owners. The MA 42 is well aware of this. The MA 42 itself does not have the resources to properly control and enforce the laws regarding dogs in parks. Just like the MA 48 has “WasteWatchers” who control littering in the public streets of Vienna (see chapter 8.7), the MA 42 also has some own WasteWatchers who control littering in their parks. These WasteWatchers can penalise dog owners who dirty lawns in parks. However, the MA 42 only has a small amount of WasteWatchers. The police can also sometimes penalise breaking these laws, but they usually have more important issues to take care of. There have, however, been some “hotspot campaigns” of the MA 42 together with the police and the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection where they stayed at particularly problematic “hotspots” and admonished all people who broke any laws regarding dogs in parks. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

The real problem with dogs in parks are not really dogs that are on a leash and might enter a lawn for a metre under supervision, but dogs that run around freely and that dirty areas where the dog owner does not notice it (or does not care to clean after the dog), and then children might “interact” with the waste in some way. Still, every dog owner who follows the laws and uses dog sites at least for the most part reduces the potential for conflict within a park. Lukas thinks that the problems in Vienna exist mostly because there are too many irresponsible dog owners. These are people who do not train and occupy their dogs properly and people who do not clean up after their dogs. If all dog owners were responsible, there would probably not be any problems with dogs in parks and dog bans would not be needed. There are also visible differences between the visitors of different dog sites (and parks) in Vienna. Some dog sites are



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visited by more responsible dog owners, while the visitors of certain dog sites (and parks) cause more problems. (cf. *ibid.*)

## 8.4 Dogs in forests in Vienna

The regulations set by the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act Section 5 are also tightened further in the “Vienna Hunting Act” (“Wiener Jagdgesetz”):

“Every dog owner has to keep his dog in such a way that it cannot harm the wildlife. If necessary, the dog must be kept in or near the house and kept on a leash outside the house.” (Vienna Hunting Act §92 Para 1, own translation)

The consequences of ignoring the laws for dogs in forests can be especially fatal:

“The persons authorised to hunt and game wardens are entitled to kill dogs other than those mentioned in Section 91 that are found hunting alone away from houses, farm buildings, herds and public paths. A dog can only be considered to be hunting alone when it is out of sight and shouting range of its custodian. [...]” (Vienna Hunting Act §92 Para 2, own translation)

It is interesting how the modern regulations still reflect the historical regulations in this regard (see chapter 6.3). The law protects wildlife and game from dogs, hunting with a permit is still legal. Hunters are still entitled to kill dogs that pose a threat to what are effectively their own targets. In this regard, not much has changed in the past few hundred years.

While forests could be a great place (at the periphery of the city) for granting dogs off-leash exercise in a low-danger and low-sensory environment (few people, no traffic), because of these regulations with deadly sanctions, yet another solution for granting dogs a place for fulfilling their natural needs is declared off-limits. This further increases the use-pressure on dog zones and dog exercise areas in Vienna.

## 8.5 Regulations concerning potentially dangerous dogs in Vienna

In order to keep the relationship between humans, dogs and any other animals as low-conflict as possible, it has been deemed illegal to intentionally increase the aggressiveness of dogs:

“The breeding or training of dogs for the sole or primary purpose of increasing aggressiveness, as well as placing such dogs on the market, is prohibited.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §7, own translation)

“The training of dogs for protection purposes (guard dog training) as well as other comparable dog training that includes aggressive behaviour directed against humans is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to the training of federal service dogs.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §8a., own translation)

The City of Vienna has also chosen to regulate dog breeds which it deems “potentially dangerous” (based on the build and nature of the dogs) more heavily than other dog breeds. The decision to introduce this concept of “listed breeds” in Vienna in 2010 was influenced by similar practices of other provinces (Vorarlberg) and other European countries such as Germany, where listed breeds have existed since the beginning of the 1990s (cf. ORF 2011). In Austria, the concept of listed breeds also exists in the provinces of Lower Austria (since 2010) and Vorarlberg (since 1992). The listed breeds were decided with the “Ordinance on Determining which Dogs Require a Dog Licence” (“Verordnung über die Festlegung von hundeführerscheinpflichtigen Hunden”):

“The following dogs as well as crossbreeds of these dogs with each other or with other dogs are considered to require a Dog Licence in accordance with Section 5a Para 1 of the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act, State Law Gazette for Vienna No. 39/1987, last amended by State Law Gazette for Vienna No. 29/2010: Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Mastino Napoletano, Mastín Español, Fila Brasileiro, Mastiff, Bullmastiff, Tosa Inu, Pit Bull Terrier, Rottweiler, Dogo Argentino (Argentinian Mastiff).” (Ordinance on Determining which Dogs Require a Dog Licence §1, own translation)

As determined in Section 5a. Paras 1 and 11 of the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act, any person who wants to own or even act as a temporary custodian of one of the listed dogs must carry a “Vienna Dog Licence” (“Wiener Hundeführerschein”) at all times when in public with the dog in question. The Vienna Dog Licence may be acquired by clearing a Dog Licence exam.

The contents of the Vienna Dog Licence exam are prescribed in the “Vienna Dog Licence Regulation” (“Wiener Hundeführerscheinverordnung”). The exam consists of a leading theoretical part and a following practical part in three modules as determined in Section 1. The theoretical part requires knowledge of relevant legislation, knowledge of animal husbandry and knowledge of animal-friendly dog training as determined in Section 2. The first

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practical module serves to examine if the dog owner knows how to correctly handle their dog:

- “(2) In any case, the dog owner must show how:
- the dog is leashed,
  - the muzzle is put on and tolerated by the dog,
  - the tooth, ear and paw check is carried out.” (Vienna Dog Licence Regulation §3, own translation)

The second practical module serves to examine the obedience of the dog:

- “(2) The examiner is responsible for selecting the obedience tasks. In any case, the ability to walk on the leash and to sit or lie down on command with or without a leash must be checked.” (Vienna Dog Licence Regulation §4, own translation)

The third practical module serves to examine the dog’s behaviour in a real urban setting:

“Module III contains tasks for coping with everyday situations in the big city, with special consideration of the behaviour of the dog owner according to the level of training and the behaviour of the dog in public, the legal regulations and aspects relevant to animal welfare.

(2) The tasks are to be carried out in public places and should simulate a walk in the big city.

(3) The examiner is responsible for selecting the tasks, whereby at least four tasks must be set in accordance with Para 4. Depending on the circumstances, more than four situations, a repeat of certain situations or additional situations can be requested.

(4) In the case of tasks pursuant to Para 2, the following situations in particular come into consideration:

- encounter with other dogs,
- encounter with joggers,
- encounter with cyclists or inline skaters respectively,
- encounter with pushchairs,
- encounter with children,
- encounter with people with walking aids,
- waiting in front of a shop,
- driving on public transport,
- moving through a large crowd,
- riding in an elevator with other people in it,
- encounter with people who have no option for evasion (e.g. construction site),
- crossing a park with a children's playground and a ball court,
- behaviour towards intrusive people,

– behaviour in a dog zone.” (Vienna Dog Licence Regulation §5, own translation)

In order to minimise the danger from listed breed dogs, these must be both muzzled and kept on leash in every public setting except in fenced in dog sites:

“(12) Dogs according to Para 2 must be muzzled and leashed in public places, with the exception of dog zones that are fenced on all sides. A muzzle is compulsory in non-fenced dog exercise areas. These obligations also apply to owners and custodians who are only staying in Vienna for a short time with a dog in accordance with Para 2. If the muzzle-requirement is violated for the first time, the authorities must be shown within three months six hours of training with a dog trainer qualified for animal welfare. If the muzzle-requirement is violated again within two years or if the six hours of training are not proven in time, the Vienna Dog Licence exam must be repeated within 3 months in accordance with Para 8.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5a., own translation)

Listed breed dogs in particular may also not be led by people impaired by alcohol or drugs in public:

“(14) Persons who are in a state impaired by alcohol or drugs may not lead a dog that requires a Vienna Dog Licence pursuant to Para 2 in public places. If the alcohol content in the blood is 0.5 g/l (0.5 per mil) or more or if the alcohol content in the breath is 0.25 mg/l or more, the condition of a person is considered to be impaired by alcohol.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §5a., own translation)

The practice of listed breeds is one that has been heavily debated in local politics (cf. Provincial Parliament of Vienna 2010: 82ff.; City Council of Vienna 2012: 76ff.), in the German-language media and on animal-related platforms. One argument used for supporting the current practice of listed breeds is the drastic reduction (over 60 percent) of bite-related incidents since the introduction of the practice as well as related Vienna Dog Licence regulations (cf. APA 2014).

Historically, “fighting dog” breeds – which listed breeds (are supposed to) include – have been bred selecting characteristics that can make them more potentially dangerous to humans. D’Ingeo et al. describe characteristics that have been selected in “fighting dog” breeds as follows:

- “Gameness: high perseverance until the goal is reached, causing the lack of sensibility toward the other subject”’s surrender signals;

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- Low inhibition for fighting: high reactivity to minimum threats (moving or non-moving stimuli) activates behavioral responses until the complete exhaustion or death;
  - Low sensitivity to pain;
  - Scarce communication, which enhances the unpredictability of the attack.” (d’Ingeo et al. 2021: 4)

If such a dog would not communicate using warning signals before attacking, it would make sense to regulate such dogs more heavily as dangerous behaviour from these dogs would become a lot less predictable. However, according to Austrian law breeders are not allowed to select for aggressiveness (see chapter 7.7) and according to researchers a modern responsible breeding for “pet qualities” has overcome many negative characteristics in historically aggressive dog breeds (cf. Lockwood & Rindy 1987: 7).

There are also arguments that criticise the current practice of listed breeds in Austria, questioning the reasoning for choosing and excluding specific breeds from the list (cf. e.g. ORF 2011, Berger 2019). A study from Ireland also concluded that the practice of listed breeds can be counterproductive, as the public perception of certain breeds is impacted very negatively, leading to fear involving encounters with listed breeds and a stigma towards adopting listed breed dogs. At the same time dogs of unlisted breeds are perceived as harmless and treated too carelessly, which leads to a higher risk of incidents (cf. Creedon & Ó Súilleabháin 2017: 7f.). A recent study also concluded that breeds explain only nine percent of behavioural variation in individual dogs; as such breed is generally a poor predictor of an individual dog’s behaviour and should not be used to inform decisions (cf. Morrill et al. 2022: 475).

## **8.6 Aggression in dogs, dog bites and children**

### ***8.6.1 Children’s awareness of dangerous situations and dog bites***

The fear of dogs stems especially from parents who are concerned about their children’s interactions with dogs. This fear is not unfounded: Studies show that children less than five years old usually cannot judge how dangerous a given situation is based on the current circumstances; they can only identify patterns as dangerous when explicitly taught so. For example, a “dangerous street” would always be viewed as “dangerous” and a “safe street” would always be viewed as “safe”, regardless of the actual traffic situation at a given moment (cf. Spitzer & Till 2019: 96f.). The fact that dogs are portrayed as friendly, often anthropomorphized characters in children’s media affects the way children view real dogs and makes kids underestimate how dangerous dogs can be when treated inappropriately (cf. *ibid.*: 99). Only at around eight

years old children start developing an “anticipating danger awareness”, before which they cannot be expected to properly understand the body language and warning signals of dogs, which heightens the risk of dangerous interactions (cf. *ibid.*: 96f.).

The reasons why young children are usually bitten by dogs can be divided into two rough categories (cf. Lakestani et al. 2014: 77; Aldridge & Rose 2018: 3):

- A young child’s inappropriate behaviour around a dog, leading to defensive attack by the dog. Often this is coupled with the inability to interpret the dog’s emotional state and warning signals which it displays as a sign of anxiety (“affective aggression” and de-escalating behaviour) before the defensive attack. This issue will be discussed in chapter 8.6.2.
- A young child displaying a specific behavioural pattern around a dog which can provoke a “predatory attack”. This issue will be discussed in chapter 8.6.3.

Most children who are bitten by a dog are not bitten by a strange dog, but a “familiar” one instead. In this case, a familiar dog means the dog of grandparents, an uncle, an aunt, a neighbour or a friend. In a study by Schalamon et al. (2006), with a sample size of 331 children, 24% were bitten by their own dog and 50% were bitten by a familiar dog – only 15% of children were bitten by a dog of a stranger. In another study by Spitzer and Till (2019) with a sample size of 212 children, 23% of the children were bitten by their own dog and 46% were bitten by a familiar dog. Meanwhile 28% were bitten by the dog of a stranger. The injuries with dogs from the familiar circle (own dogs, dogs of grandparents, uncles or aunts) were also more severe. This data suggests that on one hand, children might behave too carelessly with dogs that they are more familiar with, on the other hand it suggests that family members might not take the threat that their dogs might pose to small children seriously enough. (cf. Spitzer & Till 2019: 64, 84)

However, it should be noted that not only children are bitten by dogs. Spitzer and Till (2019) estimated that every year in Austria, around 700 children aged up to 14 years are bitten by a dog, while around 3.000 people from ages 14 and up are bitten in a year. In Vienna specifically, it is estimated that about 90 children are bitten by a dog every year. (cf. *ibid.*: 53f.)

### **8.6.2 Children, affective aggression and de-escalating behaviour in dogs**

Affective aggression in dogs is triggered by transient negative emotional states such as fear, frustration and anxiety. If a dog – for example – feels threatened, fearing that some of its resources (food, mates, territory, shelter,

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social status etc.) might be negatively affected by an intruder, it might display affective aggression. Such aggression has a strong communicative component and it serves to increase the distance between the dog and the subject that the dog feels anxious about. Generally, dogs display warning behaviour such as growling, snapping and posturing (directed and prolonged gaze, freezing) before biting. A bite would only follow if the warning signals are ignored and the dog feels like the only choice left is a direct attack. This means that dangers from affectively aggressive dogs can usually be avoided if the person understands the warning signals and retreats from the dog. (cf. d'Ingeo et al. 2021: 2ff.)

If a dog feels anxious, for example because it feels threatened by an individual, it might also display de-escalating behaviour instead of displaying affective aggression. An example for such behaviour would be the dog turning its head away. De-escalating behaviour can be understood as a non-aggressive warning behaviour and while people – even children – usually can correctly interpret aggressive warning signals, people have more difficulties in recognising the more subtle de-escalating warning signals that dogs may display. Approaching such a dog can also lead to an escalation and an attack by the dog. (cf. Affenzeller 2019: 32)

A study by Lakestani et al. (2006: 233) found out that especially children less than four years old judge a dog's emotional state only by the facial expressions and not by a dogs movements or body posture, while older children slowly start paying more and more attention to movements and body posture with increasing age. By showing participants videos of dogs in fearful, sad, friendly and aggressive emotional states, another study by Lakestani et al. (2014: 70f.) found out that children are particularly unreliable at recognizing the emotion of fear in dogs: only about 20% of 4-year-olds, 30% of 6-year-olds, 35% of 8-year-olds and 50% of 10-year-olds and of 75% of adults correctly recognized fearful dogs. It should be noted that the chance of correctly guessing an answer is 25%, which means that the 4-year-olds performance was lower than chance and 6-year-olds performance was not significantly different from chance (cf. *ibid*: 71). Of the 4-year-olds, 41% interpreted the fearful dogs as "happy" and of the 6-year-olds, 39% did the same. Even with aggressive dogs, 15% of 4-year-olds interpreted these dogs as "happy" and 8% interpreted them as "sad", while only 1-4% of other age groups interpreted aggressive dogs as "happy", and 0-4% as "sad" (cf. *ibid*.). Even a "sad" interpretation of an aggressive or fearful dog can be dangerous to children, because children might think that they should pet or cuddle with (allegedly) "sad dogs" in order to make the dogs happy (cf. Spitzer & Till 2019: 126). However, if a child approaches and tries to pet or cuddle with a fearful dog that is trying to de-escalate the situation (or even approaches a visibly aggressive dog), it can result in a defensive attack by the dog.

The study from Lakestani et al. (2014: 76) also found out that there was no difference in performance in interpreting a dog's emotional state between children whose families owned dogs and children whose families did not own dogs. Only adult dog owners did better than adults who did not own dogs. This means that exposure to dogs does not make children more reliable at interpreting a dog's emotional state.

Children may also – often unknowingly – perform specific behaviours that dogs can interpret as aggression towards them, putting the dogs in an affectively aggressive state (cf. Spitzer & Till 2019: 127f.; Overall & Love 2001: 1926, Reisner et al. 2007: 349):

- Touching a dog before the dog has had a chance to become familiar with (smell and inspect) a person can be interpreted as aggressive intrusion. Dogs need to inspect and understand their surroundings to feel comfortable (see chapter 7.4).
- Bending over or reaching over a dog can make dogs feel anxious.
- Touching a dog while it is eating – this can make the dog feel threatened over its resources (food), leading to aggressive reactions.
- Touching a dog while it is sleeping can startle the dog and lead to an aggressive reaction.
- Hugging and cuddling with a dog – especially to the extent a small child might do it – can make some dogs feel uncomfortable and/or threatened and lead to aggression.
- Staring a dog directly in the eyes for extended periods of time can be interpreted by the dog as aggression or even a “challenge” to fight.
- Screaming – regardless of the reason (excitement, fear etc.) – can make dogs feel threatened and lead to aggression.

### **8.6.3 Children and predatory behaviour in dogs**

Predatory motor patterns from dogs are understood as a part of their feeding behaviour. The aim is to obtain food by killing prey and consuming it. D'Ingeo et al. write that “the predatory sequence includes different motor patterns (more generally defined as predatory behaviours): orienting towards prey, eye stalk, chase, grab bite, kill bite (or head shake), dissection and consumption” (d'Ingeo et al. 2021: 2). Intent for predatory behaviour is not communicated through warning signals, as it is not in the interest of dogs to warn their prey before an attack (cf. *ibid.*).

Some behavioural patterns that a child is not unlikely to display can provoke a dog to see the child as “prey”, which can mark the child as a target for the dog. Such behaviours are (cf. Spitzer & Till 2019: 127f):



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- Running in front of a dog, or using a bicycle, scooter etc.
  - Running away from a dog.
  - Swinging around with hands, or playing in a swing.
  - Lying on the ground, or tripping and falling.

Biting incidents that follow from predatory attacks can be particularly gruesome and even lead to the death of the victim. The introduction of listed dog breeds and the tightening of regulations in regards to these in both Germany and Vienna were legislative responses to the deaths of children from predatory attacks by dogs – dogs which are commonly part of regulated breed lists such as Rottweilers. (cf. ORF 2019, RND 2019)

Recent research suggests that a dog's emotional state might play a role in triggering predatory attacks (cf. d'Ingeo et al. 2021: 2ff.). The hypothesis is that dogs which have received insufficient socialisation and have suffered traumatic experiences are more likely to engage in predatory attacks, as they experience negative emotions such as anxiety, frustration and fear during social encounters. These emotions cause stress in the dog, which might trigger a predatory attack. Performing predatory motor patterns "maximally activates the reward neural centers" (ibid.: 3) of dogs and the release of dopamine in a dog's brain leads to gratification and pleasure, counteracting the negative emotions of the dog. Because of this it is believed that "inappropriate" predatory attacks (such as attacks against humans) might be a stress-related coping mechanism of dogs that have been mistreated and/or insufficiently socialised in the past. The researchers making this hypothesis also believe that because of the historical selection of particularly violent individuals for breeding in traditional fighting dog breeds, these breeds may exhibit more violent predatory behaviour under stress than other dog breeds – such as those which were traditionally selected for jobs which required the dogs to behave peacefully towards other animals (e.g. herding dogs). However, the connection between emotions and predatory attacks has not yet been sufficiently studied to be able to draw any firm conclusions. (cf. ibid.: 2ff.)

#### **8.6.4 Solutions for dogs and children**

One solution to reduce the risk for dog attacks on children is training children to recognize a dog's emotional state, coupled with information on how one should behave (and not behave) in different situations in the presence of dogs. Such training could for example be implemented in kindergartens or schools. While such educational measures for young children can help some children to better deal with dogs, they cannot guarantee success with all participants. Therefore, parents should never leave their young children alone with even a family dog, and education regarding this issue is advised for parents, as well. (cf. Lakestani & Donaldson 2015: 12)

In Vienna, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection offers a free one-hour course called “Eine Stunde Hunde-Kunde” (“One hour of dog expertise”) which can be booked by elementary schools for classes of six to ten year old children. An employee of the Ombuds Offices comes to the school (without a dog) and teaches the children about things such as how much sleep a dog needs, how often dogs need to go outside and how to properly walk a dog. The children are also taught basic rules about behaviour around dogs such as that they should never wake up a sleeping dog and that they should not touch strange dogs. Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection stresses in an interview that in principle, children should never have to interpret what a dog is thinking or planning to do – there are responsible parents, dog owners or other people who act in the environment of the child and dog who should take the responsibility for their dogs and their children. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

As a concrete solution, in order to minimise the potential for conflicts between dogs and children, the City of Vienna has banned dogs from children’s playgrounds in the “Playground Ordinance” (“Spielplatzverordnung”):

“Playgrounds for small children, children and young people as well as community playgrounds may, even if they are laid out without an obligation pursuant to § 119 Para 6 of the Building Code for Vienna, not be impaired in their permitted use, in particular neither by dogs nor by bicycles; similarly, children's and young people's playgrounds may not be impaired or withdrawn from their authorised use.” (Playground Ordinance §3 Para 4, own translation)

According to Section 4 Para 2, of the Playground Ordinance, sign boards must be put up at all playgrounds stating that dogs are to be kept away.

## 8.7 The issue of dog waste and dog fouling in Vienna

### 8.7.1 Regulations about dog fouling in Vienna

Dog fouling means a failure to remove dog waste by the custodian of the dog. The “Vienna Cleanliness Act” (“Reinhalteverordnung”) sets the legal foundation for the issue of dog fouling in the city:

“It is forbidden to pollute streets for public traffic and publicly accessible green spaces. [...]” (Vienna Cleanliness Act §2 Para 1, own translation)

The pollution of streets and sidewalks with dog waste is also explicitly addressed in the “Austrian Road Traffic Act” (“Straßenverkehrsordnung”):

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“The owners or custodians of dogs must ensure that they do not contaminate sidewalks, footpaths and cycle paths, pedestrian zones, residential streets and traffic calmed zones.” (Austrian Road Traffic Act §92 Para 2, own translation)

The “Green Space Ordinance” of Vienna also specifies that dog fouling is to be considered contamination according to the Vienna Cleanliness Act:

“Leaving behind dog waste is considered contamination according to Section 2 Para 5 of the Vienna Cleanliness Act, State Law Gazette for Vienna No. 47/2007.” (Green Space Ordinance §13, own translation)

### ***8.7.2 Introduction to the issue of dog waste and dog fouling in Vienna***

According to an audit from 2009, it was estimated that about 32 tons of dog waste was “produced” by dogs in Vienna every day (cf. City of Vienna Court of Audit 2009: 12). When the amount of waste is scaled from the number of registered dogs from 2009 (52,071) to the number of registered dogs in 2022 (56,701), this would mean that about 35 tons of dog waste is currently “produced” every day in Vienna. Therefore, dog waste has the potential of being a massive issue regarding the cleanliness of the city and public health. As determined in several acts and ordinances (see chapter 8.7.1), dog waste must always be picked up and disposed of by the custodian of the dog. Waste that is left lying in the city despite of this leads to a variety of issues. The first issue is a quality of life issue for all citizens: dog waste smells bad, is a nuisance to avoid (of stepping in) and it makes a city unattractive. The second issue are potentially harmful substances such as bacteria and parasites (toxocariasis) that can be included in certain samples. (cf. Ehmayer-Rosinak 2002: 12f.)

Nowadays, it can be said that dog owners usually pick up their dog’s waste in Vienna. However, this was not always the case: as the following chapters will illustrate, it took decades for the City of Vienna to address the issue of dog fouling in an effective manner.

### ***8.7.3 The Viennese citizens’ growing awareness on the issue of dog fouling***

In the 1970s, the hygienic standards and the perception and awareness of cleanliness among the Viennese population increased. According to a survey, the issue of dog fouling was seen as the fourth most important issue in Vienna. In 1977, a “Dog Commission” (“Hundekommission”) was established in the City Council and was given the task to find solutions for the issue of dogs in Vienna. In 1981, a “first Viennese dog toilet” (“Erstes Wiener Hundeklo”) was opened. It could be described as a slightly raised bed filled with an earthy substance and

was about a square metre of size. However, the dog toilet was not particularly well received by dogs and dog owners. (cf. Ableidinger 2014: 4f.)

In 1989 the very first dog waste bag dispensers – back then known as “dog-stations” – were set up in Vienna, the dog-stations also included a shovel for removing the dog waste. Also in 1989, a further service was tested labelled “Dogofant”. The Dogofant was a motorbike with a type of “vacuum cleaner” that was used to vacuum up dog waste from streets (cf. *ibid.*: 5, ORF C 2006). The idea was inspired by “la motocrotte” from Paris which operated from 1982 to 2004 (cf. Pearson 2017: 161). However, the Dogofant turned out to be too inefficient and expensive and the use was discontinued soon after its introduction in Vienna. (cf. Ableidinger 2014: 5)

In the 1990s, various informational advertisement-campaigns were run by the City of Vienna in order to motivate dog owners to pick up their dog’s waste. One poster from 1998 promoted that there were 74 dog sites and 14 dog-stations in the city. However, the information campaigns did not show the desired effect. (cf. *ibid.*: 6)

#### **8.7.4 Experiments with “dog toilets” in Vienna**

Further experiments with “dog toilets” followed. In 1998, a “self-cleaning” dog toilet was set up. It consisted of a lawn with boulders, a tree and a tree trunk. The lawn was automatically “flooded” overnight in order to clean it. (cf. *ibid.*: 7) However, it turned out that this method did not work very well, since the excrement could not be properly removed this way. The setup was later modified so that service workers cleaned the surface with a retractable hose instead. The same adjustment had to be made to a dog toilet variant with spray nozzles that were supposed to spray the waste into a concrete gutter that was connected to a sewer. In one dog zone a completely different concept was tested: a part of the paved entrance area in front of the segmented dog zone was designated as a dog toilet, the dog owners were allowed to leave behind dog waste that would be cleaned by service workers. (cf. Kose et al. 2000: 84 ff., Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 105)

Based on the recommendations by the study of Kose, Krippner and Lička (cf. Kose et al. 2000: 123 f.), in 2001, a further type of “dog toilet” was tested on the side of roads on asphalt between parking lots. These spaces that were about the size of half a parking lot were marked with a “dog toilet” sign. These areas could be cleaned relatively easily with street washing vehicles. The idea was that at least the sidewalk could be kept clean if dogs “did their business” off the sidewalk. (cf. Ableidinger 2014: 8, Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 106)



**Figure 2.** The former “dog toilet” at Brigittaplatz (cf. Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 86) is now used for keeping rubbish bins. The infrastructure of the former dog toilet can be seen to this day: water was sprayed from the metallic elements on the sides of the former dog toilet and the dog waste was flushed into the gutter which can be seen between the two rubbish bins in the back. (own photo, taken on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2022)

In summer of 2002, two dog toilets were set up in the fifth district of Vienna. In 2003, the project was expanded with 18 additional dog toilets, covering the whole fifth district with a maximum of 250 metres between the toilets. This scope made it the biggest “pilot project” regarding dog toilets in Vienna. The idea was to test the concept in the fifth district and expand it to the whole city if it worked well. These “Viennese dog toilets” (“Wiener Hundeklos”) were set up by the MA 48, the Municipal Department for “Waste Management, Street Cleaning and Vehicle Fleet”. A “Viennese dog toilet”, as seen in Figure 3, consisted of recycled chippings on the ground, a “piss tire” (“Pissreifen”), a small shovel for removing excrement, a rubbish bin and – in some versions – a dog waste bag dispenser. The dog toilets were also marked with a “dog toilet”-sign. (cf. City of Vienna Press Service 2002, City of Vienna Press Service 2003)



**Figure 3.** “Viennese dog toilet” in Margareten in 2006. Picture used with permission (CC free to share under attribution), no changes made. (Wikimedia Commons 2006)

### 8.7.5 Protest against dog fouling in Vienna

In 2002, Ehmayer-Rosinak and Hornbachner from “Stadtpsychologische Praxis Ehmayer” wrote a short report on the subject of dog waste in Vienna on their own initiative. As a part of their initiative, they carried out a protest against

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dog waste that was left on streets by marking such on St.-Ulrichs-Platz in the seventh district with little home-made flags. They also encouraged other citizens to join their protest. (cf. Ehmayer-Rosinak & Hornbacher 2002: 32)

In 2006, the City of Vienna estimated that around five to ten tons of dog waste was left lying in the city every day (cf. ORF B 2006). At this point, the issue had persisted for decades so that many people considered them to be “a part of the image of Vienna” and many people were sceptical whether the issue could be ever solved (cf. Ehmayer-Rosinak & Hornbacher 2002: 17, Mayr et al. 2007).

In May of 2006, after gaining a lot of attention through various local media, a petition called “Parents against dog faeces” (“Eltern gegen Hundekot”) had gathered 157,631 signatures and was handed over to the city administration of Vienna. Parents were especially concerned about the issue because they feared a health hazard for their children. (cf. ORF A 2006; ORF B 2006)

The city took the petition seriously, and it had three major consequences. The MA 48 started the campaign “Clean City” in 2007, basing it on three pillars (cf. MA 48 C 2022):

- providing information,
- fining infractions and
- expanding services.

#### **8.7.6 Providing information: New advertisement-campaigns against dog fouling**

Already in October of 2006, the city started a widespread advertising campaign on public rubbish bins, posters, magazines and on the radio to raise awareness about the law that dog waste must be picked up and be disposed of by the custodian of the dog. Additionally, thousands of advertisement-signs (to raise awareness about the issue) were placed in green spaces in the city. These signs are still a common sight to this day in 2022. Since then, the “cleanliness advertising campaigns” of the city have addressed the issue of dog waste almost every year. (cf. ORF C 2006; City of Vienna B n.d.)



**Figure 4.** Lawn-advertisement-sign in the fifth district of Vienna. The signs depict a pleading dog, dog waste and the text: “Sind dir 50,- Wurst?” A liberal translation with a similar message would be: “Don’t you give a crap about 50 euros?” (own photo, taken on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2022)

### 8.7.7 Fining infractions: WasteWatchers

The second consequence of the petition was that the “WasteWatchers” – a special unit of MA 48 – started their operation in the beginning of 2008. The WasteWatchers go around in the city and watch out for people who litter and people who commit dog fouling. The WasteWatchers are authorised to issue warnings, to impose penalties and – if necessary – file charges at the competent authority. (cf. MA 48 B 2022)

### 8.7.8 Expanding services: Dog waste bag dispensers

The third consequence of the petition was that the City of Vienna started installing thousands of bag dispensers for removing dog waste all around the city. While in the end of 2005, there were only 312 of such bag dispensers in the city, in the end of 2007, the number had already more than quadrupled to 1,450 (cf. MA 48 2008: 38). Today in 2022, the number of dog waste bag dispensers



is well over 3,800, and as can be seen in Table 8, the service is still being continuously expanded. (cf. MA 48 A 2022: 60)

**Table 8.** Number of installed dog waste bag dispensers in the city and use of dog waste bags in Vienna (for sources, refer to Table 8 in the “reference list”).

year	dog waste bag dispensers installed in city*	estimate of disposed dog waste bags in rubbish bins per day	estimate of tons of dog waste disposed in rubbish bins per day
2004	25	N/A	N/A
2005	312	N/A	N/A
2006	575	N/A	N/A
2007	1,450	N/A	N/A
2008	2,065	N/A	N/A
2009	2,350	N/A	N/A
2010	2,760	47,000	3,100
2011	2,902	N/A	N/A
2012	2,970	N/A	N/A
2013	2,982	N/A	N/A
2014	3,164	59,700	3,900
2015	3,305	N/A	N/A
2016	3,490	100,000	6,600
2017	3,536	N/A	N/A
2018	3,616	N/A	N/A
2019	3,648	N/A	N/A
2020	3,672	N/A	N/A
2021	3,851	N/A	N/A

Note: \* count date 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year



**Figure 5.** Dog waste bag dispenser and rubbish bin in the fifth district of Vienna. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

### **8.7.9 Vienna's success in combat against dog fouling**

Already in an audit from 2009, the MA 48 and the City of Vienna Court of Audit reported that there had been a significant decrease in dog fouling in the city. The MA 48 and the Court of Audit concluded that the various new advertising campaigns, the presence of WasteWatchers as well as all the new bag dispensers had had a significant impact on the dog owners in the city (cf. City of Vienna Court of Audit 2009: 16f.). A study by "Institut für Sozialforschung" (IFES) that was conducted in July of 2008 concluded that about 96 percent of the Viennese population and 98 percent of dog owners could recall the advertisement signs used in lawns, further proving that the campaign had a positive impact at least regarding the knowledge of the issue (cf. City of Vienna Press Service 2009).

In March of 2010, an external technical office evaluated the contents of public rubbish bins and estimated that about 47,200 dog waste bags were

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disposed of every day in the city, filled with about 3.1 tons of dog excrement. Of these bags, 93 percent came from the public bag dispensers. (cf. City of Vienna Press Service 2010) A follow-up study that was conducted in summer 2014 estimated that about 59,700 dog waste bags were disposed of every day. (cf. City of Vienna Press Service 2015) Finally, a third study from 2016 which evaluated the contents of both public and private rubbish bins in the city estimated that every day, dog owners used over 100,000 waste bags, filled with about 6.6 tons of dog excrement. (cf. City of Vienna Press Service 2017)

The offensive of the city against dog fouling since 2006 has worked well, as the numbers verify what can be clearly seen and experienced in the city: The situation regarding dog fouling in the city has improved a lot, as more dog owners have learned that they always need to pick up the excrement of their dogs.

## PART 3: DOG SITES IN VIENNA

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## 9 Introduction to dog sites and their function

### 9.1 What if there were no dog sites in Vienna?

Dogs that are physically and mentally under-utilised (see chapter 7.4) can develop behavioural problems and behavioural disorders. This applies in particular to dogs that cannot meet their species-specific need for exploration, the deprivation of which creates a state of stress over the long term. If a dog is not given enough opportunities to cover its need for locomotion and exploration, it often results in a reduction in the stimulation thresholds for stressors and frustrating events; such a dog would be more inclined to behave aggressively. (cf. Schöning 2007: 9)

The Austrian law sees that dogs must be given daily opportunities to meet their need for exercise (see chapter 7.8). What if there were no dog sites in the city? Can a dog meet its species-specific needs on a leash? How does always leashing a dog when outside affect dogs? To answer these questions, Dr. Barbara Schöning who is a veterinarian specialising in animal behaviour and animal welfare, created a report. In this report, Dr. Schöning evaluates the effects of permanent leashing of dogs as well as the effects of small dog zones on dogs, which will be discussed in chapter 11.1.

Dr. Schöning concludes that a dog on a leash only has limited opportunities to meet its species-specific needs for locomotion and exploration, as humans mostly set the speed, direction and total distance walked and dogs have to adjust to these. Dogs cannot freely run, walk and explore and experience (olfactory) sensations on their own terms when leashed. (cf. *ibid.*)

The communication with other dogs is also complicated on-leash. Leashed dogs cannot choose when to communicate and play with other dogs. When walking leashed on sidewalks, dog owners decide on the routes, and as a result a subjectively necessary distance to other dogs cannot always be kept. On the other hand dog owners could decide to avoid interactions with other dogs and thus not provide (necessary) contact with other dogs. (cf. *ibid.*: 10)

Even when an encounter is desired by both dogs, being leashed makes the conspecific (dog-dog) encounter more difficult and stressful. Greeting rituals and species-specific exchange of information are hindered. Submissive and play behaviour cannot always be communicated sufficiently in order to de-escalate budding conflicts. In the case of a conflict, defensive and escape behaviours are restricted and there is a chance for the leashes to get tangled which makes the situation even worse. This means that leashed dogs cannot

communicate, play and move freely. Because of their restrictive nature, on-leash conspecific encounters lead more easily to aggression. (cf. *ibid.*)

Even when no conflict arises from leashed conspecific encounters, the dogs cannot properly fulfil their need for interaction with other dogs and the restrictions can create stress in the dogs. The restrictions in communication are especially harmful for young dogs who have not reached social maturity yet. If a puppy is only exposed to on-leash conspecific encounters, it might develop aggressive behaviour at home or when encountering other dogs. (cf. *ibid.*: 10f.)

Simone Gräber is the person responsible for dog sites at the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection. From Gräber's point of view, if there were no dog sites in the city, one would have to carefully consider if they really would want to keep a dog in such a city. Gräber thinks that even with the current situation in Vienna in the inner districts, one has to consider if the life of a dog might not be too stressful, since a big city can overwhelm a dog with all kinds of sensory experiences. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

Gräber argues that if one was to keep a dog in a city without dog sites and would only be able to keep the dog on a leash in the city, the person should be able and willing to leave the city at least every two days so that the dog can run either on a long leash or off-leash in a low-stress environment. Even when there are small dog zones available in the city near to where one lives, dog owners should visit bigger dog sites every once in a while. Dogs should get the opportunity to move more freely than what small dog zones allow. If a dog owner is not ready to do these things, Gräber considers such animal husbandry questionable in terms of animal protection. (cf. *ibid.*)

## 9.2 Functions of dog sites in Vienna

A key function of dog sites is, of course, giving all dogs an opportunity to safely move off-leash in the city. While obedient, muzzled dogs which are not categorised as listed breeds are allowed to move off-leash in most parts of the city, many dog owners do not consider it safe to leave their dog move off-leash in the city (cf. interviews with dog owners 2022). A big city such as Vienna is filled with sensory experiences which can easily overwhelm a dog. If, for example, a dog occasionally gets distracted by bicycles, skateboards, (e-)scooters, joggers, other dogs or any other stimuli, there is a chance that the dog might suddenly run away and endanger itself, other people and also traffic. This means that whether a dog is suited and legally allowed to move off-leash in the city depends on the upbringing and training of the dog, its individual temperament and its breed.

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Even if a dog was to regularly walk off-leash in the city, Simone Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection considers that kind of off-leash movement not sufficient if the dog does not get the opportunity to be occupied in other ways, so that the dog gets to fulfil all of its natural needs such as the need for exploration and contact with other dogs. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

According to Simone Gräber, dog sites are especially supposed to be “meeting areas” for off-leash, free-form conspecific interactions as well as interactions between dogs and humans. In dog zones, dogs should also be able to fulfil their need for exploration, like sniffing around, freely exploring the dog zone at their own pace, while being able to think about which dogs have been there recently. (cf. *ibid.*)

Dog sites also play a role as a countermeasure to dog bans in parks. The topic of dogs and children – as discussed in chapter 8.6 – leads to some parents being uncomfortable with dogs in parks. In some parks in Vienna, dog bans have been set up because of the protest by parents (cf. Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 52). When issuing a dog ban in a park, setting up a dedicated dog site in the park provides an alternative destination for dogs and dog owners, also serving the function of keeping dogs away from children. Even the legislation which sets the foundation for dog sites claims that dog sites can be set up “for protection against the harassment and dangers emanating from dogs” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §6).

Dog bans have also often been placed in parks because the issue of dog waste left in parks was too common (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022). When there are many dog bans in an area, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection advocates for creating dog sites as alternative destinations for dogs and dog owners. This means that the existence of dog sites also addresses the issues of dogs and children (chapter 8.6) and dog waste (chapter 8.7) to some degree.

While it may not be the original intention behind dog sites, these also commonly foster a sense of community on a local level. Most people who visit specific dog sites are regular visitors and they usually know many of the other visitors (cf. interviews with dog owners 2022). The resulting “identification with a space” and formation of social connections and a local community are an outcome that the City of Vienna wants to actively foster in urban development (see for example Arbter et al. 2012, Rode et al. 2014). Citizens who identify with the spaces and places which they use feel a stronger sense of responsibility for the places, which usually leads to them taking better care of these places (cf. Hacker & Blum 2016: 152). In the case of dog sites, a feeling of identification with the dog site makes it more likely that a dog owner cleans after their dog since they feel a higher sense of responsibility for maintaining “their” dog site in a good condition. In an interview, Simone Gräber also explained that in dog

sites, dog owners look after each other, which also helps develop more of a conscience in dog owners to properly clean after their dogs, even in general outside of the dog zone. Gräber thinks that the development of dog zones probably also contributed to the fact that nowadays, more dog owners in the city clean after their dogs than before. Still, Gräber also pointed out that there are also many dog owners who seem to think of dog zones as (just) “dog toilets”, but that is not what they are supposed to be (cf. interview Gräber 2022).

### 9.3 Proper and improper behaviour in dog sites in Vienna

According to Simone Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, many dog owners misunderstand the purpose of dog sites. Because of this, the Ombuds Office has developed “ten golden rules” for dog zones. These rules have been put up as signs at all dog zones, usually at the entrances. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

The following is a translation of the long version of the ten rules, as presented on the website of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection:

1. “Free entryways: Please make sure that other dogs can enter the dog zone in peace without being immediately attacked by a greeting. Some dogs also react territorially and tend to defend „their“ dog zone against dogs that arrive later. So please call your dog over if you see that he might be blocking the path for newcomers.
2. Take off the leash: When dogs on a leash meet with free running dogs, misunderstandings can arise between the dogs due to the limitation of body language and range of motion on the leash. If you want to leave your dog on a leash, please avoid the dog zone and find another route for the walk.
3. Remove dog waste with a bag: This applies everywhere in Vienna, at any time of the year and at any time of the day - even in the dog zones.
4. No entry: Yes, in principle, the dog zone is for all dogs. But if you know that your dog or other dogs are exposed to stress or danger from your visit to the dog zone, then please do not enter. This applies, for example, to female dogs in heat or incompatible dogs.
5. Stay in motion: Sitting or standing still at a point in the dog zone can lead to defensive behaviour in the dog and thus create unpleasant situations for other visitors. So please keep moving and at the same time encourage your dog to explore the entire area.
6. The Wild West is somewhere else: Chatting or talking on the phone while the dog is on a rampage through the dog zone is not a good idea. You are responsible for supervising your dog and not only have to collect its waste, but also intervene when it is playing too wildly



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with other dogs, keep the entrance free for newcomers, etc. Please stay alert!

7. Toy, object of dispute: The ball or the tug toy can quickly lead to conflicts between the dogs. Please only use such toys if you are alone in the dog zone.
8. Please do not feed: Food in the dog zone can lead to disputes between the dogs - or between the dog owners. Giving treats to a strange dog without being asked to do so is not an option. You do not know if this dog has an intolerance, has a certain diet or something else.
9. Dangerous holes: Some dogs love to dig holes. However, please consider: In dog zones, not only people can injure themselves when stepping into a hole, but above all the dogs. Strains or torn ligaments happen quickly! Therefore, please keep your dog from excessive digging and fill back up any holes.
10. Noise, no thank you: Especially in dog zones that are in densely populated residential areas, you should be considerate of the residents and keep your dog from barking continuously. It is essential to comply with the night-time rest periods.” (Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection 2020, own translation)

The rules are presented as such in this chapter, since they address the most common behavioural issues on the part of dog owners in dog zones. The selection of rules also shows which issues the Ombuds Office wants to communicate to dog owners. While these longer descriptions of the rules can be read on the website of the Ombuds Office, the signs in dog zones present shortened descriptions.

In addition to these issues, Simone Gräber noted that some dog owners act with too little consideration towards other dog owners by staying in (especially small) dog zones for too long, blocking other people from using the dog zone. As rule number four notes, not all dogs are compatible, and just one incompatible dog inside a dog zone can lead to the exclusion of another dog. Gräber also explained that when there are too many dogs in a dog zone that is too small for them, it can stress the dogs, especially if the dogs do not know each other well – of course this also depends on the individual temperaments of the present dogs. Gräber thinks that ideally, a visit in a dog zone should not last longer than half an hour, as a visit of half an hour should always be sufficient to fulfil the dogs needs which can be fulfilled in a dog zone. Especially if there are many dogs in a dog zone, the visit should not be longer so that the dog does not experience a “sensory overload” because so much is happening. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

On the topic of entering dog zones, Gräber explained that when someone new wants to enter a dog zone, they should ideally always ask all present dog

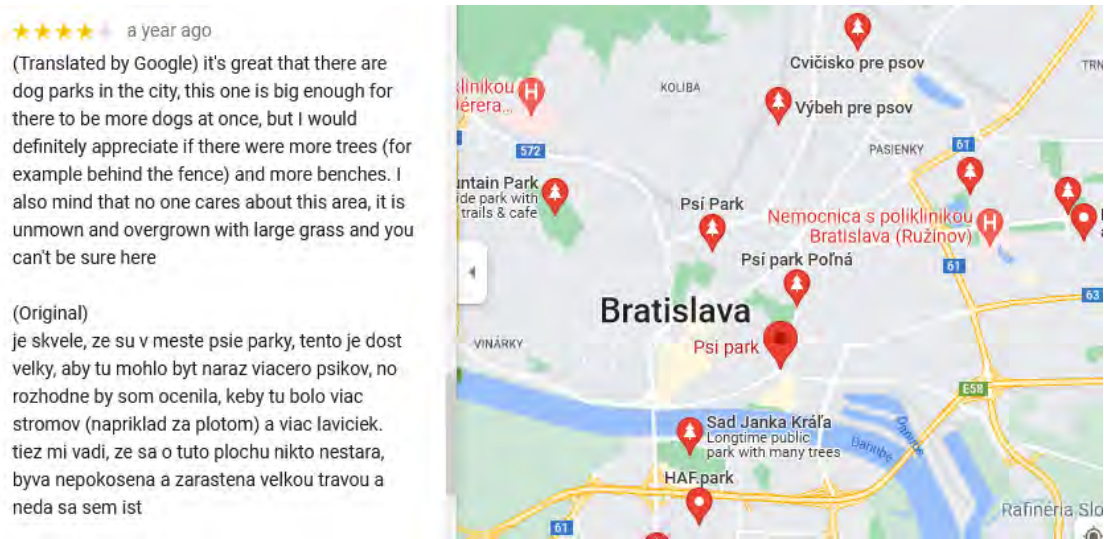
owners if it is okay for them and their dog to enter the dog zone. Ideally, all present dog owners should call their dogs away from the fence and hold on to their dogs (or leash them) while the new person and their dog enters the dog zone. In this way the present dogs will not harass the dog that enters the dog zone and the present dogs also cannot escape the dog zone while the gate is open. Ideally, people should also consider if their dog really wants to get to know any strange dogs which are in a dog zone or if it would be better that the dog would only meet dogs which it already is friendly with in the dog zone. Depending on the temperament of the dogs, being around strange dogs can be stressful. (cf. *ibid.*)

## 9.4 Examples for dog sites around the world

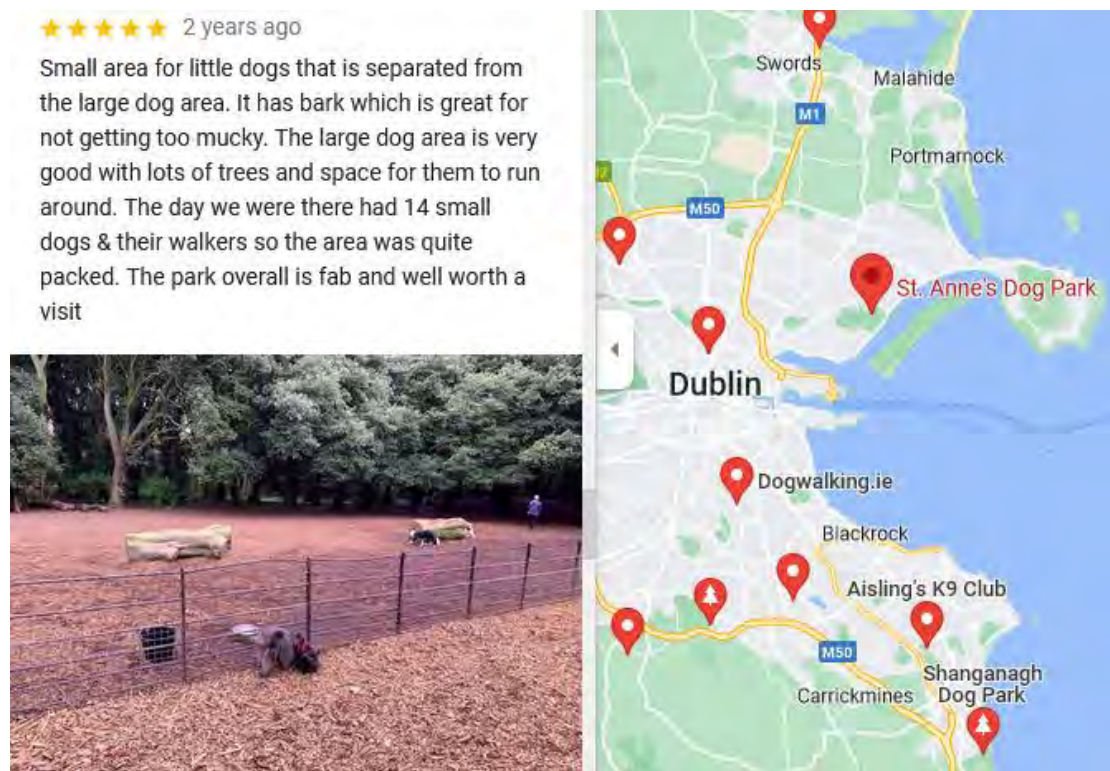
Dog sites – as in dedicated spaces in which dogs are allowed to move off-leash and without a muzzle – are not a concept that is exclusive to Vienna. Other major cities in Austria such as St. Pölten, Linz, Graz, Eisenstadt, Salzburg, Klagenfurt, Bregenz, Innsbruck and also many smaller municipalities in Austria have their own dedicated dog sites. Just like the design requirements for dog sites differ between municipalities, the names used for dog sites in Austria are not consistent. In Vienna, the two types of dog sites are called “Hundezone” (“dog zone”) and “Hunderauslaufplatz” (“dog exercise area”). Examples for other names used for dog sites in different Austrian municipalities are: “Freilauffläche” (“free running area”), “Hundefreilauffläche” (“dog free running area”), “Hundefreilaufzone” (“dog free running zone”), “Hundespielplatz” (“dog playground”) and “Hundewiese” (“dog meadow”). (cf. Kovacs 2022: 7)

As a search on Google Maps reveals, dog sites exist in all major European countries, excluding countries such as the Principality of Monaco and Vatican City State. (cf. Google Maps 2022) Similarly, dog sites exist in many countries around the world also outside of Europe. It should be noted that unlike in Vienna, dog sites around the world are not always public amenities with free entry. In some countries, private businesses that work for an entrance fee also provide areas which are dedicated for off-leash movement of dogs. Some dog sites even require a membership to enter. As such, paid dog sites do not fulfil the same kind of daily-use purpose as public dog sites do in Vienna.

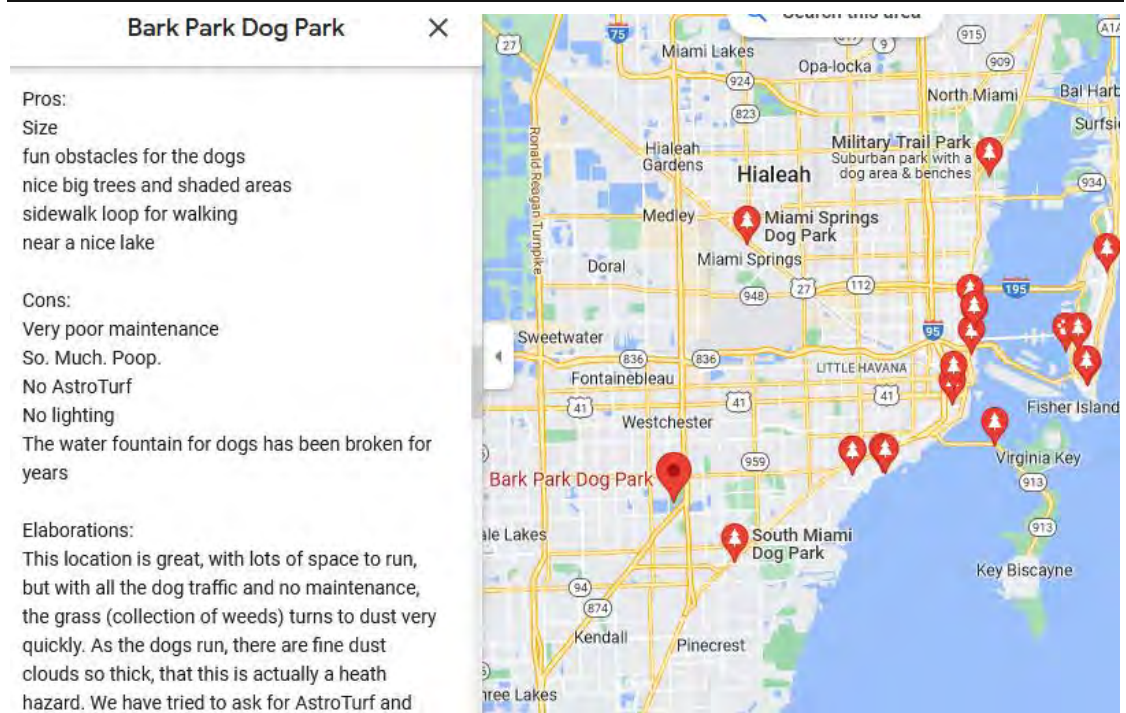
To illustrate that there are many types of dog sites around the world, this chapter shows some sample "Google user reviews" with associated map views of different types of dog parks from ten different countries.



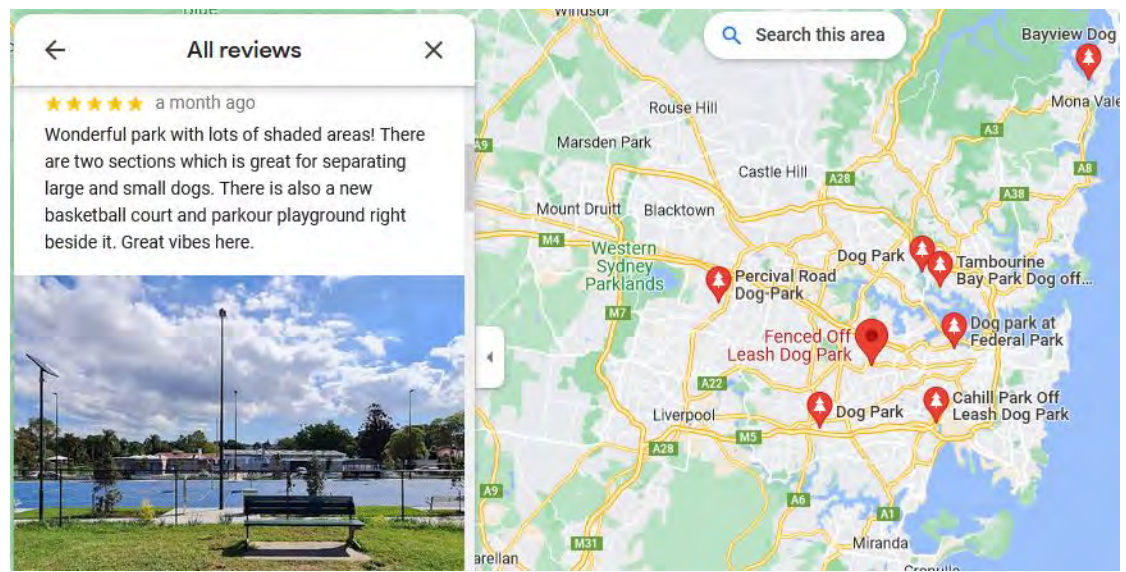
**Figure 6.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Bratislava, Slovakia. (Google Maps 2022)



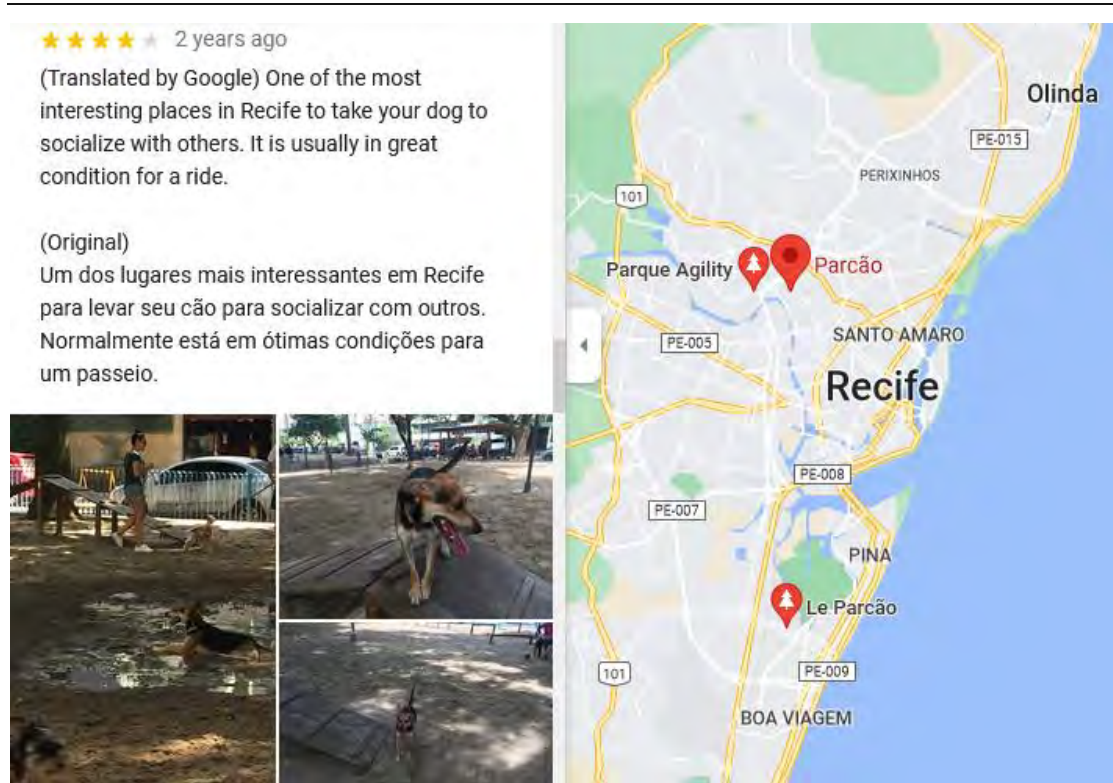
**Figure 7.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Dublin, Ireland. (Google Maps 2022)



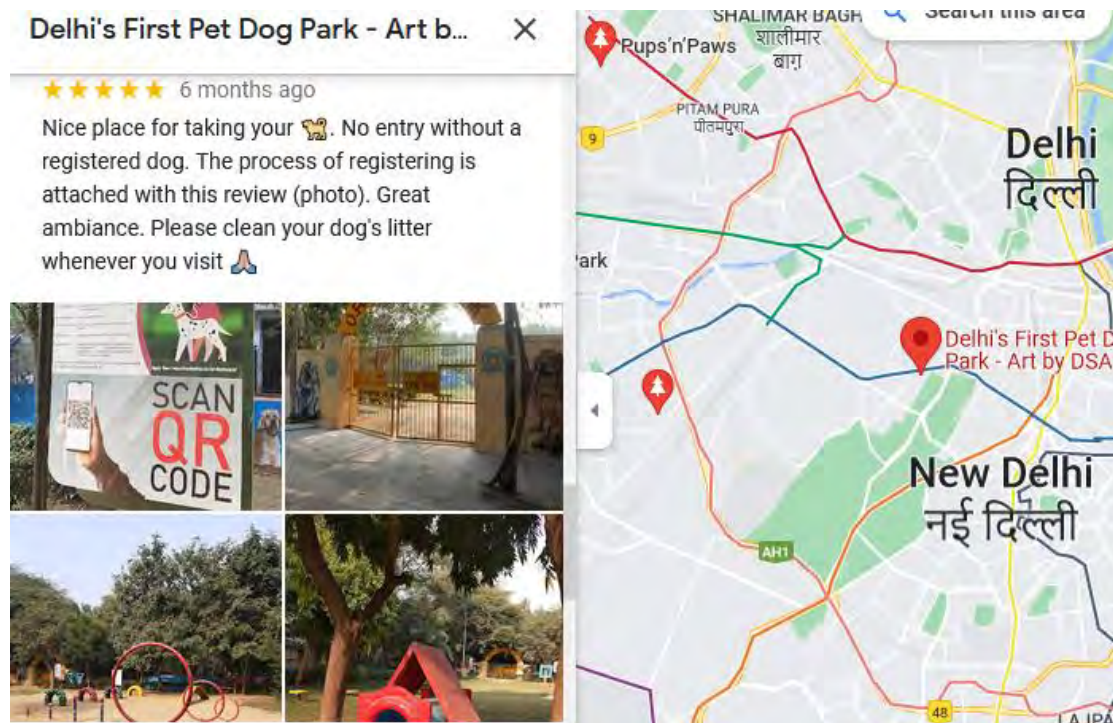
**Figure 8.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Miami, United States of America. (Google Maps 2022)



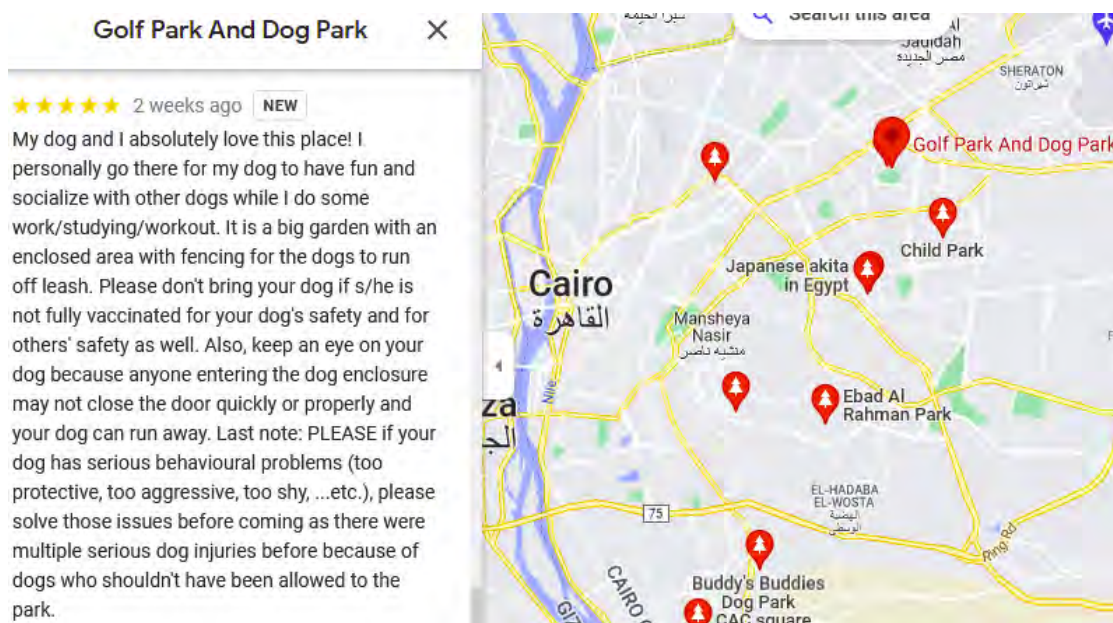
**Figure 9.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Sydney, Australia. (Google Maps 2022)



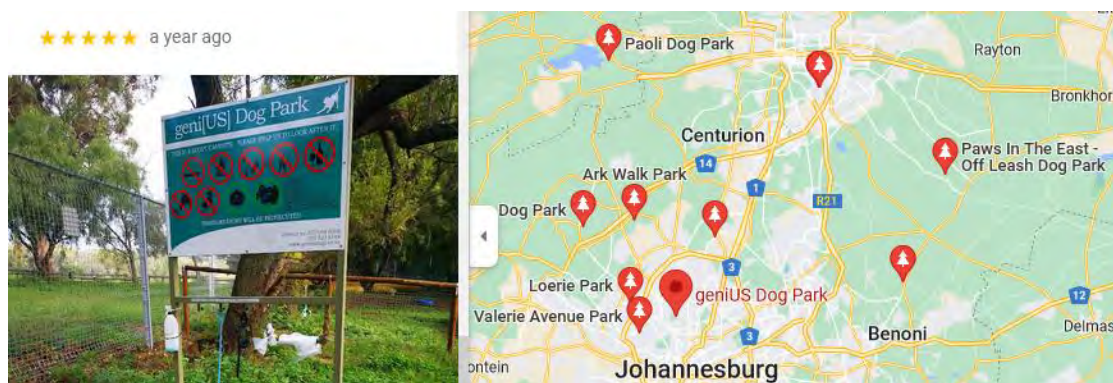
**Figure 10.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Recife, Brazil. (Google Maps 2022)



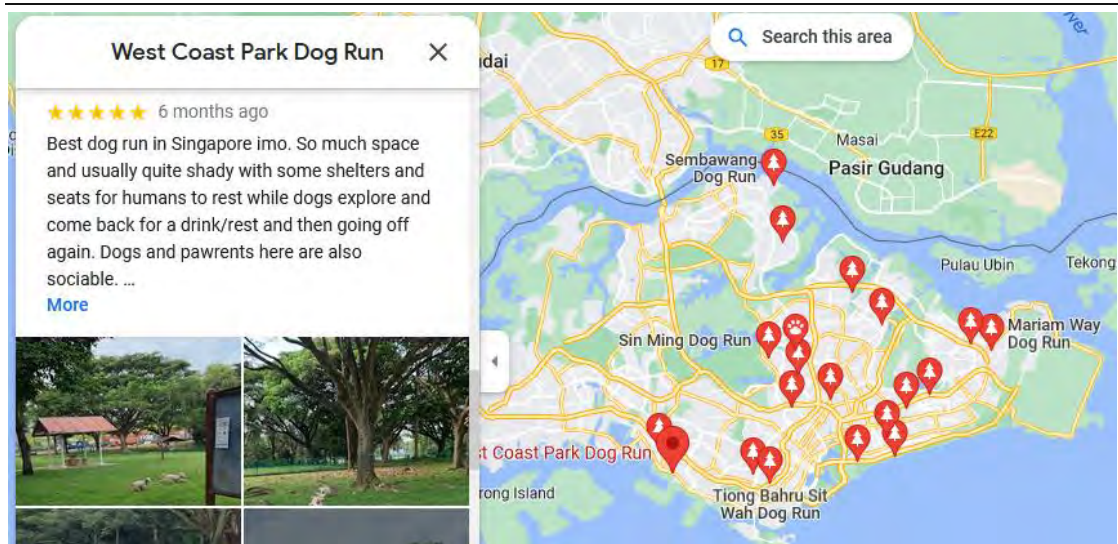
**Figure 11.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Delhi, India. (Google Maps 2022)



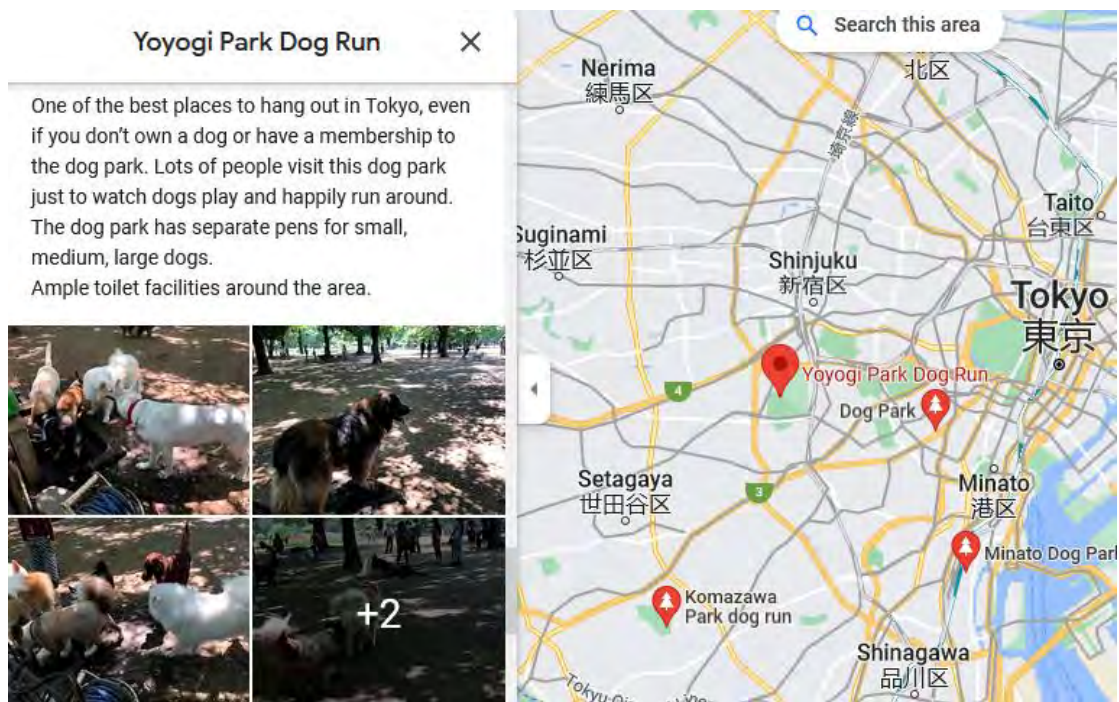
**Figure 12.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Cairo, Egypt. (Google Maps 2022)



**Figure 13.** Commentless Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Google Maps 2022)



**Figure 14.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Singapore. (Google Maps 2022)



**Figure 15.** Google user review and Google Maps view of a dog site in Tokyo, Japan. (Google Maps 2022)

## 10 Planning of dog sites in Vienna

### 10.1 Planning basis for dog sites in Vienna

In 1991, the concept of dog zones and dog exercise areas was introduced in Vienna. Today, the legislation regulating dog sites can be found in the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act, Section 6 and Section 15:

“(1) The Municipal Department may, after hearing the property owner, the Vienna State Police Headquarters, the animal protection ombudsperson and the District Chairperson, taking into account the need for such facilities and areas, their size and location, but also the justified claims of other users, in particular children, for protection against the harassment and dangers emanating from dogs, or for other reasons of proper use, by ordinance declare parts of publicly accessible parks to be „dog zones“ or other suitable green areas (e.g. sunbathing lawns) to be „dog exercise areas“, thus excluding these areas from the scope of application of the bids of Section 5 Paras 1 and 2, and the Municipal Department may as well place a ban on taking dogs („dog ban“) into these facilities (sunbathing lawns) or in parts thereof. If necessary, closing hours or justified exceptions in individual cases can be set for such dispositions.

(2) The ordinances referred to in Para 1 are to be announced by means of boards (Annex 1), if necessary in the case of time restrictions, by means of additional boards, and come into force when these signs are affixed. The time of the attachment is to be recorded in a file note (Section 16 AVG). Parties within the meaning of Section 8 AVG are to be permitted to inspect such a memorandum. The plaques are to be constructed as signs of solid material of one type and size and placed at the approaches, points of entry etc. in such a way that they can be easily identified. The additional boards are to be attached under the signs mentioned in the first sentence in the form of rectangular, white boards and must not protrude laterally beyond the board above them.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §6, own translation)

“Dog zones according to Section 6, which are set up after January 1st, 2006, must be fenced in and have gates with self-closing doors that swing inwards.” (Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §15 Para 2, own translation)



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In the beginning of the development of dog sites, only the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act served as the planning basis for dog zones. As such, the planning of dog sites was quite uncomplicated: It was just decided (see chapter 10.2) that specific spaces were dog sites, and these did not even need to be fenced in. No detailed plans were made for dog sites, just the site itself was marked as a dog zone or dog exercise area on the city map. In recent years, as the design of new dog zones has gotten more elaborate, the planners at MA 42 started making more detailed plans for new dog sites. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

Through an amendment (Section 15 Para 2) to the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act in 2005, the current standards for dog sites were set. It was decided that as of 2006, newly established dog zones – but not dog exercise areas – always have to be fenced in and have entrances with self-closing doors that swing inwards, so that dogs cannot open the doors by pushing them. However, already existing dog zones without fences did not have to be fenced in retroactively. Whether this was done to specific dog zones depended on the local District Council and the available budget.

Apart from the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act itself, the only other document which serves as a basis for planning dog sites is the “Wiener Parkleitbild” (“Vienna Park Guideline”). The first version of the Wiener Parkleitbild was developed by MA 42 in the years 2006-2008 and published in 2008. The newest, updated version of the guidelines was published in 2021.

The following is a translation of the section of “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021” which specifies further minimum requirements as a planning basis for dog sites:

- “Must be decreed and marked with signs.
- Optimum size at least 500 m<sup>2</sup> (smaller areas are also possible depending on the project).
- Fence at least 1,20 m high, 1,40 m in the vicinity of roads. A „privacy screen” (screen elements woven into the fence or screening through plants) is required for adjacent intensive use (e.g. cycle path).
- At least two gates with inward-swinging, self-closing doors.
- Gates and fences in dog zones must be flush at the bottom, if necessary provide rubber lips. Optional: Separation into two areas.
- Paved area in the entrance area. Paved path and seating as needed.
- Equipment: dog waste bag dispenser, seating, rubbish bin with ash pipe for cigarettes, boulders and/or tree trunks. Optional: drinking fountain.
- Trunk protection required for trees.
- Provide lighting if possible.” (MA 42 Parks and Gardens 2021: 16, own translation)

In an interview, Bettina Lukas – the person responsible for dog sites at MA 42 – explained that apart from these guidelines, the entries to dog sites should preferentially be planned on the outside of parks so that it is possible to enter the dog site without entering the park. Therefore, dog zones are mostly in edge areas of parks, and not in the middle zone. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

There is no city-wide master plan for dog sites, and no other planning documents except for the “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021” dictate how new dog zones should be planned by MA 42. The size and shape of the dog site are decided depending on the local conditions, on what kind of space is available, and the design and equipment depend on the available budget. (cf. *ibid.*)

## 10.2 Process of establishing a dog site in Vienna

The Viennese Municipal Department responsible for organising and planning dog sites is usually the MA 42 Parks and Gardens, since they manage most of the parks and gardens in Vienna.

Additionally, there are four other actors who manage a significantly smaller amount of dog zones and dog exercise areas in Vienna (cf. City of Vienna 2022):

- The “MA 45 Water Management” manages a total of five dog sites in: Donauinsel Nord, Parkanlage Mühlshüttelgasse, Kaisermühlendamm, Neue Donau Süd and Herbert-Mayr-Park.
- The “MA 49 Climate, Forestry and Agriculture” manages a total of 14 dog sites in: Neilreichgasse, Leberweg, Spitalwiese, Tiefauwiese, Himmelstraße, Teresa-Tauscher-Park, Mühlgrund, Reinholdgasse, Thonetgasse, Anton-Krieger-Gasse, Draschegründe, Kellerberg as well as two separate dog exercise areas in Wienerberg.
- The “Austrian Federal Gardens“ (“Österreichische Bundesgärten”) manages a total of three dog zones: one on Heldenplatz and two separate ones in Augarten.
- “City of Vienna - Housing in Vienna” (“Stadt Wien – Wiener Wohnen”) manages one dog zone in Wagramer Straße/Lieblgasse.

In an interview, Lukas Bettina explained the process of setting up a new dog site which is managed by the MA 42. This exemplary process has the MA 42 as the responsible Municipal Department for the dog site, but the process is similar with other responsible Municipal Departments (MA 45, MA 49).

The first initiative for setting up a new dog zone can come from different actors (cf. interview Lukas 2022):

- 
- A District Council,
  - the general population, associations, organisations,
  - the responsible Municipal Department, in this case the MA 42, when they notice that there is a need (from feedback).

Regardless of who takes the first initiative, the idea is always taken to the District Council. The District Council has to decide that they are interested in establishing a new dog site. If the District Council decides that they want a new dog site in a certain area, they contact the MA 42 to evaluate the idea. The MA 42 evaluates if the idea is possible and gets back to the District Council with an estimate of how much establishing the dog site would cost. If it is possible to establish the dog site, the District Council must decide if they can and are willing to pay the price for the new dog site. If the District Council decides that the proposal by the MA 42 is affordable, the MA 42 starts making a detailed plan for the new dog site. While planning a new dog site, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection is contacted by MA 42 and it can offer input for the planning. The potential feedback by the Ombuds Office mostly concerns design elements and additional details that should be considered. After finishing the detailed plan, the plan is carried out by the MA 42.

Once the dog site has been set up, it must be officially decreed: before doing this, there is a “local hearing” (“Ortsverhandlung”) and a “file note” (“Aktenvermerk”) is made. Present in the local hearing are:

- The District Council,
- the responsible Municipal Department (usually MA 42),
- the land owner (usually MA 42 or another Municipal Department, e.g. MA 28, MA 45 or MA 49),
- the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection and
- the Vienna Police Headquarters.

The local hearing is mostly a formality to confirm that everything has been done correctly, since the details have already been discussed between the actors in advance. After the local hearing, a file note is made and the dog site is officially decreed. The dog site is decreed in the moment when the official “dog zone” or “dog exercise area” sign has been put up at the site. Going forward, the responsible Municipal Department takes over the continuous maintenance of the dog site. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

**Table 9.** Process of establishing a new dog site in Vienna (cf. interview Lukas 2022).

<b>step</b>	<b>actors involved</b>
idea or wish for new dog site	District Council, Municipal Department*, possibly citizens (private citizens, organisations, associations)
decision of the District Council that a new dog site should be established	District Council
evaluation of the feasibility and costs of establishing a new dog site, proposal to the District Council	Municipal Department*
decision by the District Council	District Council
if decision is positive: development of a detailed plan for the dog site	Municipal Department* (planning), Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection (input)
establishing of the dog site	Municipal Department*
local hearing (–Örtsverhandlung”), file note (–Aktenvermerk”) is made	District Council, Municipal Department*, land owner, Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, Vienna Police Headquarters
dog site is decreed by putting up the official signs	Municipal Department*
continuous maintenance of the dog site	Municipal Department*

Note: \* Municipal Department that would responsible for managing the dog site (e.g. MA 42)

### 10.3 Difference between dog zones and dog exercise areas

The Vienna Animal Husbandry Act does not clearly define the difference between dog zones and dog exercise areas. As such, the differentiation has remained somewhat ambivalent even to the planners of the City of Vienna. The common interpretation has become that dog zones can only be established in green spaces that carry the word “park” in their name, and that additionally, dog zones can only be established in places that have either the zoning of “green space – recreational space – parks” (“Grünland-EPK”/ “Grünland – Erholungsgebiete –Parkanlagen”) or the zoning of “green space – protected park area” (“Grünland-SPK”/“Grünland-Parkschutzgebiet”). All other areas are to be designated as dog exercise areas. (cf. City of Vienna Court of Audit 2012: 7)

The only real relevance of the type of dog site is that all dog zones established after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 must be fenced in, while dog exercise areas do not require fencing. In practice, the difference is that dog exercise areas tend

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to be bigger areas that often lack fencing. Out of the 41 dog exercise areas which existed in 2022, 37% (15) were fenced in.

Still, there are some inconsistencies in the labelling of dog zones and dog exercise areas. For example, the dog site in Max-Winter-Park in the second district is very small (475 m<sup>2</sup>), fenced in and it is part of a “park”. Even the zoning of the Max-Winter-Park is “green space – recreational space – parks” – and yet, the dog site in the park is labelled a “dog exercise area”. (cf. ViennaGIS 2022a, City of Vienna 2022)

## 10.4 Cost of dog sites

The income from the dog tax does not cover the costs incurred by the City of Vienna from the citizens' dog husbandry. Therefore the income from the dog tax is not specifically earmarked for the improvement of infrastructure for dogs such as dog sites. The establishment and maintenance of dog sites is financed from district budgets. Some Districts have their own banking account for dog sites, but most do not. The fifth district – which is the focus of this thesis – does not currently have its own dog zone banking account. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Mitis 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

In the fifth district, the District grants the MA 42 a certain budget for ongoing maintenance of parks, including dog zones. The maintenance of dog zones, including small fixes in these are paid from the budget for ongoing maintenance. The cost for the ongoing maintenance of a dog site is usually low and not really a concern for a District when setting up a dog site. Workers of the MA 42 do a standard inspection at every dog site once every month; these serve to check if there are any problems such as broken equipment. As a part of the maintenance, dog sites are cleaned by the workers of MA 42. The frequency of the cleaning of dog sites is tied to the usage of the specific dog site, which is also influenced by the seasons. Typically, in the “winter season” (from about November to March), a dog site might be cleaned about three times per week and in the “summer season” (from about April to October), a dog site might be cleaned about five times per week. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Mitis 2022)

If any big changes were to be made to a dog site or a new dog site was to be established, the MA 42 would need to be granted an extra budget by the District. Answering the question of how much establishing a dog zone costs in 2022 is hard, since the prices for materials have increased a lot recently. To give two examples from 2021: in one dog zone, the price per square metre was 80 euros, while in the other one the price was 120 euros per square metre. The price depends on what elements are requested for the dog zone. If automatic irrigation for the lawn or a drinking fountain are requested by the District, those

alone would make the dog zone cost about 30 percent more. A drinking fountain itself costs about 12.000 euros and installing the piping for a fountain in a dog zone can also cost a lot of money, about as much as the fountain itself – it depends on how far away the closest pipes are. The high cost of installing a drinking fountain is the reason why some dog zones do not have one. (cf. *ibid.*)

Installing fencing for a dog zone (1 metre high) costs about 35 euros (gross) per metre, including the cost of application by an external company. Applying a “privacy screen foil” at the fence of a dog zone costs about nine euros (gross) per metre, including the cost of application by an external company. Applying a turf costs around 25-30 euros (gross) per square metre, including the cost of application by an external company. (cf. *ibid.*)

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# 11 Size, structuring, design and equipment of dog sites

## 11.1 Size of dog sites

An “ideal” size for a dog site is impossible to determine exactly. Ideally, the size of a dog site should be determined in relation to the dog population, so that all dogs can satisfy their needs, while conflicts between dogs using the site at the same time can be avoided. (cf. Schöning 2007: 12) Some authors recommend at least 800 to 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> because of hygienic and epidemiological concerns (cf. *ibid.*). However, according to Bettina Lukas from MA 42 Parks and Gardens there are no special hygienic concerns even in the smaller dog zones in Vienna which can be as small as about 200 to 300 m<sup>2</sup> (see chapter 12.1) (cf. interview Lukas 2022). Simone Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection notes that it should be clear that if a lot of dogs share a small space with each other, the bioburden would be high and that the bigger a dog site is, the more the germs will spread and the bioburden will be lower. However, Gräber also states that hygienic concerns have no effect on the size of the dog sites which are planned in Vienna (cf. interview Gräber 2022).

The city of Graz (Austria) has set a minimum recommendation of at least 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> for a dog site (cf. Kovacs 2022: 122). The association “Tierfreunde Österreich” (“Friends of Animals Austria”) recommends at least 3,000 to 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> for a dog site (cf. Tierfreunde Österreich n.d.). An even more extreme international example from the German-speaking Europe would be the Veterinary Office of the City of Herford (Germany), which recommended at least 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> for a dog site in 2003. Since such a large area for a dog site could not be found in the city in 2003, no new dog site was established at all. (cf. Schöning 2007: 12)

In contrast to these higher recommendations, in order to provide a realistic number for dog zones in Vienna, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection and the MA 42 have settled on a recommendation of at least 500 m<sup>2</sup> for a dog site as determined in the “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021” (cf. MA 42 Parks and Gardens 2021: 16). The goal is to meet this recommendation whenever it is possible when establishing a new dog site in Vienna. For whenever it is deemed impossible to provide 500 m<sup>2</sup> for a new dog site, there is a second, unwritten recommendation of at least 300 m<sup>2</sup> as practised by the MA 42. Even then, in special cases dog sites under 300 m<sup>2</sup> can still be established if it is not possible to find a bigger fitting site and an urgent need for a dog site is identified. The minimum sizes were set so that dogs would still have a chance

to set some distance between each other inside the dog site when necessary. There is no scientific reason why exactly these numbers were chosen, they are recommendations so that planners understand that dog sites should not be planned at a scale that is too small whenever there is a possibility to plan a more ideal dog site. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

In practice, the size of a dog site in Vienna mostly depends on the local circumstances, on how much space there is available. In the past, “buffer zones” to parks – as in lawns and bushes between dog zones and parks – were planned in some dog zones, nowadays buffer zones are usually not planned in order to use space efficiently. Instead of using buffer zones, “privacy screen foils” are used so that dogs cannot see the other side of the fence and do not get distracted and bark at other people (or dogs). There are even some dog zones that adjoin fenced in ball courts (“Ballspielkäfig”), in these cases a privacy screen foil is placed in the fence between the dog zone and fenced sport court. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

From the point of view of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, every dog site is a welcome development, even if it is very small. Gräber acknowledges that conflicts between dogs occur much more easily in a small space, since it is “filled up” more quickly and at some point there is no space for the dogs to evade each other when necessary. However, Gräber also argues that problems in dog sites usually arise because the dog owners do not pay enough attention to their dogs. If dog owners paid enough attention to warning signs of their dogs (and other dogs), they would know when to avoid a dog site and know when to intervene between dogs. Also, if one dog really wants to bully or “hunt” another dog, it can do so regardless of the size of the dog site, and in such a heavy conflict one party would always have to leave the dog site. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

Dr. Schöning concludes in her report about the effects of small dog sites on dogs that small dog sites significantly limit the possibility for locomotion and exploration of dogs, and that small dog sites can cause stress in encounters between dogs. Furthermore, she states that small dog sites can have similar effects on encounters between dogs as encounters of leashed dogs (see chapter 9.1). Similarly to Gräber, Schöning argues that dog sites should be big enough so that dogs can have the option to distance themselves from each other in a way that avoids further interactions between the dogs in the dog site. If dogs cannot avoid conspecific interactions inside a dog site when they desire to do so, it can lead to stressful situations for the dogs and an escalation of conflict. If dogs cannot freely determine the distance and amount of interactions between each other, it can lead to aggression and bullying between dogs. Unlike the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection which prefers the existence of small dog sites to no dog sites, Schöning argues that the potential



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for conflict in small dog sites might exceed the usefulness of these (cf. Schöning 2007: 11).

## 11.2 Structuring and segmenting of dog sites

Good structuring inside a dog zone can help address the conspecific issues that arise especially in small dog sites. Using natural elements such as bushes, trees, boulders and tree trunks, a dog zone can be structured so that dogs are provided visual retreats from each other, which helps dogs avoid each other when necessary. While structuring especially a small dog zone makes a lot of sense, a very small dog zone should not be made even more cramped with bad structuring, so the planning of structuring is always a balancing act. Good structuring should also never make it possible for a dog to be cornered by another dog or dogs. It would also be a good goal in structuring to help slow down play between dogs that is too fast or wild. (cf. Schöning 2007: 11f., interview Gräber 2022)

A special way of “structuring” a dog site is segmenting it in two separated, fenced in segments. Such solutions exist in several dog sites in Vienna, including the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone which is in the fifth district. By creating two separated segments, dogs that are incompatible can use the dog site at the same time. Segmented dog sites are also often requested especially by dog owners of smaller dogs, whose dogs might not feel comfortable with sharing a dog site with big dogs. Some owners also fear that their small dogs might be hurt by bigger dogs. Of course, a dog site must be quite big in order to segment it – segmenting an already small dog site is not an option. (cf. interview Mitis 2022, interviews with dog owners 2022)

In a segmented dog site, it makes sense to have a bigger main segment and a smaller evasion segment that is mainly used for evasion when entering the main segment is not desired because of the present dogs. By making one segment smaller, it also steers most visitors towards the main segment, keeping the evasion segment less visited, which makes it more likely to fulfil its function. There should be a gate between the segments which can be closed with a slide lock, so that dogs from neither side can push the gate open. A gate between the segments makes it possible to quickly switch segments when necessary. A privacy screen foil in the fence (and gate) between the segments creates a visual barrier between the segments, decreasing the probability of over-the-fence conflicts between the segments. (cf. Kovacs 2022: 139)



**Figure 16.** Segmented dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone in the fifth district of Vienna. A gate with a slide lock connects both segments. (own photo, taken on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 17.** Typical privacy screen foil applied into a typical double wire mesh fence at the dog zone of Rudolf-Sallinger-Park in the fifth district of Vienna. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

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## 11.3 Fencing and gating of dog sites

The type of fencing that is used when setting up a new dog site in Vienna is a stable “double wire mesh fence” (“Doppelstabmattenzaun”). As dictated in “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021”, new fencing that is installed for dog sites should be at least 1.2 metres high, and fencing that is close to streets should be at least 1.4 metres high (cf. MA 42 Parks and Gardens 2021: 16). These guidelines have been updated from “Parkleitbild 2018” which determined that a fence used in dog sites needs to be at least 1 metre high, but 1.2 metres are better (cf. MA 42 Parks and Gardens 2018: 18). A fence that is high enough is important so that dogs cannot jump over the fence. The fence standards for Vienna have been set and adjusted according to experience. In the very beginning, dog sites in Vienna used fences that were between 0.8 to 1 metres high. However, it turned out that an 80 centimetres high fence was not sufficient. (cf. Kovacs 2022: 107f.)

While some municipalities in Austria use even higher fences as a standard height – such as 1.5 metres in Graz – this is not deemed necessary in Vienna. A concern with high fencing is the visual and psychological effect of high fencing: High fencing has a wall-like effect, it “creates a room” and is seen as a disruptive design element that separates the dog site too harshly from the surroundings. Still, occasionally even 1.6 metres high fencing is used in Vienna as a barrier to some roads with high traffic. (cf. *ibid.*)

As determined in the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act §15 Para 2 any gates used in dog sites must be inward-swinging and self-closing. These two specifications are meant to prevent dogs from escaping the dog site on their own. Additionally, the “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021” specifies that every fenced in dog site must have at least two gates. The inclusion of at least two gates is very important so that a dog (or dogs) cannot block the only entrance (and exit) and so that mobbing situations cannot develop in the only entrance area. With two gates, an exiting dog never needs to pass an aggressor in order to leave. The two gates should be at opposite ends of the fenced in dog site. In order to guarantee this, the two gates should be at opposite ends of the fenced in dog site: it is very important that there is a good amount of space between the two gates. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

A special concept regarding gates for dog sites are double-entry gates. A double-entry gate consists of two doors with a small, separately fenced in “gate area” between the two gates. This means that when someone wants to enter the dog site, first they enter the gate area and then close the first gate behind them. Only after that they go through the second gate and close the second gate behind them. The same procedure is used when leaving the dog site. With this system there is no chance of a strange dog fleeing the dog site while

someone enters or leaves. In Vienna, there are a few double-entry gates in select dog sites, for example in Allerheiligenpark in the 20th district. The problem with double-entry gates is that not only are they more expensive to set up than regular gates but also that they take up a lot of space in the dog site. For this reason, they only make sense in very big dog sites – otherwise they would just make small dog sites even smaller. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

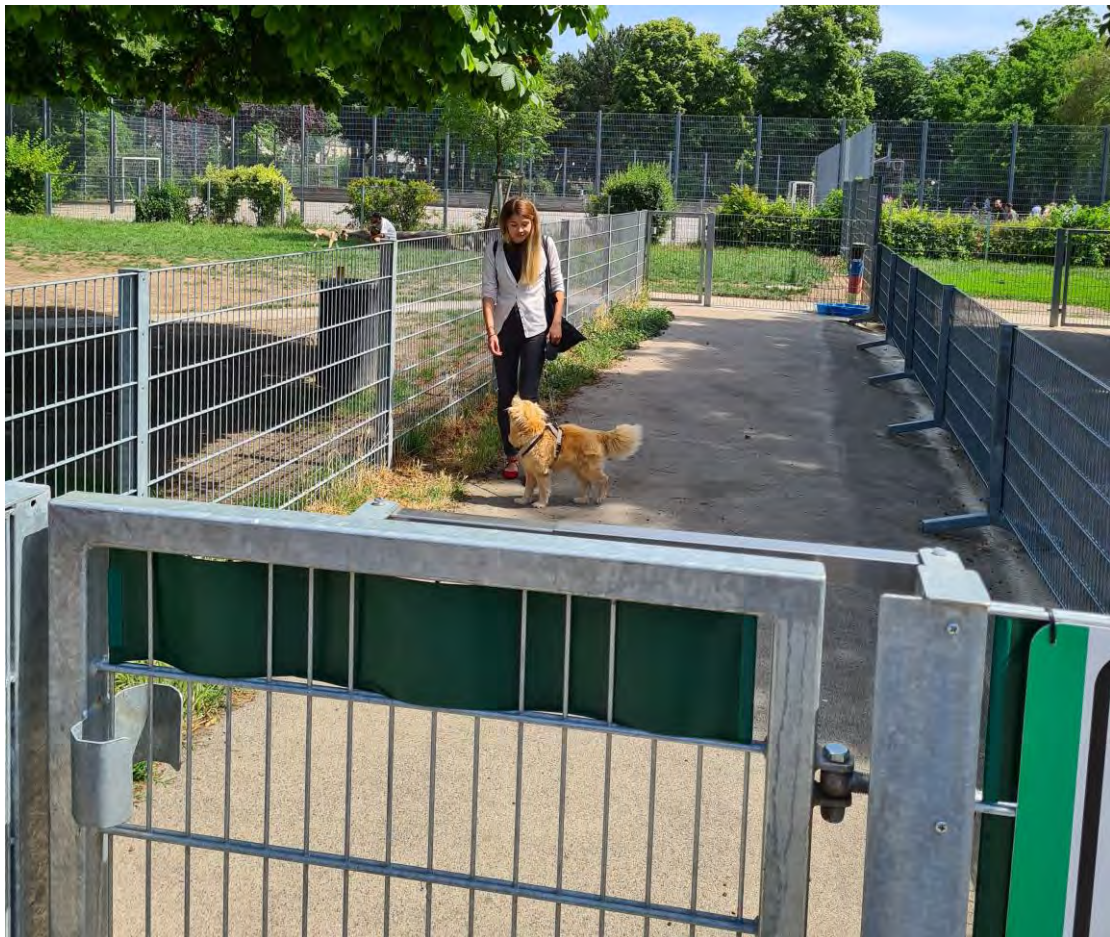
In an interview, Simone Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection wanted to stress that double-entry gates are a solution to a problem that – in an ideal world – should not really exist in the first place. Gräber explained that if someone wants to enter a dog zone, they should first ask the present dog owners if it is alright to enter. If the present dog owners say yes, they would call their dogs to them and hold onto them or leash them. Only after that, the new person would enter and unleash their dog. Gräber wanted to illustrate that if people actually did these things “correctly”, there would not be a need for double-entry gates. She also wanted to stress that a double-entry gate cannot replace two gates in the dog site because they address two different issues. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)



**Figure 18.** Typical double wire mesh fence with typical gate at the dog zone at Parkanlage am Hundsturm in the fifth district of Vienna. In the picture, the gate has been closed for the night. (own photo, taken on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022)



**Figure 19.** The dog zone in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district is split into two segments. Both segments feature very generously dimensioned double entry gates. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 20.** Dog owner and dog leaving the dog zone using a double entry gate in the dog zone in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district. Photo taken and published with consent from the pictured dog owner. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)

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## 11.4 Terrain of dog sites

It is important for the terrain used in dog sites to be soft, because hard surfaces can lead to paw injuries with playing dogs. Even the Animal Protection Act prohibits organising “dog races on asphalt or other hard-covered terrain” (Animal Protection Act §5 Para 2). Another criterion for terrain in dog sites is that it should not be slippery or become slippery through weather, because a slippery surface is also a hazard for dogs and humans alike (cf. interview Gräber 2022).

Nowadays, mainly three types of terrain are used in dog zones: lawns, gravel surfaces (“wassergebundene Decke”) and bark mulch. Additionally, paths for human visitors are paved (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022). Specifically, at least the entrance areas of dog zones should be paved (cf. MA 42 Parks and Gardens 2021: 16).

Lawns are the most optimal terrain in dog sites because lawns are very soft, rather clean (not dusty) and also attractive for both dogs and humans. The options for setting up a lawn are sodding and seeding. Whenever possible, lawns should be used as the main terrain in dog sites. However, when a dog site is very small and used too much, a lawn cannot survive in it. Not only is there the problem that dog urine makes the ground sour, but especially when a lot of dogs repeatedly run around on a small lawn, the lawn also wears off physically. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

Lawns in smaller dog zones in the city are possibly the most common request that the MA 42 gets from dog owners. If a lawn is set up in a smaller dog site, the modern practice is to also set up automatic irrigation for the lawn. This system makes it much more likely for the lawn to survive. However, setting up such a system is expensive. Even then, an automatic irrigation is not a guarantee that a lawn will survive in a dog site. The dog site should still have a minimum size (that has not been officially defined) so that a lawn would have a chance of survival. However, it really depends on the place: if a small dog zone is not visited that much, a lawn can thrive in even such a small dog zone. In fact, an example for a very small dog zone with a thriving lawn can be found in the fifth district. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

The disadvantages of lawns are that they are harder and more expensive to maintain and that it is a bit harder to spot and properly remove dog waste from them. Also when it rains, a lawn can become muddy if it is overused. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

Bark mulch is made from tree bark and is commonly used in parks around Vienna. Sometimes it is also used as the main terrain in dog zones. The

advantages of bark mulch are that it is very soft and that dogs can dig in it without destroying the terrain. The main disadvantage of bark mulch is that it is hard to keep clean. It is hard to spot dog waste in it and a dog might also run into excrement that is “hiding” in bark mulch. Bark mulch is changed at least once a year in dog zones. Another disadvantage is that when dogs dig in it, sometimes bark mulch gets hurled out of the dog zone. Some dog zones have bark mulch as their main surface, but “digging pits” with bark mulch are a more optimal solution for hygienic reasons. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)

The third type of terrain that is used is the gravel surface – the same type of water-bound surface that common gravel roads around the world use. In German, the surface is called “wassergebundene Decke”, which translates to “water-bound surface”. The advantages of a gravel surface are that it is still softer than a paved surface, rain does not damage it and it is easy to spot and remove dog waste from it and it is also easy to keep clean in general. A gravel surface is relatively low-maintenance. Disadvantages of a gravel surface are that when the weather is very dry, it can get very dusty, especially if dogs run around. The dust – which is often contaminated by dog urine – is then breathed in by both dogs and humans. According to interviews with dog owners, if the dogs play with toys such as balls, the toys can become dusty and the dogs can swallow this dust, which can lead to dogs vomiting. With heavy rain, the gravel surface becomes muddy, which makes the dog site pretty much unusable. Some dogs also hurt their paws on the gravel surface, because the paws “rub off” when strained on the relatively hard surface. (cf. *ibid.*)

In short, all three types of terrain have their own problems: lawn is simply not an option in small dog zones, bark mulch is mostly recommended for digging pits and gravel surfaces have a range of different problems, but are still often used in small dog zones because of the lack of better options. The MA 42 and the City of Vienna are in an international dialogue with other cities, and ideas for terrain types for dog zones are also exchanged, but so far the MA 42 has not heard of a more suitable terrain type for small dog sites than the gravel surface. In regards to solutions including non-natural elements such as artificial turf or hybrid lawns (a mix of real grass and artificial grass), the City of Vienna wants to avoid such solutions wherever possible, and they are not considered as an option for dog sites. (cf. *ibid.*)

Problems with the terrains also arise because some dog owners do not use dog sites responsibly. If people would not let their dogs rampage and run around wildly in dog zones, the surfaces – including lawns – would stay in a better condition. If people always looked after their dogs, the harder “spotting” of dog waste in for example bark mulch would not be an issue because dog owners would always know where their dogs defecated. Gräber also thinks that it is good when a dog zone has several different surfaces since they give different kinds of haptic feedback to the dogs. A good example could be a dog



zone with a paved path going through it, with a lawn and with a “digging pit” filled with bark mulch. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

**Table 10.** Advantages and disadvantages of terrain types that are used in newly planned dog sites in Vienna.

terrain	advantages	disadvantages
lawn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ very soft</li> <li>+ attractive to humans and dogs</li> <li>+ does not dust</li> <li>+ small contribution to a better micro climate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hard and expensive to maintain</li> <li>- dog waste can be somewhat harder to spot</li> <li>- muddy with heavy rain if overused</li> </ul>
gravel surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ easy and inexpensive to maintain</li> <li>+ dog waste is easy to spot and remove</li> <li>+ easy to keep clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- somewhat hard, can lead to paw injuries</li> <li>- dusts in hot and dry weather</li> <li>- muddy with heavy rain</li> </ul>
bark mulch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ very soft</li> <li>+ attractive to dogs (and many humans)</li> <li>+ dogs can dig in it without destroying the terrain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hard to keep clean</li> <li>- dog waste is hard to spot</li> <li>- must be exchanged regularly</li> <li>- covers dogs in bark dust when fresh</li> <li>- bark mulch might be hurled out of dog site</li> </ul>



**Figure 21.** Lawn in the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park in the fifth district of Vienna. The lawn survives here even though the dog zone is very small. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 22.** Typical gravel surface with holes from digging and a paved area around the seating and drinking fountain in the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark in the fifth district of Vienna. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 23.** Bark mulch used as one of several main terrains at the dog zone in Esterházyark in the sixth district of Vienna. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)

## 11.5 Vegetation in dog sites

Trees are a very important element in dog sites because they provide shade. During hot summer days, a dog site without shade is basically unusable. Besides providing shade, trees also have other useful functions: trees also reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect, reduce air pollution, promote psychological well-being and can act as a windbreak (cf. Turner-Skoff & Cavender 2019: 325).

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Bushes can be used for structuring dog sites: they provide a strong visual barrier so that dogs can retreat from each other when necessary. Bushes also act as a weak auditory buffer. Bushes can also be used as a natural visual and auditory “buffer” to streets and parks, fulfilling the role of a privacy screen foil.

When a new dog site is planned, all existing trees and bushes are preserved as well as it is possible. If there are already many trees in a dog site that is being planned, it limits how the dog site can be designed, since the root area of the trees should not be disturbed. This means that existing trees influence the areas which can be paved and in which areas fencing can be installed. (cf. interview Lukas 2022, interview Gräber 2022)

Canine urine is harmful to plants (cf. Kovacs 2022: 16). If any new bushes or trees are planted in a dog site, these must be protected with a temporary chestnut-fence so that dogs cannot urinate on them, otherwise the bushes and trees would not survive. Young bushes are usually fenced in for about half a year up to a year, while young trees are usually fenced in for up to three years. Once the plants are old enough, they usually can survive in the “harsher conditions”. (cf. interview Lukas 2022)



**Figure 24.** Dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park in the fifth district of Vienna. On the side of the park, bushes take over the function of the privacy screen foil. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 25.** Young fenced in tree at the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone in the fifth district of Vienna. In the background, older trees that are not fenced in anymore can be seen. (own photo, taken on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 26.** An old *aesculus hippocastanum* (horse chestnut tree) in the dog zone in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna. Since the shells of the seeds are covered in spikes and the seeds are slightly poisonous, it is not an optimal choice for a dog zone, but preserving existing trees is a priority for the City of Vienna. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)

## 11.6 Equipment, design elements and furnishing of dog sites

Basic design elements that are used in dog sites are seating (benches), dog waste bag dispensers and rubbish bins with an ash pipe for cigarettes – cigarette butts are poisonous for dogs. Optional but optimal are the inclusion of lighting (street lamps) and a drinking fountain. In the past, many different versions of drinking fountains have been tested in dog sites and the issues with many models were that the drinking cups for dogs were dirtied with gravel, mud etc. (cf. interview Lukas) According to dog owners in the district, issues with dirtied drinking fountains persist to this day.

Compared to some other dog sites around the world, the equipment and furnishing of dog sites in Vienna might seem lacking and worth improving at first glance. However, the dog sites in Vienna do not lack special furnishing because of a lack of will to invest more money into dog sites – the reduced equipment and furnishing is a conscious choice encouraged by the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

It may be surprising to hear that even such a basic furnishing element as tables are not used anymore in newly planned dog sites. The idea behind dog sites is that people go there and exercise with their dogs and are present with their dogs. However, in dog sites where there are tables there have been problems with people who stay at the dog sites for hours. People who go to a dog site, sit down at a table – possibly in a bigger group of dog owners – and then chat, eat and drink for hours do not pay sufficient attention to their dogs, do

not engage properly with their dogs. This means that tables in dog zones encourage and enable a type of behaviour in dog sites which is not desired. Staying in a dog site for hours can also block other people from entering the dog site because there are too many dogs present already and conflict between the dogs is feared. For these reasons, the Ombuds Office decided that there is no real need for tables in dog zones anyway, and if tables also encourage drinking in dog zones, it would be better to not install any. (cf. interview Gräber 2022, interview Lukas 2022)

The MA 42 frequently gets requests by dog owners who wish for dog agility equipment in dog sites. However, it is not used, because the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection is strongly against such in dog sites because it is often used incorrectly by dog owners and the risk of injury for dogs is too great. If someone wants to practise agility with their dog, they should do so under the supervision of a dog trainer in an appropriate facility. Additionally, it is also feared that dog sites could be used by professional trainers for agility courses, which would be in the way of regular dog site visitors. (cf. *ibid.*)

Instead of agility equipment, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection recommends “natural obstacles” such as boulders and different kinds of tree trunks. These natural obstacles are supposed to invite the dog owners to occupy their dogs: a long, lying tree trunk for example can be used to make the dog walk and balance on the tree trunk. Cut tree trunks that are placed next to each can be used for the dog to jump from one trunk to the other. What needs to be considered when planning the placement for these – and any other design elements – is that the elements should not be placed too close to the fencing, because some dogs can jump over the fence using these. (cf. interview Gräber 2022)

Regarding boulders, some dog owners complain that their dogs have gotten hurt while playing wildly and running into a boulder. However, a dog should never be running around so wildly in a dog zone that it does not notice a boulder and runs into one, as such a dog would be a danger to all other visitors. Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection says that if such an accident were to happen, the dog owner has not been paying sufficient attention to their dog, as they should de-escalate such behaviour – it is not what dog sites exist for. Still, because of the amount of complaints regarding injuries from boulders in dog sites, it has been decided that boulders will not be used anymore in newly planned dog sites. (cf. interview Gräber 2022, interview Lukas 2022, interview Mitis 2022)

One special element which can be found in some dog sites is the “digging pit”. It is a box filled with bark mulch. It is meant for dogs that like digging, since it is easy to dig in bark mulch but hard to dig in the gravel surface which is common in dog zones. Dogs should also not dig in the gravel surface anyway,

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since holes are a hazard for dogs and humans alike, and the workers of MA 42 have to fill back up any holes which are left in dog sites by dog owners who are actually supposed to fill up the holes which their dogs dig. There are some dog sites in Vienna that have a real problem with dogs that dig around everywhere and where the dog owners do not fill up the holes, either. In at least one dog site there is also a raised bed filled with bark mulch as a variation of the “digging pit”. (cf. interview Gräber 2022, interview Lukas 2022)

Any new special equipment is first tested in one or two dog sites before being expanded to further sites in planning. One special element that will be tested in a dog site soon is a “tunnel” for dogs. When the tunnel was planned, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection was asked if it would be good if the tunnel branched out into two tunnels. Their answer was no, and it should not be too long either: What if a dog felt scared inside the long tunnel, how is the dog owner supposed to get it out? If the tunnel branched and two dogs would run into it from two different entries, they could run into each other and get hurt. This example illustrates how design elements or obstacles should not be placed inside a dog zone just because some people might think that they would be funny – any obstacles have to be evaluated to make sure that they do not create unnecessary dangerous situations with “regular” use. Answering the questions of obstacles in a different way – what would a dog like to do in a dog zone? A dog wants to move freely, interact with other dogs, sniff around and explore. A dog does not want to jump over agility obstacles or get hunted by other dogs through tunnels. With their design philosophy for dog sites, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection tries to minimise the risk of conflict and injuries, putting the wellbeing of all dog visitors above everything else. This means that basically anything that would encourage dogs to move too fast inside a dog site is too dangerous and should not be there. Another thing to consider with new equipment or design elements is how some irresponsible dog owners can misuse these, creating new problems in the dog site. Additionally, any design elements that are used in dog sites must be low maintenance and in accordance with the standards that count for design elements in public places. This also limits any special elements that could theoretically be used in dog sites. For these reasons, the planners always have to find a balance between the wishes of dog owners – a part of which undoubtedly will mistreat whatever is made available to them – and the feasibility of the wishes. What is wished for, how will it actually be used, and is this problematic? Asking these questions ultimately limits what kind of planning can be done regarding dog sites. (cf. *ibid.*)

**Table 11.** List of standard equipment, design elements and furnishing that is used and not used when planning new dog sites in Vienna.

<b>used</b>	<b>not used</b>
seating	tables
dog waste bag dispensers	agility equipment
rubbish bins with an ash pipe for cigarettes	any other dangerous obstacles
drinking fountains	plants which are poisonous for dogs
street lamps	plants with thorns
–digging pit” with bark mulch	boulders (use recently discontinued)
lying and standing tree trunks	
trees	
bushes	
legally required and additional signs (including –ten rules for a dog zone”)	



**Figure 27.** Boulder element in the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park in the fifth district of Vienna. Additional boulders can be seen in the background. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)





**Figure 28.** A laying tree trunk in the dog zone in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 29.** Digging pit filled with bark mulch with dogs and a dog owner in the dog zone in Esterházy park in the sixth district of Vienna. Photo taken and published with consent from the pictured dog owner. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 30.** Another type of rubbish bin with an ash pipe in the dog zone in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna. The rubbish bin appears to be a popular “marking spot” for dogs. In the background, a big hole left from digging can be seen in the gravel surface. (own photo, taken on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)

## 11.7 Hygienic concerns around dog sites

Not only do many dogs come together and share a space in dog sites, dogs also use dog sites for urination and defecation. Therefore, both parasites and pathogens are a relevant topic in dog sites. The dynamic can be compared to kindergartens, where diseases also regularly spread between children. Because canine urination and defecation in dog sites is very common, the bioburden in dog sites is high. The bigger the dog site is, the bigger the area over which the germs will spread, so the bioburden of a single spot in a big dog site will be lower than the bioburden of a single spot in a small dog site. There is, however, no official data concerning this issue. Some dogs have a strong immune system while other dogs have a weaker immune system, so it also depends on the individual dog if the bioburden of a dog site is an issue or not. (cf. interview Gräber)

The only planning measures that are taken out of hygienic concerns in dog sites are in regards to water, making sure that no puddles or similar water surfaces form in dog zones, because germs would develop in lying water. For this reason, the whole terrain of dog sites as well as drinking fountains –

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including the area around them – need to be designed in a way so that water does not stay lying in them. (cf. interview Lukas)

According to Gräber from the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, parasites and pathogens in dog sites are not a topic that is normally discussed in the Ombuds Office. She does however know that there are some dog site “hotspots” from which there have been regular reports that healthy dogs enter these dog sites, and when these dogs leave they have diarrhoea. People with sick dogs (such as dogs with diarrhoea) should not enter dog sites. Doing so spreads disease among the canine population. While bigger dog sites are better in terms of hygiene, this issue cannot be solved with planning alone. In the end only dog owners can take up the responsibility and not enter dog sites while their dogs are sick. Similarly, it is the responsibility of dog owners to protect their dogs from parasites such as from fleas, and not let infected dogs run around in dog sites. (cf. interview Gräber)



**Figure 31.** Drinking fountain in the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park in the fifth district of Vienna. The area around a drinking fountain is designed so that water does not stay lying. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

## 12 General analyses of dog sites in Vienna

### 12.1 List of dog zones and dog exercise areas in Vienna

The following table presents the official public data about all dog sites in June 2022 which is made available on the website and in the geo information system services of the City of Vienna. Information included are the type of the dog site, its size in square metres, whether the dog site is fenced in and whether there is at least one public drinking fountain for free drinking water inside the dog site. The abbreviation DZ stands for dog zone, DEA stands for dog exercise area. (cf. City of Vienna 2022)

The list serves to give the reader a better understanding of the current situation regarding dog sites in Vienna. As one can see already from a quick look at the list, the amount and the sizes of dog sites vary a lot between the different districts. However, these are better analysed with the spatial context in mind, as the districts of Vienna vary greatly in size. This spatial analysis is performed in the following chapters.

**Table 12.** List of all dog zones and dog exercise areas in Vienna. (cf. City of Vienna 2022)

district	location	type	size (m <sup>2</sup> )	fencing	fountain	district total
1	Heldenplatz	DZ	904	yes	yes	
1	Parkanlage Franz-Josefs-Kai	DZ	1,994	yes	yes	
1	Stadtpark	DZ	1,899	missing	missing	
1						4,797 m <sup>2</sup> 3 DZ & 0 DEA
2	Augarten Ost	DZ	2,002	yes	yes	
2	Augarten West	DZ	1,164	yes	yes	
2	Franziska-Löw-Park	DZ	258	yes	yes	
2	Grünanlage Obere Donaustraße	DEA	3,008	missing	missing	
2	Grünanlage Obere Donaustraße	DZ	645	yes	yes	
2	Manes-Sperber-Park	DZ	320	yes	missing	
2	Max-Winter-Park	DEA	475	yes	yes	
2	Mexikoplatz – Rosenpark	DZ	4,653	yes	missing	
2	Parkanlage Engerthstraße	DZ	643	yes	yes	
2	Parkanlage Offenbachgasse	DZ	1,673	yes	missing	
2	Prater – Laufbergwiese	DZ	1,010	yes	missing	
2	Prater – Pelzmais	DEA	125,916	missing	missing	
2	Prater – Rustenschacher	DEA	187,005	missing	yes	
2	Rudolf-Bednar-Park	DZ	296	yes	yes	
2	Venediger-Au-Park	DZ	1,809	yes	yes	
2	Wehlistraße/Ostbahn	DEA	4,449	missing	missing	
2						335,326 m <sup>2</sup> 11 DZ & 5 DEA
3	Arenbergpark	DZ	1,146	yes	missing	
3	Bock-Park	DZ	228	yes	missing	
3	Grünanlage Linke Bahngasse	DZ	2,807	yes	missing	
3	Hundertwasser-Promenade A	DZ	549	yes	missing	
3	Hundertwasser-Promenade B	DZ	435	yes	missing	
3	Kardinal-Nagl-Park	DZ	597	yes	yes	
3	Parkanlage Baumgasse	DZ	1,294	yes	missing	
3	Schweizergarten A	DZ	4,068	yes	yes	
3	Schweizergarten B	DZ	1,456	yes	missing	
3	Stadtpark-Kinderpark A	DZ	1,994	missing	missing	
3	Stadtpark-Kinderpark B	DZ	259	yes	missing	
3	Waisenhauspark	DZ	764	yes	missing	
3						15,597 m <sup>2</sup> 12 DZ & 0 DEA
4	Resselpark	DZ	637	yes	yes	
4	Rubenspark	DZ	353	yes	missing	
4						990 m <sup>2</sup> 2 DZ & 0 DEA

## 12 General analyses of dog sites in Vienna

5	Einsiedlerpark	DZ	214	yes	yes	
5	Ernst-Arnold-Park	DZ	332	missing	missing	
5	Ernst-Lichtblau-Park	DZ	238	missing	missing	
5	Parkanlage am Hundsturm	DZ	214	yes	missing	
5	Parkanlage Leopold-Rister-Gasse	DZ	354	yes	yes	
5	Parkanlage Mittelzone	DZ	2,915	yes	yes	
5	Rudolf-Sallinger-Park	DZ	276	yes	missing	
5	Stefan-Weber-Park	DZ	463	yes	yes	
5						5,006 m <sup>2</sup> 8 DZ & 0 DEA
6	Alfred-Grünwald-Park	DZ	663	yes	yes	
6	Esterháyzpark	DZ	444	yes	yes	
6	Franz-Schwarz-Park	DZ	1,001	yes	yes	
6	Gumpendorfer Gürtel	DZ	187	yes	yes	
6						2,295 m <sup>2</sup> 4 DZ & 0 DEA
7	Lerchenfelder Gürtel	DZ	463	yes	yes	
7	Weghuberpark	DZ	239	yes	yes	
7						702 m <sup>2</sup> 2 DZ & 0 DEA
8	Hamerlingpark	DZ	350	yes	yes	
8	Hernalser Gürtel	DZ	672	yes	missing	
8	Schönbornpark	DZ	1,098	yes	yes	
8						2,120 m <sup>2</sup> 3 DZ & 0 DEA
9	Arne-Karlsson-Park	DZ	567	yes	yes	
9	Lichtentalerpark	DZ	701	yes	yes	
9	Treppelweg – Roßauer Lände	DZ	615	yes	missing	
9						1,883 m <sup>2</sup> 3 DZ & 0 DEA
10	Alfred-Böhm-Park	DZ	2,843	yes	yes	
10	Antonspark A	DZ	326	yes	missing	
10	Antonspark B	DZ	623	yes	missing	
10	Arthaberpark	DZ	499	yes	missing	
10	Erholungsgebiet Wienerberg-Ost	DEA	8,513	yes	missing	
10	Erholungsgebiet Wienerberg-West	DEA	1,788	yes	missing	
10	Fortunapark	DZ	400	yes	missing	
10	Hebbelpark	DZ	830	yes	missing	
10	Helmut-Zilk-Park	DZ	1,356	yes	yes	
10	Humboldtpark	DZ	245	yes	missing	
10	Johann-Benda-Park	DZ	1,884	yes	missing	
10	Laubepark	DZ	98	yes	yes	
10	Martin-Luther-King-Park	DZ	726	yes	yes	

10	Neilreichgasse	DEA	750	yes	missing	
10	Parkanlage Heubergsstätten	DEA	136,443	missing	missing	
10	Parkanlage Keplerplatz	DZ	288	yes	missing	
10	Parkanlage Löwygrube	DEA	221,105	missing	yes	
10	Parkanlage Paltramplatz	DZ	302	yes	yes	
10	Parkanlage Wielandplatz	DZ	280	yes	yes	
10	Puchsbaumpark	DZ	618	yes	missing	
10	Volkspark-Laaerberg	DZ	686	yes	yes	
10	Waldmüllerpark	DZ	5,336	yes	yes	
10						385,939 m <sup>2</sup> 17 DZ & 5 DEA
11	Artillerieplatz	DZ	601	yes	missing	
11	Braunhuberpark	DZ	423	yes	yes	
11	Herderpark, Am Kanal A	DZ	432	yes		
11	Herderpark, Am Kanal B	DZ	2,077	yes	missing	
11	Hofgartel	DZ	1,980	yes	yes	
11	Hyblerpark	DZ	545	yes	yes	
11	Leberweg	DEA	1,510	yes	missing	
11	Luise-Montag-Park	DZ	4,202	yes	yes	
11	Parkanlage Blériotgasse	DZ	1,836	yes	yes	
11	Parkanlage Flammweg	DZ	1,928	yes	yes	
11	Parkanlage Haugerstraße	DZ	399	missing	missing	
11	Parkanlage Lautenschlägergasse	DZ	997	yes	yes	
11	Parkanlage Pretschgasse	DEA	3,046	yes	yes	
11	Schloß Neugebäude – Unterer Garten	DEA	1,865	yes	yes	
11						21,841 m <sup>2</sup> 11 DZ & 3 DEA
12	Bil-Spira-Park	DZ	2,013	yes	missing	
12	Edelsinnstraße	DZ	1,317	yes	missing	
12	Miep-Gies-Park	DZ	710	yes	missing	
12	Parkanlage Breitenfurter Straße	DEA	4,295	missing	missing	
12	Parkanlage Fasantengasse	DZ	890	yes	missing	
12	Parkanlage Harthausergasse	DZ	644	yes	missing	
12	Parkanlage Lichtensterngasse	DEA	9,368	missing	missing	
12	Parkanlage Steinweisweg	DZ	914	yes	missing	
12	Parkanlage Vierthalgasse	DZ	712	yes	yes	
12	Steinbaurpark	DZ	505	yes	yes	
12	Theresienbadpark	DZ	485	yes	missing	
12	Unter-Meidlinger Straße	DEA	2,058	missing	missing	
12						23,911 m <sup>2</sup> 9 DZ & 3 DEA
13	Am Rosenhügel	DEA	861	yes	missing	
13	Napoleonwald	DEA	6,000	missing	missing	

## 12 General analyses of dog sites in Vienna

13	Parkanlage Roter Berg Ost	DEA	8,370	yes	missing	
13						15,231 m <sup>2</sup> 0 DZ & 3 DEA
14	Ferdinand-Wolf-Park	DZ	2,695	yes	yes	
14	Gustav-Klimt-Park	DZ	391	yes	missing	
14	Hadikpark	DEA	17,977	yes	yes	
14	Matzner-Park	DZ	5,566	yes	yes	
14	Ordelpark	DZ	1,653	yes	yes	
14	Parkanlage Cossmanngasse	DZ	2,030	yes	missing	
14	Parkanlage Wolfersberg	DEA	59,672	missing	yes	
14	Spitalwiese	DEA	25,443	missing	missing	
14	Steinhofer Park	DZ	11,717	yes	yes	
14	Waidhausenpark	DZ	442	yes	yes	
14						127,586m <sup>2</sup> 7 DZ & 3 DEA
15	Auer-Welsbach-Park	DEA	10,152	missing	yes	
15	Dadlerpark	DZ	1,859	yes	yes	
15	Forschneritschpark	DZ	368	yes	yes	
15	Parkanlage Sechshausergürtel	DZ	510	yes	yes	
15	Parkanlage Winkelmannstraße	DZ	1,382	yes	yes	
15	Raithofferpark	DZ	654	yes	yes	
15	Rohrauerpark	DZ	343	yes	yes	
15	Vogelweidpark	DZ	2,031	yes	yes	
15						17,299 m <sup>2</sup> 7 DZ & 1 DEA
16	Kongreßpark	DZ	3,028	yes	yes	
16	Richard-Wagner-Park	DZ	550	yes	yes	
16						3,578 m <sup>2</sup> 2 DZ & 0 DEA
17	Christine-Nöstlinger-Park	DZ	1,195	yes	yes	
17	Grünanlage Alszeile	DZ	877	yes	yes	
17	Lorenz-Bayer-Park	DZ	546	yes	missing	
17	Tiefäuwiese	DEA	79,701	missing	missing	
17						82,319 m <sup>2</sup> 3 DZ & 1 DEA
18	Schubertpark	DZ	1,293	yes	yes	
18	Türkenschanzpark A	DZ	1,354	yes	yes	
18	Türkenschanzpark B	DZ	1,824	yes	yes	
18	Währinger Park	DZ	4,396	yes	missing	
18						8,867 m <sup>2</sup> 4 DZ & 0 DEA
19	Beethovenpark	DEA	1,375	missing	missing	
19	Heiligenstädterpark	DZ	1,886	yes	missing	



19	Himmelstraße	DEA	13,070	missing	missing	
19	Hugo-Wolf-Park	DEA	5,952	missing	missing	
19	Olzmpiapark	DZ	3,600	yes	yes	
19	Saarpark	DZ	1,138	yes	missing	
19	Wetheimsteinpark	DZ	1,463	missing	missing	
19						28,484 m <sup>2</sup> 4 DZ & 3 DEA
20	Allerheiligenpark	DZ	2,131	yes	yes	
20	Anton-Schmid-Promenade	DZ	1,088	yes	missing	
20	Durchlaufstraße	DZ	1,636	missing	missing	
20	Forsthauspark	DEA	4,064	missing	missing	
20	Hugo-Gottschlich-Park	DZ	681	yes	yes	
20	Mortarapark	DZ	577	yes	yes	
20	Parkanlage Friedrich-Engels-Platz	DZ	328	yes	yes	
20	Schmetterlingspark	DZ	372	yes	missing	
20						10,877 m <sup>2</sup> 7 DZ & 1 DEA
21	Denglerpark	DZ	2,742	yes	yes	
21	Donauinsel Nord	DEA	13,794	missing	missing	
21	Ferdinand-Kaufmann-Platz	DZ	14,525	yes	yes	
21	Floridsdorfer Aupark	DZ	2,470	yes	yes	
21	Parkanlage Gitlbauergasse	DZ	1,983	yes	yes	
21	Parkanlage Illgasse	DZ	1,193	yes	missing	
21	Parkanlage Lorettowiese	DZ	2,420	yes	yes	
21	Parkanlage Mühlshüttelgasse	DZ	788	yes	missing	
21	Parkanlage Ruthnergasse	DZ	1,059	yes	yes	
21	Parkanlage Schlossergasse	DZ	1,282	yes	missing	
21	Parkanlage Thomasgasse	DZ	816	yes	yes	
21	Teresa-Tauscher-Park	DZ	1,410	yes	missing	
21						44,482 m <sup>2</sup> 11 DZ & 1 DEA
22	An den alten Schanzen	DZ	573	yes	missing	
22	An der Neurisse	DZ	956	yes	missing	
22	Badeteich Süßenbrunn	DEA	64,297	missing	yes	
22	Elinor-Ostrom-Park	DZ	621	yes	missing	
22	Grünanlage Aspernstraße	DZ	327	yes	yes	
22	Grünanlage Epeldauer Straße	DZ	833	yes	missing	
22	Ingeborg-Bachmann-Park	DZ	420	yes	yes	
22	Kaisermühlendamm	DZ	3,214	yes	missing	
22	Lagerwiese Rehlacke	DZ	4,413	yes	yes	
22	Madame-d'Ora-Park	DZ	1,013	yes	yes	
22	Mühlgrund	DEA	3,573	missing	missing	
22	Neue Donau Süd	DEA	15,608	missing	missing	

## 12 General analyses of dog sites in Vienna

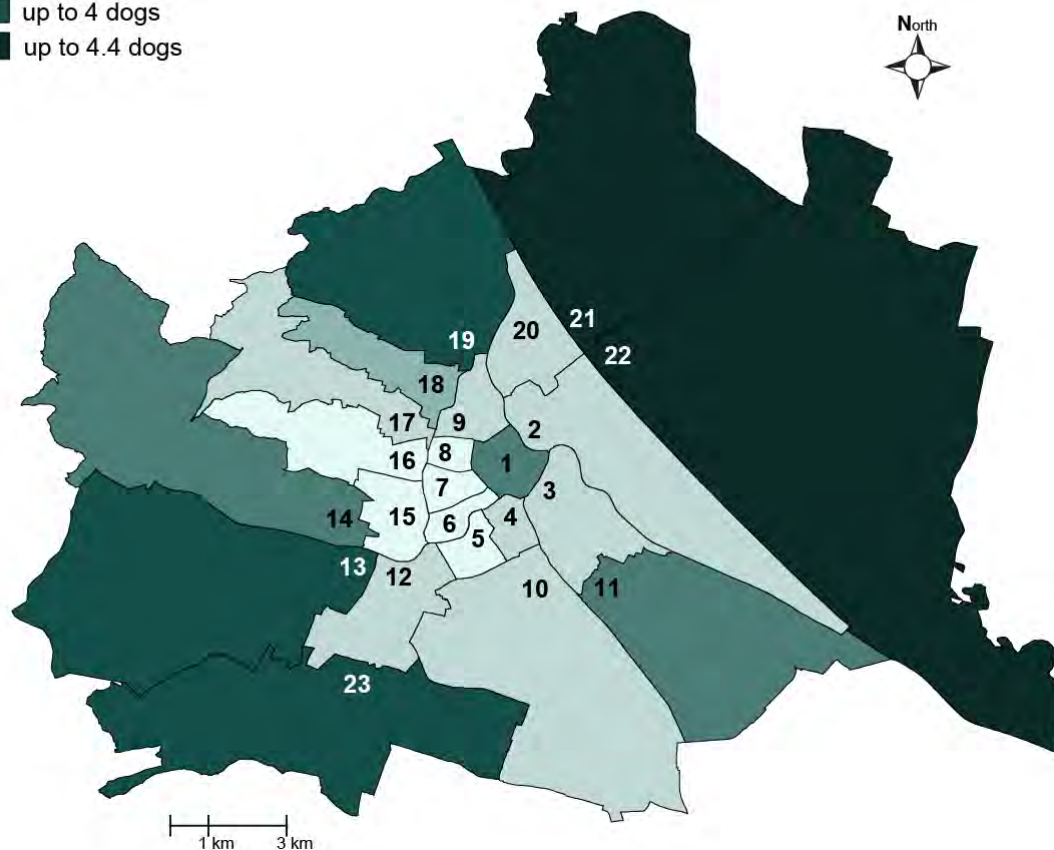
22	Ostbahnbegleitsstraße	DZ	606	yes	missing	
22	Otto-Affenzeller-Park	DZ	2,401	yes	yes	
22	Parkanlage Asperner Wies'n	DZ	1,323	yes	missing	
22	Parkanlage Dolfi-Gruber-Weg	DZ	1,228	yes	missing	
22	Parkanlage Donaustraße	DZ	749	yes	missing	
22	Parkanlage Schrickgasse	DZ	787	yes	missing	
22	Reinholdgasse	DEA	3,346	yes	missing	
22	Seepark	DZ	2,868	yes	missing	
22	Teich Hirschstetten	DEA	28,630	missing	missing	
22	Thonetgasse	DEA	1,804	yes	missing	
22	Wagramer Straße/Lieblgasse	DZ	687	yes	missing	
22						140,277 m <sup>2</sup>
						17 DZ & 6 DEA
23	Altmannsdorfer Straße A	DZ	463	yes	missing	
23	Altmannsdorfer Straße B	DZ	413	yes	missing	
23	Anton-Krieger-Gasse	DEA	5,713	missing	missing	
23	Draschegründe	DEA	3,032	yes	missing	
23	Draschepark	DEA	15,060	missing	missing	
23	Fridtjof-Nansen-Park	DZ	1,619	yes	missing	
23	Grünanlage Liesinger Platz	DZ	161	yes	yes	
23	Herbert-Mayr-Park	DZ	2,500	yes	missing	
23	Kellerberg	DEA	3,057	yes	missing	
23	Michael-Bausback-Park	DZ	3,898	yes	yes	
23	Ölzelpark	DZ	355	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Auer-Welsbach-Straße	DZ	1,298	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Endemanngasse	DZ	456	yes	yes	
23	Parkanlage Gaulgasse	DZ	6,485	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Pölleritzergasse	DEA	3,264	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Riegermühle	DZ	1,220	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Siedlung Wienerflur	DZ	1,329	yes	missing	
23	Parkanlage Theophil-Hansen-Gasse	DZ	5,336	yes	yes	
23	Parkanlage Wilhelm-Erben-Gasse	DEA	5,304	missing	missing	
23	PaN-Park	DZ	658	yes	missing	
23	Wohnparkstraße	DZ	1,327	yes	missing	
23						62,948 m <sup>2</sup>
						15 DZ & 6 DEA
ALL						414,871,018 m <sup>2</sup>
						162 DZ & 41 DEA

## 12.2 Popularity of dog ownership in Vienna at a district level

### Legend:

number of dogs per 100 inhabitants in the district:

- 1.7 to 2 dogs
- up to 2.5 dogs
- up to 3 dogs
- up to 3.5 dogs
- up to 4 dogs
- up to 4.4 dogs



**Figure 32.** Number of dogs that are kept in districts of Vienna in relation to the population of the district (2021), own representation. (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 55, 62)

Figure 32 shows how popular dog ownership is in Vienna's different districts. The trend is clear: citizens in the outer districts of Vienna decide more often to own a dog than citizens in the inner districts. In the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> districts, there are more than four dogs for every 100 residents. This trend might be explained by the fact that the outer districts show more sprawling patterns of settlement (and more private gardens) as well as more readily available access to big natural areas that can be visited with dogs such as meadows and forests. However, the first district is an interesting exception to the overall pattern with 3.08 dogs for every 100 residents. The fifth district has the least dogs per residents with only 1.72 dogs per 100 residents.

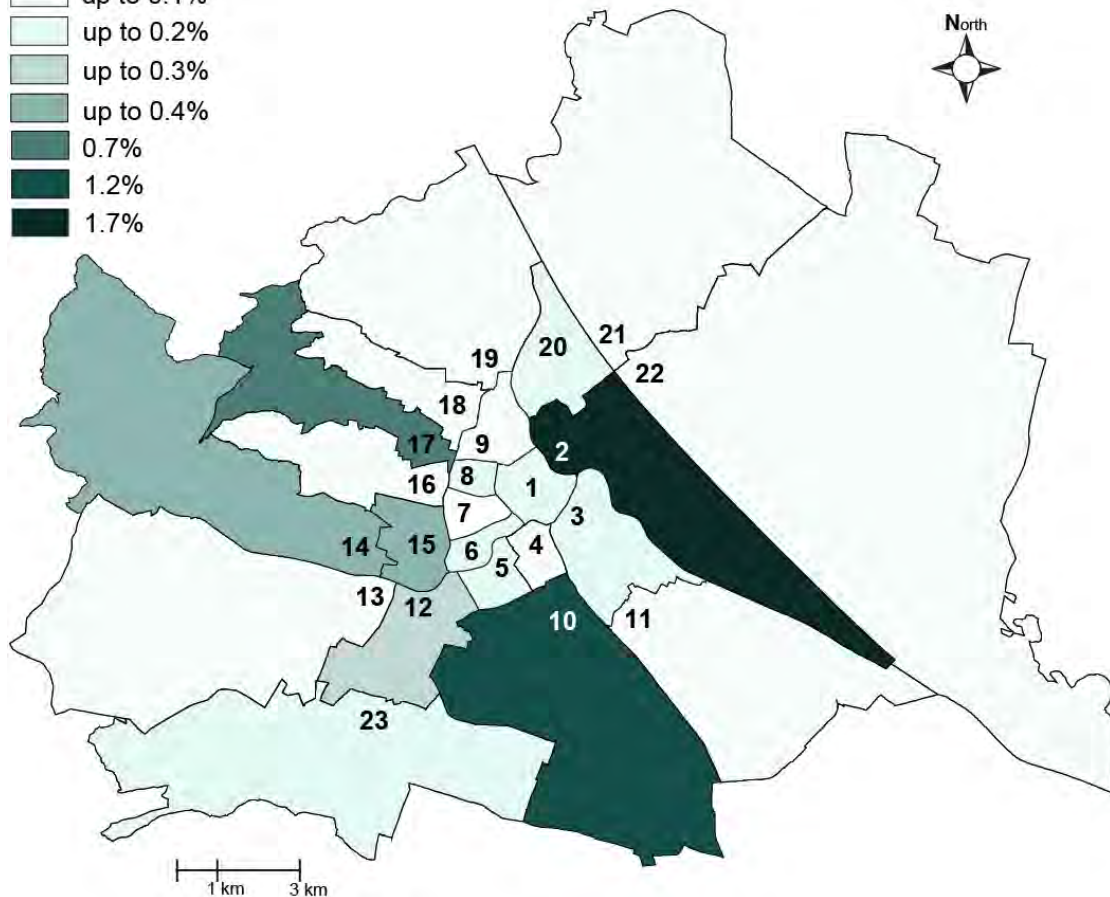
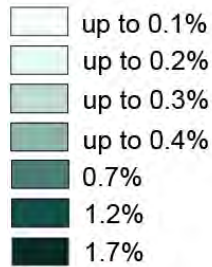
**Table 13.** Detailed look at number of dogs that are kept in districts of Vienna in relation to the population of the district (2021), own representation. (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 55, 62)

<b>district</b>	<b>district name</b>	<b>dogs / 100 inhabitants (2021)</b>
1	Innere Stadt	3.08
2	Leopoldstadt	2.47
3	Landstraße	2.45
4	Wieden	2.09
5	Margareten	1.72
6	Mariahilf	1.92
7	Neubau	1.93
8	Josefstadt	2.00
9	Alsergrund	2.22
10	Favoriten	2.44
11	Simmering	3.28
12	Meidling	2.45
13	Hietzing	3.73
14	Penzing	3.13
15	Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus	1.79
16	Ottakring	1.98
17	Hernals	2.47
18	Währing	2.77
19	Döbling	3.67
20	Brigittenau	2.12
21	Floridsdorf	4.18
22	Donaustadt	4.42
23	Liesing	3.93
ALL	Vienna	2.95

## 12.3 Availability of dog sites in Vienna at a district level

### Legend:

relation of dog sites available  
to total district size:



**Figure 33.** Total area of dog sites in the districts of Vienna in relation to the total area of the districts (2022), own representation. (cf. City of Vienna 2022, MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 15)

Figure 33 shows how many percent of the total space in the districts is labelled as a dog site. The data suggest that the second district might be the best district to keep a dog as 1.74% of the total district area consists of dog sites. The second district is followed by the 10<sup>th</sup> district (1.21%), 17<sup>th</sup> district (0.72%), 15<sup>th</sup> district (0.44%) and 14<sup>th</sup> district (0.38%). Ten of the 23 districts have less than 0.1% of their total area consisting of dog sites.

It is very important to note that this kind of analysis does not take into account other important factors which influence “dog-friendly” dog husbandry:

1. The outer districts have more single family housing with private gardens, meaning that more people in the outer districts can let their dogs run around in their own private gardens.
2. The outer districts have more green space in general, meaning easier/faster access to low-stress environments for dogs in comparison to the inner city.
3. The actual size of individual dog sites in the immediate living environment of people determines how good their access to a high-quality dog site is.

**Table 14.** Detailed look at the total area of dog sites in the districts of Vienna in relation to the total area of the districts (2022), own representation. (cf. City of Vienna 2022, MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 15)

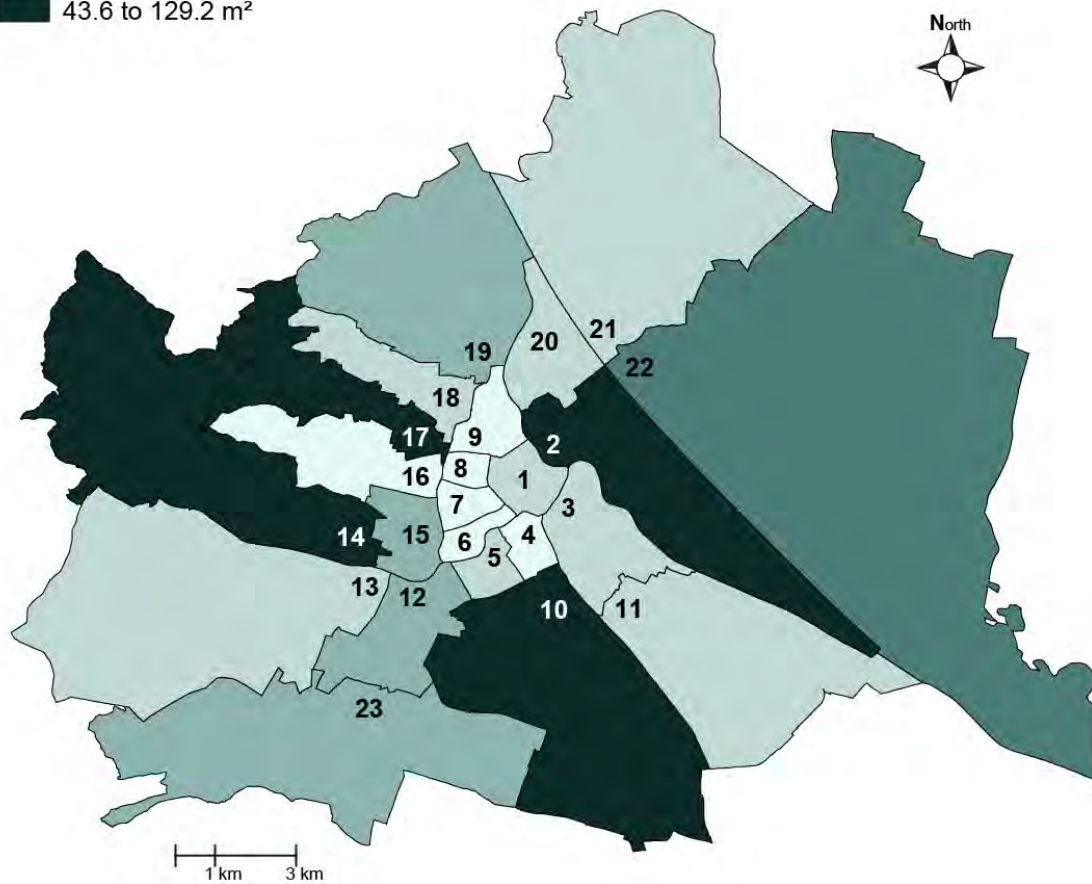
<b>district</b>	<b>district name</b>	<b>dog site area / district area (2021)</b>
1	Innere Stadt	0.17%
2	Leopoldstadt	1.74%
3	Landstraße	0.21%
4	Wieden	0.06%
5	Margareten	0.25%
6	Mariahilf	0.16%
7	Neubau	0.04%
8	Josefstadt	0.19%
9	Alsergrund	0.06%
10	Favoriten	1.21%
11	Simmering	0.09%
12	Meidling	0.30%
13	Hietzing	0.04%
14	Penzing	0.38%
15	Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus	0.44%
16	Ottakring	0.04%
17	Hernals	0.72%
18	Währing	0.14%
19	Döbling	0.11%
20	Brigittenau	0.19%
21	Floridsdorf	0.10%
22	Donaustadt	0.14%
23	Liesing	0.20%
ALL	Vienna	0.32%

## 12.4 Use pressure on dog sites in Vienna at a district level

### Legend:

m<sup>2</sup> of dog sites available per dogs in the district:

- 1.2 to 5.0 m<sup>2</sup>
- up to 10.0 m<sup>2</sup>
- up to 15.0 m<sup>2</sup>
- 15.9 m<sup>2</sup>
- 43.6 to 129.2 m<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 34.** Availability of dog sites in the districts of Vienna in relation to dog population (2021), own representation. (cf. City of Vienna 2022, MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 55)

Since figure 34 shows how much space there is available in dog sites per dog in the district, it lets us estimate how much use pressure can be expected on the dog sites in the different districts. Less space per dog means a higher use pressure. The analysis lets planners estimate roughly in which districts there is a need to plan more or bigger dog sites based on the current dog population.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> districts all have less than 5 m<sup>2</sup> of dog sites available per dog in the district, which means that it can be expected that the

dog sites in these districts will be particularly crowded. It can be expected that dog owners in these districts will often not be able to use the dog sites because of too many visitors present, especially during busy hours such as in the early morning and in after work hours (see also chapter 17).

The fifth district, which is the focus of this thesis, also has only 5.4 m<sup>2</sup> of dog sites available per dog in the district, which puts it above the lowest category in figure 34. However, this is still a very low number, so the expected use pressure on the dog zones of the fifth district is very high.

Four out of 23 districts have more than 25 m<sup>2</sup> available for each dog in the district, with the second district having about 129.2 m<sup>2</sup> per dog in the district. This anomaly is easily explained: the Prater-park takes up over 30 percent of the district, and while the whole area is not a dog site, the biggest dog site in Vienna is located in the Prater. (cf. City of Vienna 2022)



**Table 15.** Detailed look at how much user pressure can be expected on dog sites in the different districts (2021). (cf. City of Vienna 2022)

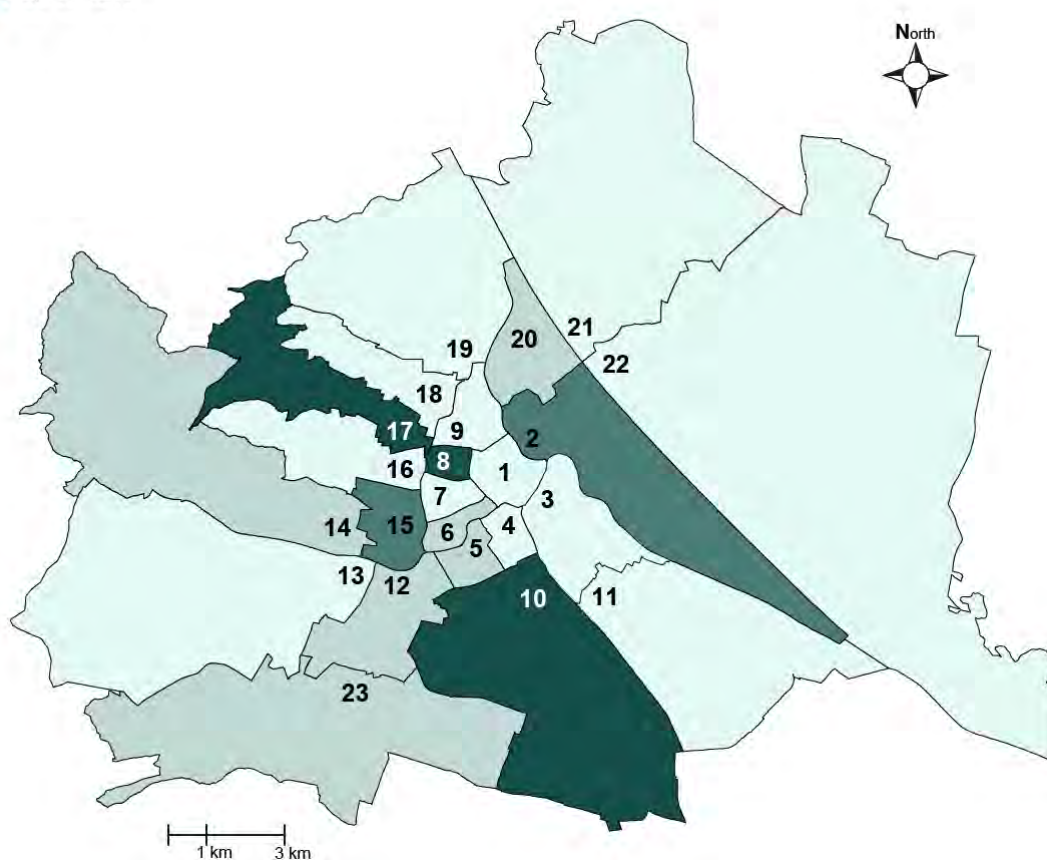
<b>district</b>	<b>district name</b>	<b>m<sup>2</sup> dog sites / dogs (2021)</b>
1	Innere Stadt	9.8
2	Leopoldstadt	129.2
3	Landstraße	6.8
4	Wieden	1.4
5	Margareten	5.4
6	Mariahilf	3.8
7	Neubau	1.2
8	Josefstadt	4.4
9	Alsergrund	2.0
10	Favoriten	75.3
11	Simmering	6.3
12	Meidling	10.1
13	Hietzing	7.6
14	Penzing	43.6
15	Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus	12.7
16	Ottakring	1.8
17	Hernals	59.0
18	Währing	6.2
19	Döbling	10.5
20	Brigittenau	6.0
21	Floridsdorf	6.1
22	Donaustadt	15.9
23	Liesing	14.3
ALL	Vienna	23.7

## 12.5 Ratio of dog sites to park sites and lawns in Vienna at a district level

### Legend:

relation of area of dog sites to total area of park sites and lawns in the district:

- 1 to 3%
- up to 6%
- up to 9%
- up to 12%



**Figure 35.** Total area of dog sites in the districts of Vienna in relation to total area of park sites and lawns in the districts (2022), own representation. (cf. City of Vienna 2022, MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 15, 52)

While chapter 12.3 shows how many percent of a district consists of dog sites, Figure 35 shows the relationship between the area of dog sites and the area of the sum of park sites and lawns in the districts. This relationship is especially interesting since the combination of park sites and lawns make up the area in districts that have the potential of including dog sites.

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The analysis shows that most districts still seem to have the potential to dedicate more areas to dog sites, as 12 out of 23 districts have made less than 3% of the area of their parks and lawns available as dog sites.

The analysis is also very interesting to combine with the analysis of use pressure on dog sites (see chapter 12.4), which showed that the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> districts have an extremely high use pressure on their dog sites. Despite this, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> districts have dedicated less than 3% of their park sites and lawns to dog sites. This means that at least in these four districts, not only a need for bigger or more dog sites can be expected, but these four districts might also have the necessary space available to develop their dog site infrastructure.

On the other hand the analysis also shows that while the eight district has an extremely high use pressure on its dog sites, it also has already dedicated a relatively large amount (9.6%) of its few green sites to dog sites, so it can be argued that there is simply not enough space available for further dog sites in the district.

**Table 16.** Detailed look at total area of dog sites in the districts of Vienna in relation to total area of park sites and lawns in the districts (2022), own representation. (cf. City of Vienna 2022, MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 15, 52)

<b>district</b>	<b>district name</b>	<b>area dog sites / area park sites &amp; lawns (2021)</b>
1	Innere Stadt	2.9%
2	Leopoldstadt	8.3%
3	Landstraße	2.7%
4	Wieden	1.2%
5	Margareten	5.5%
6	Mariahilf	5.4%
7	Neubau	1.9%
8	Josefstadt	9.6%
9	Alsergrund	1.2%
10	Favoriten	11.7%
11	Simmering	2.0%
12	Meidling	6.0%
13	Hietzing	0.4%
14	Penzing	5.2%
15	Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus	7.5%
16	Ottakring	1.6%
17	Hernals	12.1%
18	Währing	1.1%
19	Döbling	2.0%
20	Brigittenau	3.8%
21	Floridsdorf	1.5%
22	Donaustadt	1.3%
23	Liesing	3.5%
ALL	Vienna	3.8%

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## 12.6 Limitations of a district level analysis

These types of rough analyses serve to paint an overall picture of the situation and make comparisons between the different districts. Since in Vienna decisions about dog sites are made on a district level, a comparison between the districts is especially interesting.

These analyses can pose a help in the identification of districts in which there might be a need for future developments of the dog site infrastructure, and they also let planners estimate where there might be some potential for future developments. Of course, no concrete planning decisions can be made based on such rough analyses.

A heavily zoomed out district level analysis is not a perfect representation of any given situation, as it contains problems: for a regular citizen, district borders are not relevant. Furthermore, a district level analysis does not contain any information about how the resources are distributed within the district: a certain part of any given district might have great infrastructure while another part might have none. The distribution of the dog-site-resources inside of any given district can vary a lot, as seen in the example of the fifth district of Vienna (see chapter 13.3). What is actually important is the actual living environment of any given citizen, including the spatial resources within a walking distance from their apartment.

A detailed look at individual sites is always necessary to understand the real situation. This detailed analysis will be presented for the research area of the fifth district of Vienna.

## PART 4: CASE STUDY – ANALYSIS OF DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA



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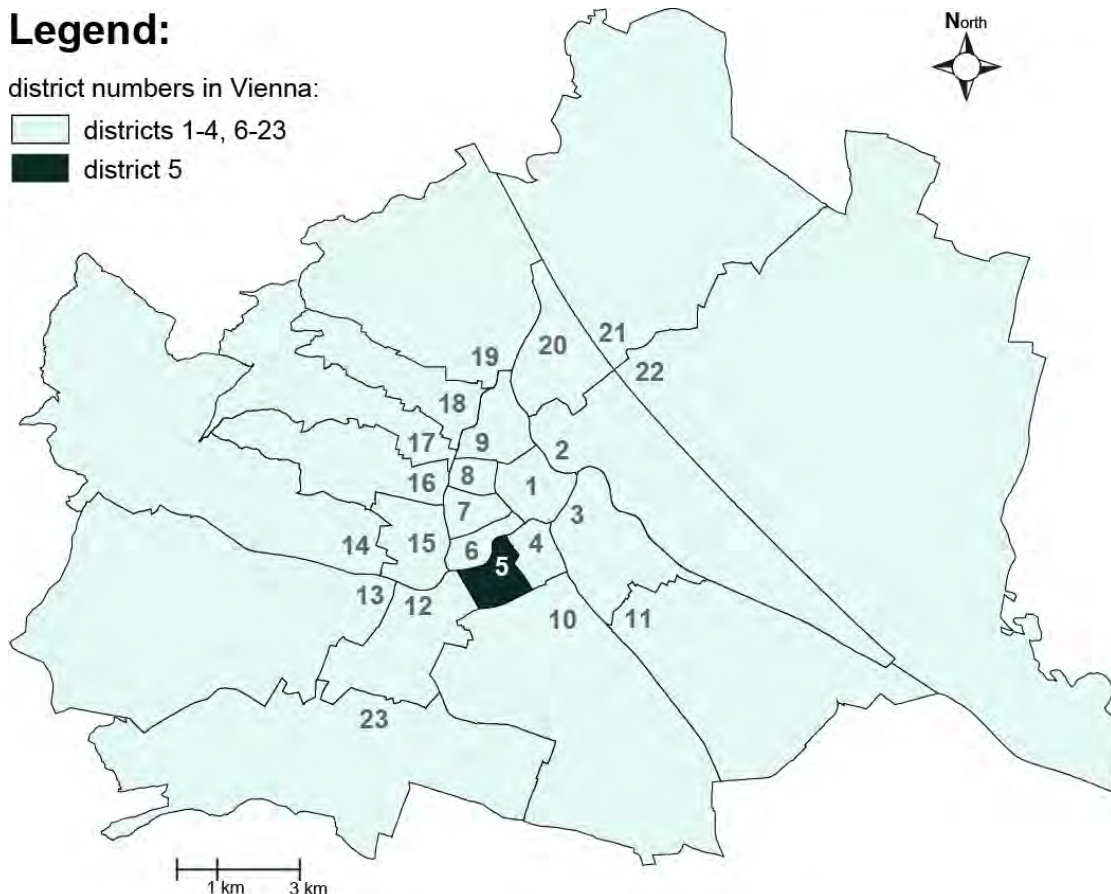
## 13 Introduction to dog zones in Margareten, the fifth district of Vienna

### 13.1 Introduction to Margareten, the fifth district of Vienna and its dog zones

#### Legend:

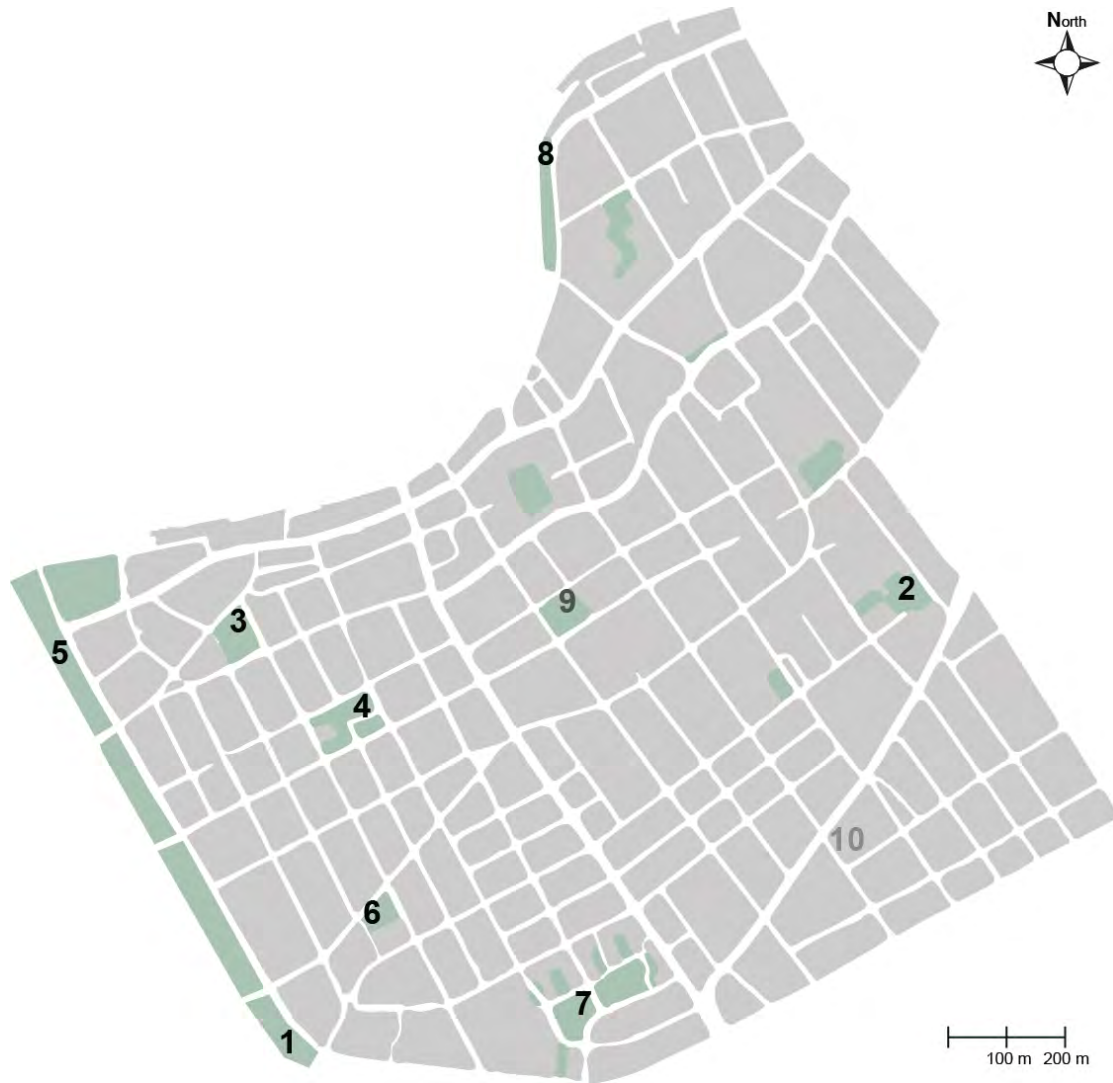
district numbers in Vienna:

-  districts 1-4, 6-23
-  district 5



**Figure 36.** Location of the fifth district of Vienna in the city (2022), own representation.

The fifth district of Vienna is called Margareten. It has a size of 201 hectares and with 27,029 residents per km<sup>2</sup> it is the most densely populated district of the city. With only 1.72 dogs per 100 residents it also has the least amount of dogs per capita (see chapter 12.2). However, the use pressure on the dog zones of the district can be expected to be high, as there are only 5.4 m<sup>2</sup> of dog sites per dog available. In the district, 5.5% of the total area of parks is dedicated to dog zones. The district has no “lawns” and no dog exercise areas. As of 2022, the district has eight “proper” and one “temporary” dog zone with a total area of about 5,100 m<sup>2</sup>. (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 15, 55, 62)



**Figure 37.** Map of all dog zones within the fifth district of Vienna (2022), own representation.

Figure 37 shows all dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna:

1. Dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone (2,915 m<sup>2</sup>)
2. Dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (276 m<sup>2</sup>)
3. Dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm (214 m<sup>2</sup>)
4. Dog zone in Einsiedlerpark (214 m<sup>2</sup>)
5. Dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park (463 m<sup>2</sup>)
6. Dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park (238 m<sup>2</sup>)
7. Dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park (354 m<sup>2</sup>)
8. Dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park (332 m<sup>2</sup>)
9. Temporary dog zone in Bacherpark (95 m<sup>2</sup>)
10. Former dog zone in Klieberpark

The dog zones in Margareten are the result of “historical developments”. Some of them do not fulfil the modern requirements, but back when they were established they did. The fencing at the dog zone at Ernst-Arnold-Park is too



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low and makes it possible for dogs to jump over it. The dog zone at Ernst-Lichtblau-Park is – for a large part – not fenced in at all. Every time a park with a dog zone is redesigned, the dog zone is also considered and adapted if deemed necessary. (cf. interview Mitis 2022)

Most of the dog zones in Margareten are rather small: the only dog zone that actually fulfils the minimum recommendation of 500 m<sup>2</sup> is the one at Parkanlage Mittelzone. In fact, the dog zone at Parkanlage Mittelzone alone makes up 57% of the total area of dog sites in the district. The fact that the dog zone is located at the very border of the district means that it also serves residents of the neighbouring 12<sup>th</sup> district, just as well as it serves residents of the fifth district. On the other hand its location leads to it not serving as many residents of the fifth district as would be desirable, since the rest of the dog zones in Margareten are very small.

### **13.2 Recent developments around dog zones in Margareten**

There used to be a very small (about 100 m<sup>2</sup>) dog zone in Klieberpark before it was redesigned in 2017 (cf. stadt-wien.at n.d.). Apparently a dog zone in Klieberpark was not considered as high of a priority back then when comparing it to other uses, like the community garden that was set up. It might be that the dog zone was considered so small that it would not have met the modern standards for a dog zone. People who used to use the dog zone in Klieberpark were asked to use the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park instead. (cf. interview Mitis 2022)

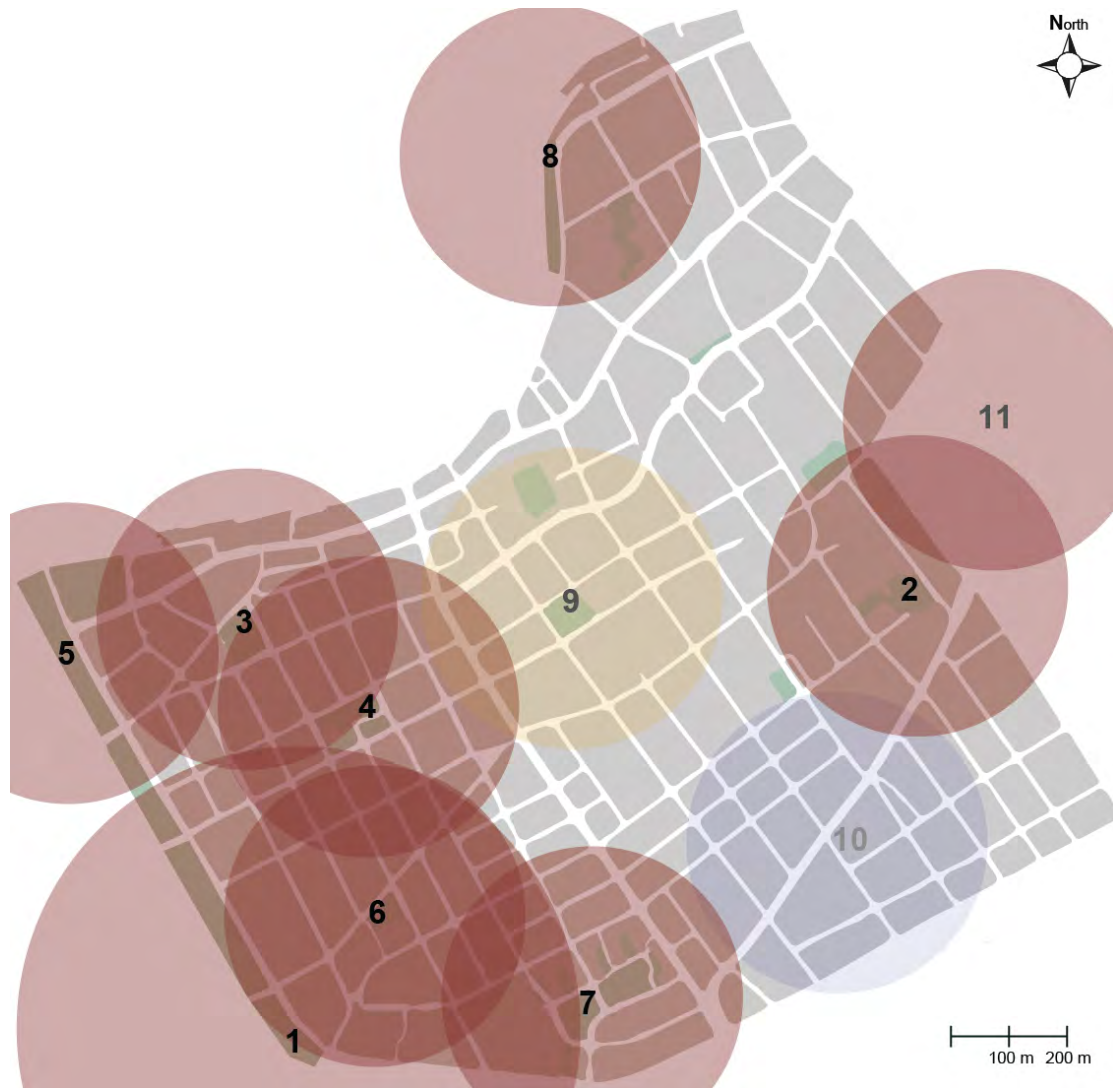
The temporary dog zone in Bacherpark is meant to serve as a replacement for the previous dog zone in the park which was removed in February of 2021 because it was in the way of a subway construction site. The replacement dog zone in Bacherpark is very small, but there was a wish from dog keepers for an alternative and the small, temporary solution is the only solution that could be currently provided. Once the subway construction has finished, it can be evaluated what kind of permanent dog zone can be (re)established in Bacherpark. (cf. interview Mitis 2022)

In spring of 2021 two political parties filed five applications regarding dog zones at the District Council of Margareten. The four applications by GRÜNE were about privacy screen foils, tree protections, shading and the illumination of dog zones in the district. The application of NEOS requested that all proper dog zones of the district should be evaluated and it should be determined how they could be designed in a more “climate-friendly” way. All parties agreed that the issue of dog zones should be attended to and the applications were sent to the District Council Committee for Environment for further deliberation before

making a decision. (cf. District Council of fifth district 2021: 4, NEOS 2021, interview Mitis 2022)

The District Council Committee for Environment decided to take a look at the current situation of the dog zones in the district and did an inspection at most of them. After that the Committee wrote a report about the results and what should be changed in the dog zones. The issues that were addressed were mostly small things, like missing “privacy screen foils” so dogs would not be distracted by people who were outside of the dog zones, and it was decided to set up some additional benches in some dog zones. The “digging pit” was also removed in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park because of the request of dog keepers who said that it is not being used; new benches were added in its place. After the report, the applications by the parties were withdrawn, because the issues were addressed. Withdrawing the applications was part of the formal process. All parties were satisfied with the results. Currently, there are no running plans regarding dog zones in the District Council. (cf. interview Mitis 2022)

### 13.3 Analysis of accessibility of dog zones in Margareten



**Figure 38.** Accessibility of all dog zones in the fifth district in Vienna within a radius of 250 metres (three minutes walking time) (2022). Radius of 500 metres (six minutes walking time) for dog zone at Parkanlage Mittelzone. Own representation.

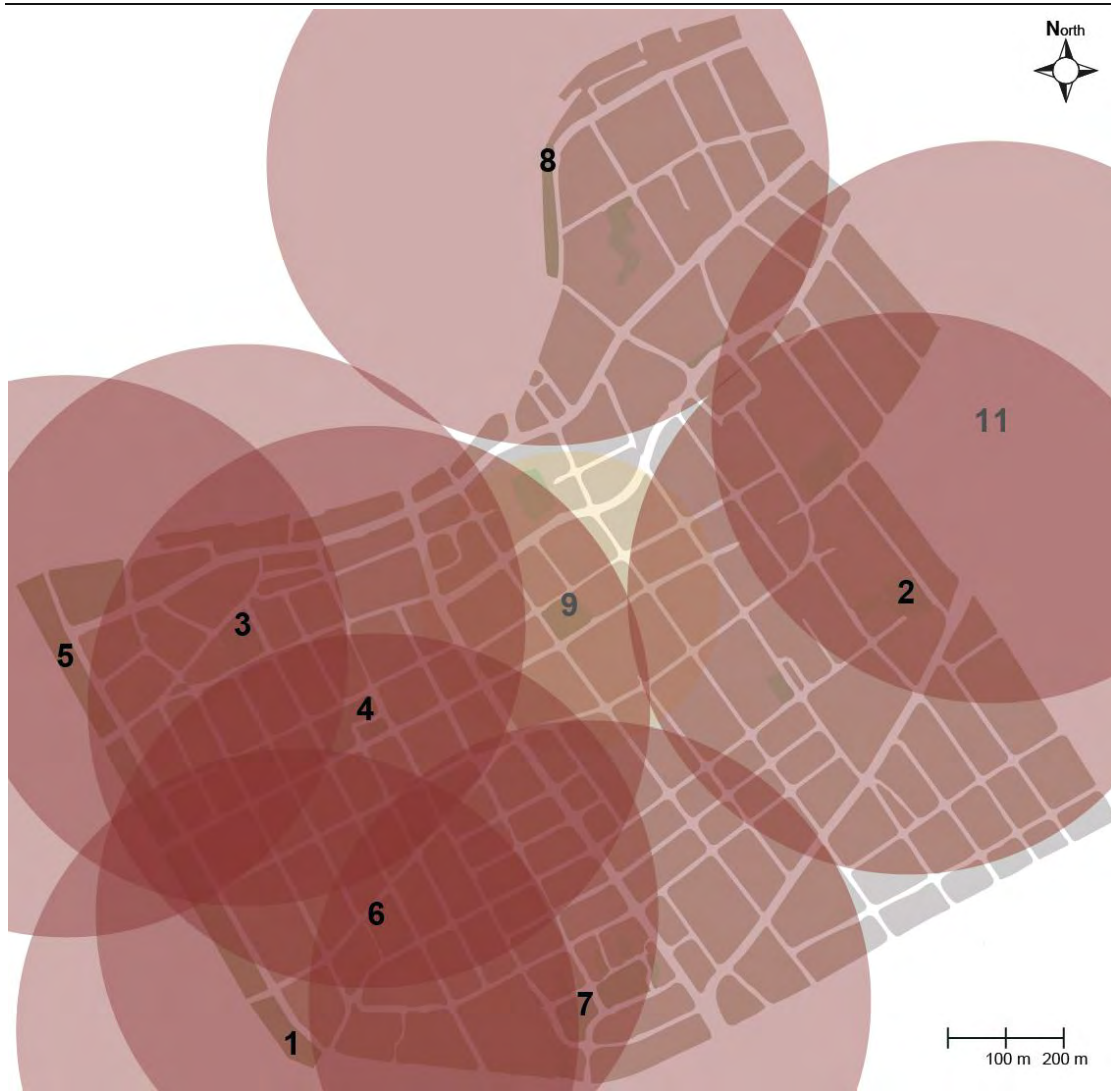
Figure 38 shows the accessibility of dog zones in Margareten within a radius of 250 metres which amounts to about three minutes walking time. For Parkanlage Mittelzone (1) a radius of 500 metres (about six minutes walking time) is used because of its significantly bigger size and higher quality for dogs.

Evidently, the distribution of dog zones in the district is uneven. Most dog zones are located in the western part of the district, the eastern part only has the dog zone Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (2) and the northern part only has Ernst-Arnold-Park (8). At least, Rubenspark (11) in the fourth district of Vienna also serves a part of the eastern fifth district with a close-to-home dog zone with a size of 353 m<sup>2</sup>.

The centre of the district is left with lacking infrastructure, the radius for the tiny temporary dog zone in Bacherpark (9) is differentiated in colour since it can hardly fulfil the purpose of a dog zone (see chapter 16.10).

A blue radius is also presented for the former dog zone in Klieberpark (10) in order to highlight how the location was actually quite important for providing the southern part of the district with a close-by dog zone. Roman Tretthahn from “Parkbetreuung Margareten” (“Park support Margareten”) explained in an interview that especially elderly people who cannot walk very far and who used to depend on the dog zone in Klieberpark have been negatively affected by the removal of the dog zone. (cf. interview Tretthahn 2022)

Regarding the use pressure, the 5.4 m<sup>2</sup> of dog sites per dog in the district was calculated by adding up the area of all dog zones in the district. On one hand, the dogs that live near the biggest dog zone at the edge of the district will realistically have more space available per dog, and the expected use pressure on the dog sites in the area will be smaller. On the other hand, the rest of the district is left with an even smaller amount of dog site per dog. This means that the lacking infrastructure in the north, east, south and the middle of the district heightens the use pressure on the few existing dog zones (Ernst-Arnold-Park, Bacherpark, Rudolf-Sallinger-Park but also Rubenspark) in these areas.



**Figure 39.** Accessibility of all dog zones in the fifth district in Vienna within a radius of 500 metres (six minutes walking time) (2022), own representation.

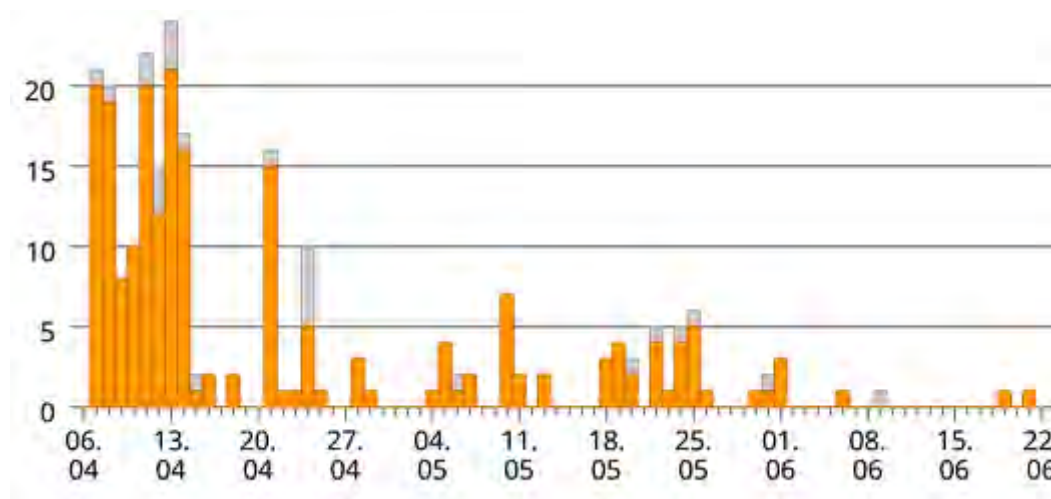
Figure 39 presents a more generous radius of 500 metres (about six minutes walking time) for every dog zone in Margareten, including Rubenspark (11) in the fourth district. In this map, only the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark (9) keeps a (yellow) radius of 250 metres because of its tiny size and low functionality as a dog zone. With this more generous radius, it can be concluded that almost the entire district is within a reasonable six-minute walking distance of a dog zone.

## 14 Analysis of the survey for dog owners in Margareten

### Margareten

#### 14.1 Collection of data for the survey

The evaluation of the dog zones in Margareten (chapter 16) is based on visits to the dog zones, interviews with dog owners and – most importantly – the survey conducted for the thesis. The survey was run from April 7<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, with most of the answers collected in the beginning of the answer collection period (see Figure 40).



**Figure 40.** Answer-statistics to the survey, answers per day. Orange: survey completed. Grey: survey aborted. Screenshot from SosciSurvey 2022, used with written permission from SosciSurvey.

In order to find as many suitable participants for the survey as possible within a reasonable data collection time frame, the researcher considered but decided against an approach to sample one dog zone at a time for equal time periods (such as two days per dog zone), because this would lead to a lot of wasted data collection time especially at dog zones which have a lower observed visitor frequency such as Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. Additionally, staying in or near a dog zone and repeatedly entering for further data collection for prolonged periods of time could bother some dog owners who wish to use the dog zone without such disturbance.

Therefore, it was decided to visit all nine dog zones as equally as possible and also hand out as many fliers outside of dog zones as possible while walking between the dog zones. This means that the researcher paid numerous visits to

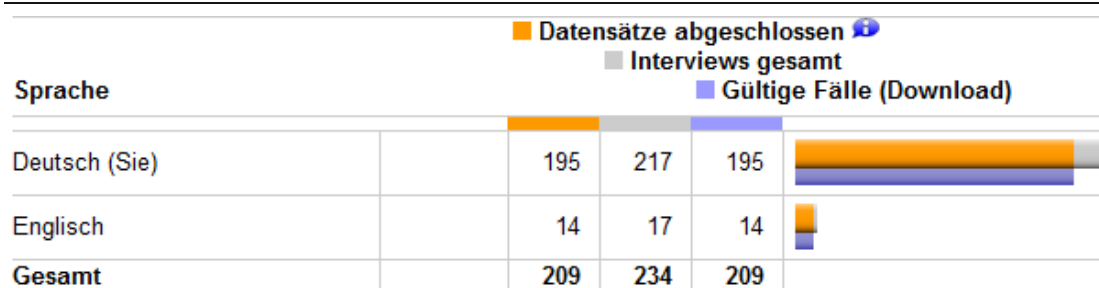
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all dog zones in Margareten. The dog owners present in the dog zones were presented the possibility to answer the survey on the researcher's 12.9-inch iPad Pro, which was used as a mobile option with a big touchscreen for a convenient answering experience for the participants.

Alternatively, they could answer the survey on their own internet-capable devices – for example at home – by using the link for the survey (<https://soscisurvey.de/hund1050>). The people who preferred to answer on their own devices were given a small flyer which included a short description of the theme of the survey, a link to the survey, a QR-code which opens the survey if scanned on a smart device and the e-mail address of the researcher in case the person is interested in the results of the survey. In order to reach more dog owners – and especially also those who do not visit dog zones – these flyers were also handed out to every person who was seen walking a dog in the fifth district. This means that flyers were handed out between the walks to different dog zones, but the researcher also walked around in all parts of the (relatively small) district specifically in order to hand out many flyers to dog owners outside of dog zones, too.

The days between April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> as well as April 21<sup>st</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> specifically were days which were spent collecting as many answers to the survey as possible. One reason why focused days yielded less answers over time was because the same people with dogs could be met repeatedly both inside and outside of dog zones and meeting a person with a dog who had not answered the survey yet – or had not already told the researcher that they were not interested – became increasingly rare over time.

By the time of closing the survey on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, the number of people who had answered the survey was 234. However, only 209 of these had completed the survey. Only completed surveys were taken into account in the analysis. Of these 209, six participants indicated that they did not own a dog, which ended the survey short for these people, disqualifying these answers from further analysis. This means that the analysis presented in chapters 15 and 16 is based on  $n = 203$  participants. Of the 203 participants, 172 lived in Margareten and they indicated that they owned a total of 187 dogs. Considering that the number of registered dogs in the fifth district of Vienna was 935 in 2021 (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 55), and the participants from the fifth district owned a total of 187 dogs, one can say that the survey represents 187 out of 935 dogs of the fifth district, which is exactly 20% of the dogs of the district. Furthermore, 31 people with a total of 33 dogs from other districts also participated in the survey. Of these 31 people from other districts, 21 indicated that they visit dog zones in Margareten.



**Figure 41.** Answers in German (Deutsch) and English (Englisch). Orange: survey completed. Grey: survey aborted. Blue: survey data included in download. Screenshot from SosciSurvey 2022, used with written permission from SosciSurvey.

## 14.2 Sampling bias through difficulty of data collection

If one or more dog owners answered the survey through the researcher's iPad Pro, it prolonged the researcher's presence in the dog zone, potentially leading to more people being reached in certain dog zones on certain days. If nobody was present in a dog zone during the researcher's presence in the vicinity of the dog zone, it would lead to shorter visits to these dog zones. Despite dozens of visits to all dog zones during all times of the day, only very few dog owners were reached, especially in the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. This can imply, but does not necessarily mean that this dog zone is visited significantly less than other dog zones in Margareten.

Despite the efforts to sample visitors from all dog zones equally and distributing over two hundred flyers outside of dog zones (an exact count was not kept), because of some possible sampling bias through the means of data collection it cannot be assumed that the survey represents the use patterns of the dog zones in Margareten perfectly. This does not change that the survey still represents about 20% of the dogs (and dog owners) in the district, which means that the relative sample size of the survey is high when compared to the "target population". The only significance of this limitation is, that the opinions of dog owners about the dog zones in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park and Stefan-Weber-Park cannot be analysed in the same way as opinions of dog owners about other dog zones, because few to no participants indicated that they visit these two dog zones the most, so there is too little data to analyse how these two dog zones are perceived by dog owners (see chapters 16.8 and 16.9). Since the perceptions of users of seven other dog zones are still analysed and because it could be very time consuming to gather comparable data about the two dog zones with less data, it was decided to not gather additional data about these dog zones for the sake of this thesis.



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## 14.3 Practices used in reporting survey results

An alpha level of .05 was used to determine significance for all statistical tests as is standard practice. Results between .05 and .10 were considered marginally significant to avoid “dichotomous threshold thinking” (Amrhein et al. 2017: 19).

The percentages presented in the text portion of the analysis of the results of the survey are always rounded to whole numbers and thus might not always appear to add up to 100%. Using rounded percentages in the text communicates more clearly that the percentually presented results of the survey should be taken as an approximation of reality and not as hard, factual numbers about dog owners in Margareten. On the other hand, in tables and figures which present the data gathered with the survey, percentages are presented with one decimal to better represent the results of the survey, since the emphasis there is to present the gathered data in more detail.

The following guidelines are used for reporting results from survey analyses (cf. American Psychological Association 2022):

- No zero is used before a decimal if the statistic cannot exceed 1.
- Exact p-values are reported with three decimals, p-values less than .001 are reported as “ $p < .001$ ”.
- Means and standard deviations for data measured on integer scales (e.g. answers to the survey) are reported with one decimal.
- Other means, standard deviations, proportions, correlations and inferential statistics are reported with two decimals.

## 14.4 Demographic data of respondents and sampling bias

To better understand the possible sampling bias, four demographic indicators (see chapter 5.6) were collected: gender, age group, self-assessed economic affluence and migratory background.

In regards to gender, the distribution of the participants was 65% female (132), 33% male (68) and 1% other (3). The significantly higher number of female participants is not surprising, as for example the four studies of Lauguilles et al. 2011 (cf. *ibid*: 547) and a study by Smith 2018 (cf. *ibid*: 12) show: women seem to be significantly more likely to participate in voluntary (online) surveys. The studies were conducted in academic settings, as in the respondents were academics. While this somewhat limits the generalizability of these studies, by June of 2022, Smith’s study had been cited 378 times in the citation index of the academic social network website researchgate.net in order

to “explain” a female gender bias in various study/survey responses, which does give further insight into to how common a gender bias towards more female participants in surveys appears to be (cf. ResearchGate 2022).

In regards to self-assessed economic affluence, 33% (67) of the participants answered that “there is enough money for basically anything, there is money left over for savings or larger investments”, 54% (109) of the participants answered that “the money is enough for everyday life without any problems, unexpected expenses would not be a problem either” and 13% (26) of the participants answered that “money is tight, unexpected expenses would be a problem”. One participant chose not to answer the question.

In 2021, 21.4% of the Viennese population was classified as being “at risk of poverty” (“armutsgefährdet”) (cf. Statistik Austria 2022: 13). By taking the Viennese average and applying it to the sample size of 202, it would be expected that 43 respondents would be “at risk of poverty”. A chi-square goodness of fit test that compares the number of responses to the lowest level of self-assessed economic affluence (26) to the expected value of 21.4% of the respondents (43) reveals that there is a significant difference between the sample and the population mean ( $\chi^2(1, n = 202) = 8.54, p = .003$ ). This means that the sample appears to be significantly more economically affluent than the mean population in Vienna.

It should be noted that the official definition of “at risk poverty” is directly tied to the income of a household, but the surveyed affluence is based on a personal feeling of “being at risk of poverty” and might not correlate perfectly with the official definition. Since they do however describe the same effect, it was seen as reasonable to compare these for the sake of this analysis.

The finding that there were less economically disadvantaged participants than in the general mean of the population is not surprising. According to Statista, the yearly costs for owning a dog in Austria are about 1,236 euros (cf. Statista 2021) which is at least 90% of one month’s worth of income of a one-person household that was considered to be “at risk of poverty” in 2021: the threshold was a monthly income of 1,371 euros (cf. Statistik Austria 2022: 19). This means that according to the study of Statista, someone “at risk of poverty” would need to dedicate about an entire month’s income every year just to own a dog. According to another study by ProntoPro (2020), dog ownership in Austria costs about 785 to 2,330 euros a year. It is likely that economically disadvantaged people are generally less likely to own a dog because of the high costs associated with owning a dog. With this factor in mind, the distribution of the measured economical affluence of the survey participants appears like a result that might represent the target population reasonably well.

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The age groups of the participants ( $n = 203$ ) were split as following:

- younger than 20 years: 1% (2)
- 20-29 years: 27% (55)
- 30-39 years: 29% (58)
- 40-49 years: 19% (39)
- 50-59 years: 12% (26)
- 60 years or older: 11% (23)

Only two participants were under 20 years, which is not surprising since children and teenagers were not targeted with the survey. Since there is no official demographic data about dog owners, it is not possible to tell whether this distribution is representative or skewed.

Of the participants who are residents of the fifth district ( $n = 172$ ), 55% (95) had no migratory background, while 45% (77) did. In 2021, about half (27,373) of the residents of Margareten did not have a migratory background while about half (27,000) did (cf. MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics 2021: 65). A chi-square goodness of fit test with the expected values (87 with no migratory background, 85 with a migratory background) was used to find out whether the observed difference in migratory background between the sample and the population of the district is significant. No significant difference could be detected ( $X^2(1, n = 172) = 1.49, p = .222$ ), meaning that there is no clear bias towards either “group” in the participants of the survey.

There is nothing that can be done post-hoc about the potential survey bias other than acknowledge that it might exist as indicated by the responses. Also, since there is no “population data” about the actual target group (dog owners), no hard conclusions about sampling bias can be reached. We simply do not know what percentage of dog owners are male or female, how wealthy they are and if people with a migratory background are more or less likely to own a dog. Because of the lack of comparable population data, it could also be that the survey participants are actually a very accurate representation of dog owners in the district.

## 15 General findings about dogs in Margareten

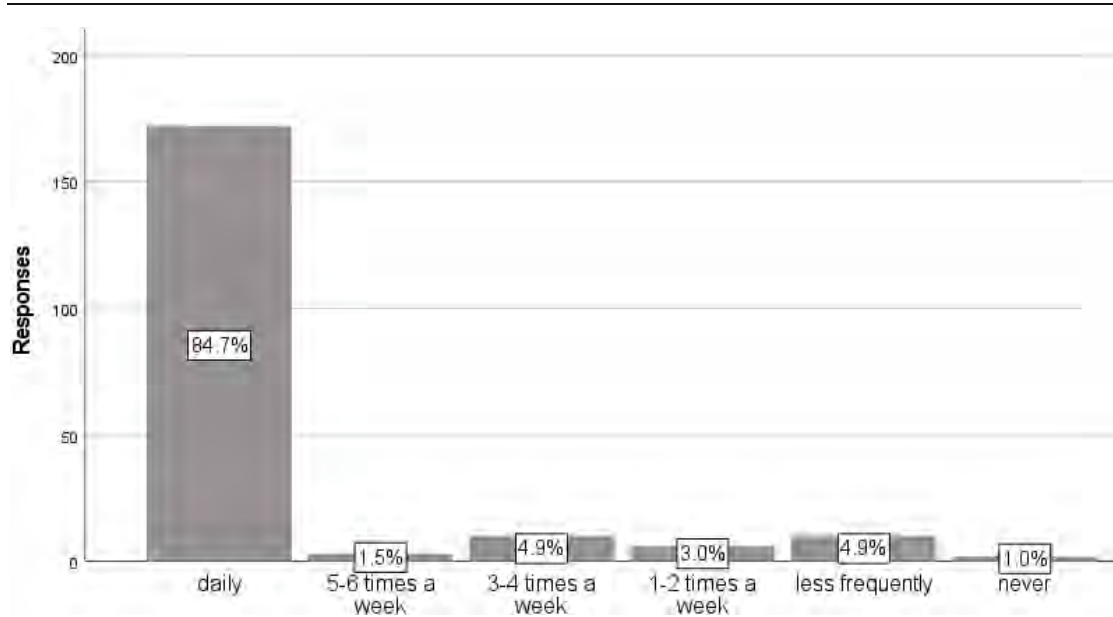
### 15.1 Leash use of survey participants in the city

Since one of the functions of dog zones is to provide a safe environment where dogs can move off-leash, it is interesting to know how many dog owners let their dogs move off-leash in the city outside of dog zones. In order to better understand the results of the survey, a contingency table showing the dog walking habits of the survey participants was created (see Table X). Of the survey participants ( $n = 203$ ), 78% (159) never walk their dog off the leash in the city and only 7% (14) walk their dog daily off-leash in the city.

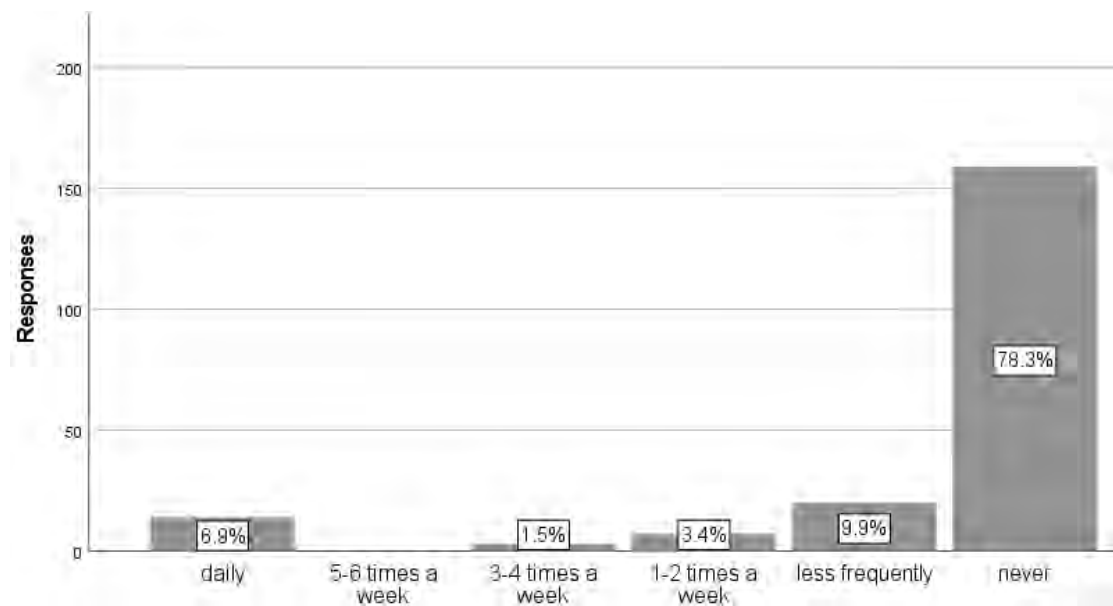
It was also examined whether there is a difference between the leashing habits of “small dogs” and “bigger dogs”. Of the participants with small dogs ( $n = 84$ ), 85% (71) never let their dogs walk off the leash in the city, while of the participants with bigger dogs ( $n = 119$ ), 74% (88) never let their dogs walk off the leash in the city. The significance of the difference between how often small and bigger dogs are walked off-leash in the city was calculated using the Mann-Whitney U Test and small ( $Mdn = \text{never}$ ) and bigger ( $Mdn = \text{never}$ ) dogs and determined to be marginally significant ( $U = 4462.00$ ,  $z = -1.81$ ,  $p = .071$ ) with a weak effect size  $r = .13$ .

**Table 17.** Dog walking habits in the city of all survey participants ( $n = 203$ ).

		Walking my dog off the leash in the city.					Total	
		never	less frequently	1-2 times a week	3-4 times a week	5-6 times a week		
<b>Walking my dog on the leash in the city.</b>	never	0.5%	-	-	-	-	0.5%	1.0%
	less frequently	3.4%	0.5%	-	-	-	1.0%	4.9%
	1-2 times a week	2.0%	0.5%	-	0.5%	-	-	3.0%
	3-4 times a week	4.4%	0.5%	-	-	-	-	4.9%
	5-6 times a week	1.5%	-	-	-	-	-	1.5%
	daily	66.5%	8.4%	3.4%	1.0%	-	5.4%	84.7%
<b>Total</b>		78.3%	9.9%	3.4%	1.5%	-	6.9%	100.0%



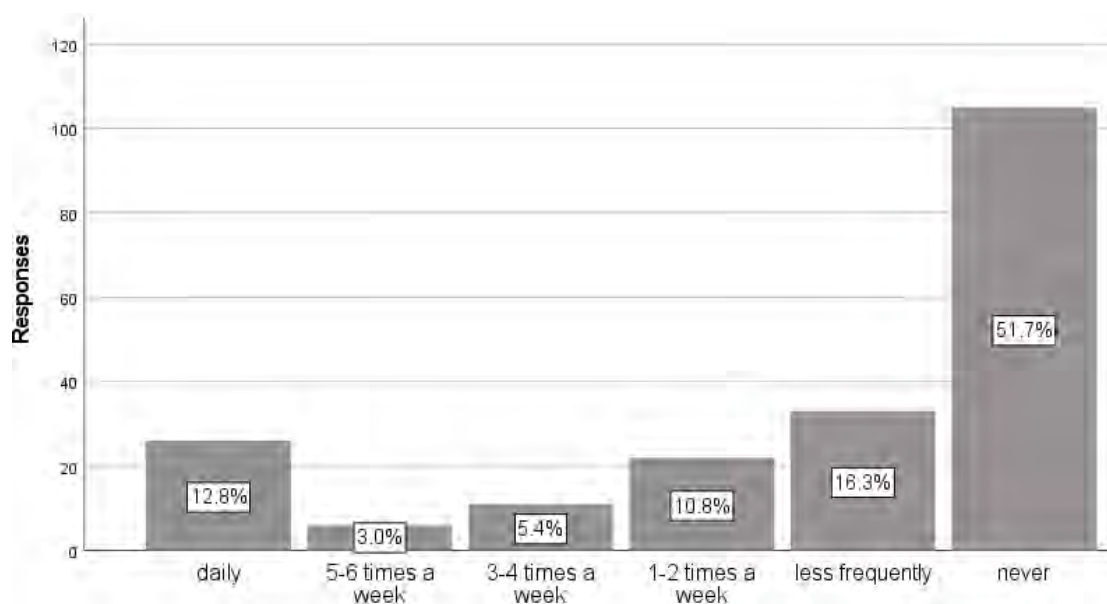
**Figure 42.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Walking my dog on the leash in the city.” ( $n = 203$ )



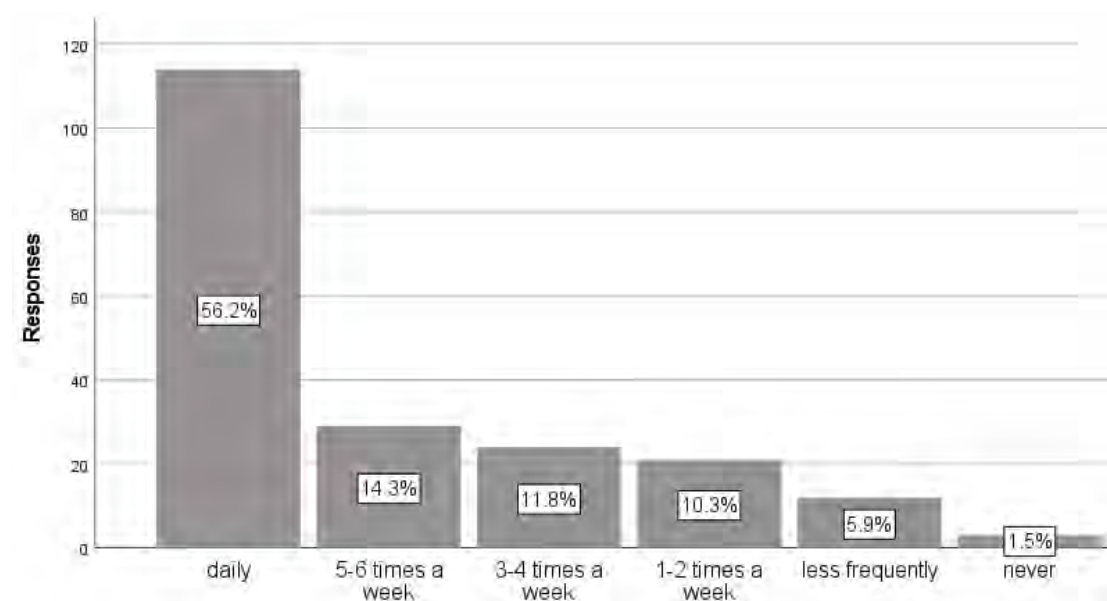
**Figure 43.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Walking my dog off the leash in the city.” ( $n = 203$ )

Of the participants, 13% (26) let their dogs run daily off-leash in their own gardens or courtyards while 52% (105) never do so (see Figure 44). When combining all categories of off-leash movement (off the leash in the city/parks/garden/courtyards or visiting dog zones) and only counting the highest answer in these per participant, it is revealed that 56% (114) of participants grant their dogs a specific form of off-leash movement every day

and 2% (3) of participants seem to never let their dogs move off-leash (see Figure 45).



**Figure 44.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Letting my dog run off the leash in my own garden or courtyard.” ( $n = 203$ )

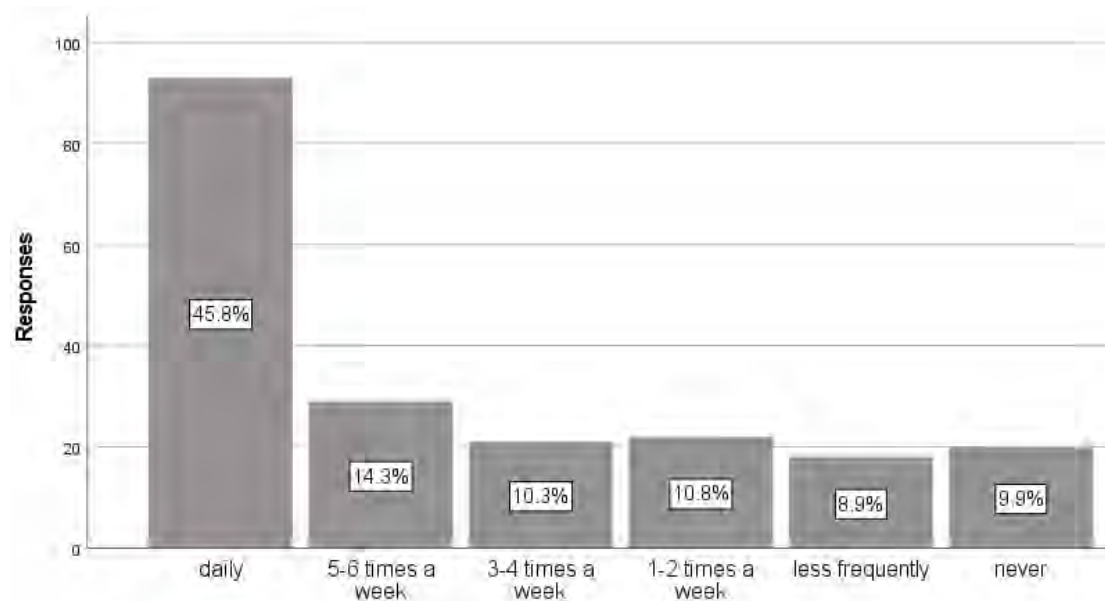


**Figure 45.** Combination of categories “walking my dog off the leash in the city”, “visit parks with my dog off the leash”, “visit a dog zone with my dog in the fifth district of Vienna”, “visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna” and “letting my dog run off the leash in my own garden or courtyard.” Only the highest response of these items counted per participant. ( $n = 203$ )

## 15.2 How survey participants use dog zones

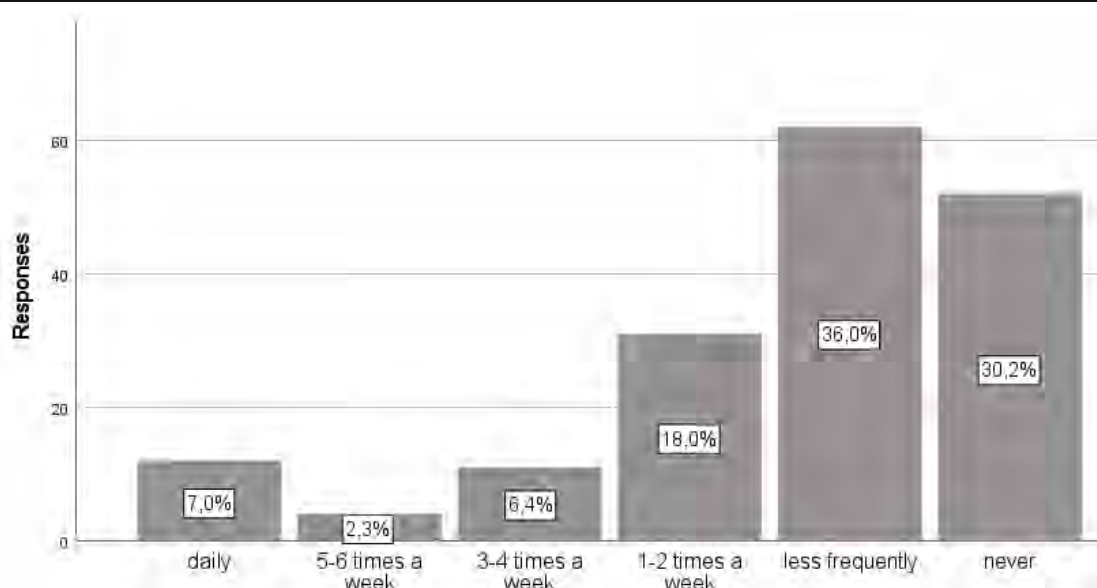
Of the participants ( $n = 203$ ), 16% (32) never visit dog zones in Margareten, these will be further discussed in chapter 15.4. Ten percent (20) never visit dog zones in Margareten or any other small dog zones outside of the district. On the other hand, 46% (93) of the participants visit a dog zone every day (see Figure 46).

A Mann-Whitney U Test was used to find out whether there is a difference in the way participants with small and bigger dogs visit dog zones, by testing the higher of the participants responses to the questions “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit a dog zone with my dog in the fifth district of Vienna” and “visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna.” There was no significant difference in how small ( $Mdn = 5$ -6 times a week) and bigger ( $Mdn = 5$ -6 times a week) dogs visit dog zones ( $U = 4929.50$ ,  $z = -.18$ ,  $p = .861$ ). This means that participants with small dogs and participants with bigger dogs visit dog zones equally as often.



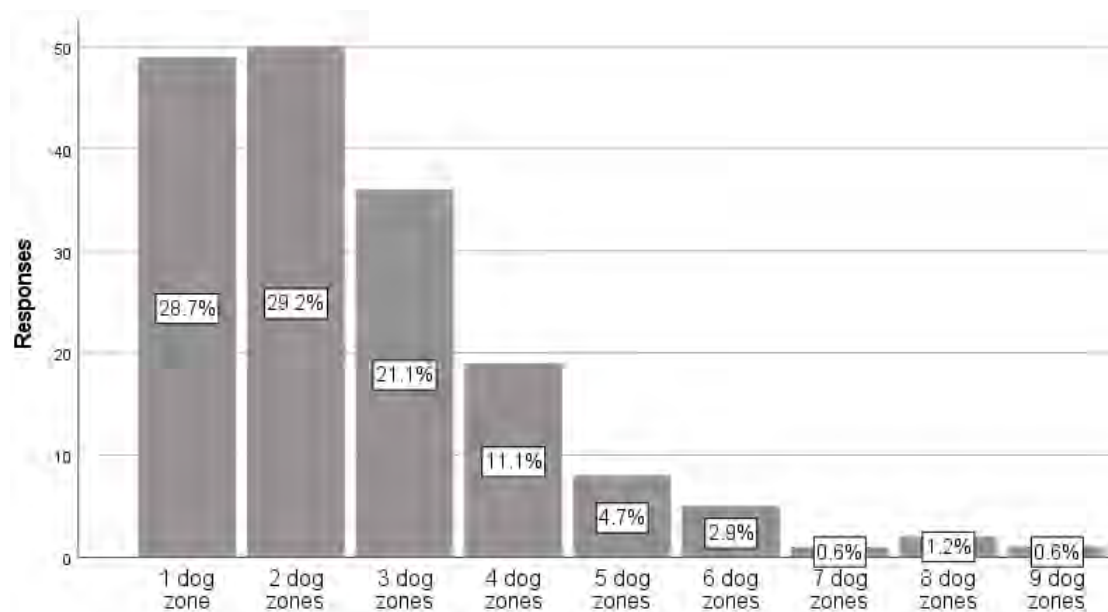
**Figure 46.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit a dog zone with my dog in the fifth district of Vienna” and “visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna.” Only the highest response to these items counted per participant. ( $n = 203$ )

Figure 47 shows that of the participants who live in Margareten ( $n = 172$ ), 34% (58) visit smaller dog zones outside of the district at least once a week, while 30% (52) never do so.



**Figure 47.** Responses of participants who live in the fifth district to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna.” ( $n = 172$ )

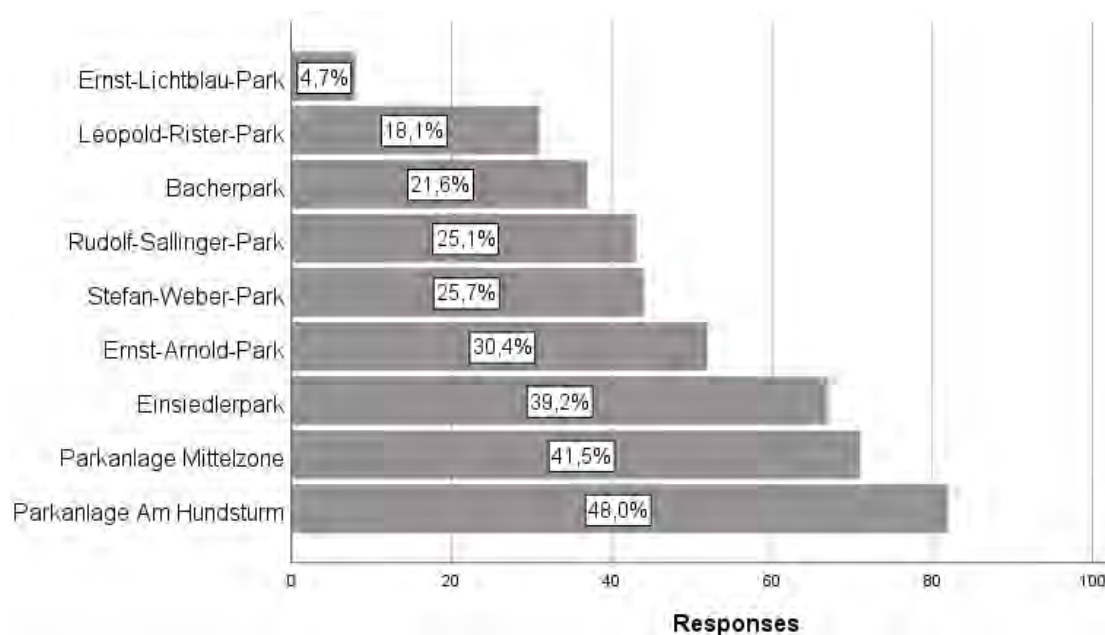
Of the participants who visit dog zones in Margareten ( $n = 171$ ), 29% (49) only ever visit one dog zone in the district and 42% (72) visit three or more dog zones within the district at least twice a year (see Figure 48). As discovered with a Welch’s t-test, there was no significant correlation between whether the participants live in Margareten ( $M = 2.59$ ,  $SD = 1.59$ ) or a different district ( $M = 2.24$ ,  $SD = 1.26$ ) and the number of dog zones the participant visits in the fifth district ( $t(29.63) = 1.15$ ,  $p = .261$ ).



**Figure 48.** Number of selected dog zones by participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district to: “Which of the following dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna do you visit at least twice in a year?” ( $n = 171$ )

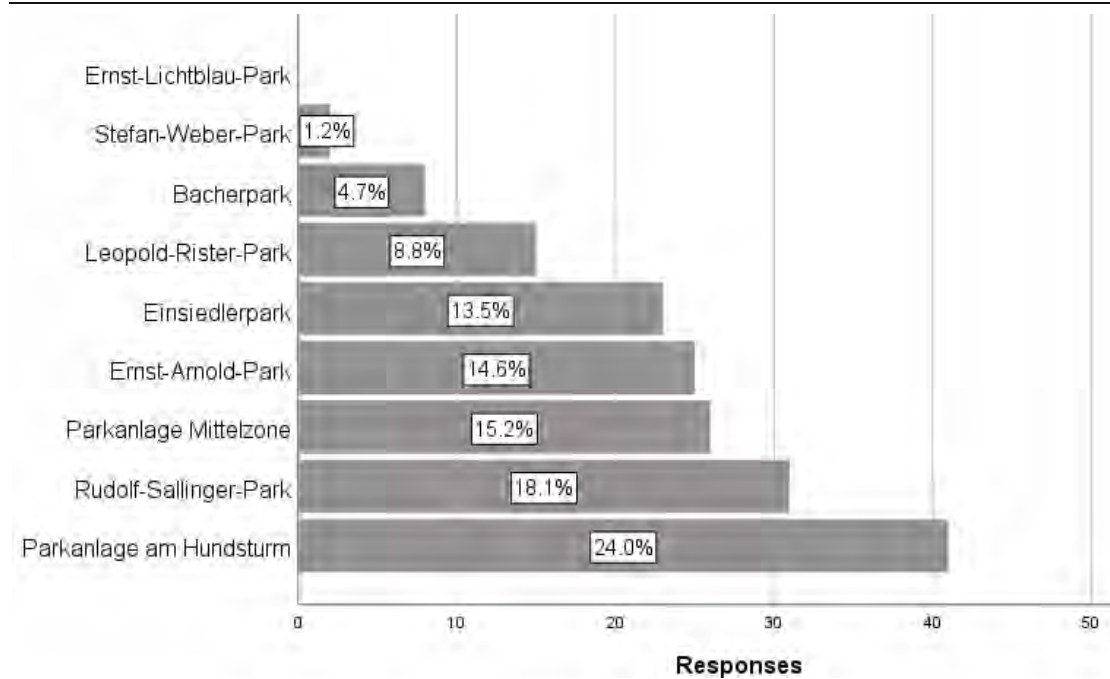


Figure 49 shows which dog zones in Margareten the participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ) visit at least twice a year. The most popular dog zone between the participants is Parkanlage am Hundsturm, which is visited by 48% (82) of the participants, followed by Parkanlage Mittelzone with 42% (71) and Einsiedlerpark with 39% (67). It is interesting to note that the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park is only visited by 5% (8) of the participants who visit dog zones in Margareten.



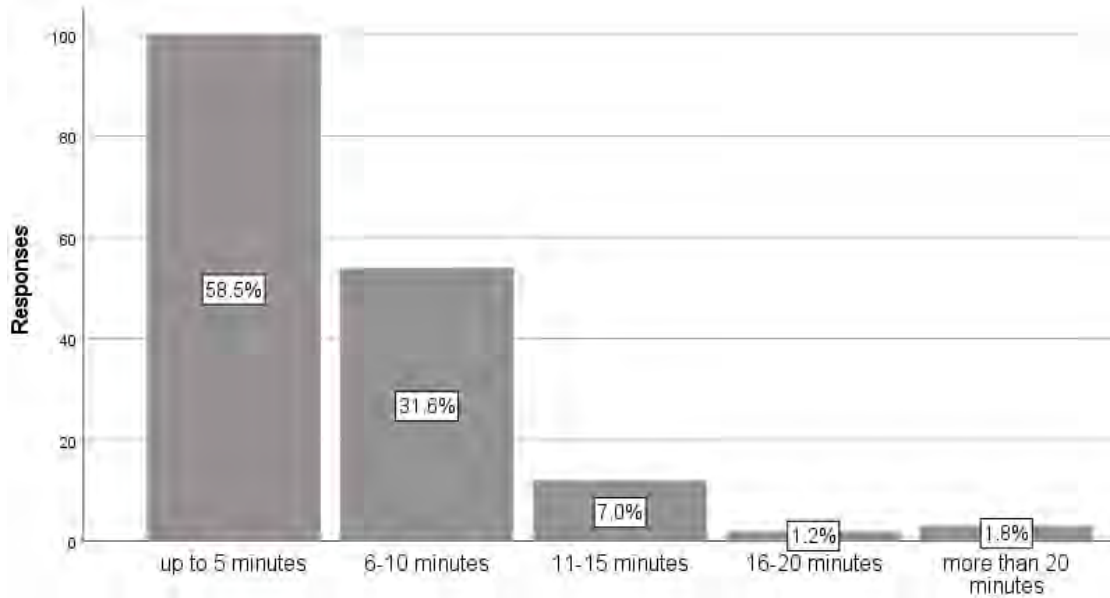
**Figure 49.** Selected dog zones by participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district to: “Which of the following dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna do you visit at least twice in a year?” The percentages exceed 100% because multiple selections were possible. ( $n = 171$ )

Figure 50 shows which dog zones the participants who visit dog zones in Margareten ( $n = 171$ ) visit most frequently. Going forward the “dog zones which the participants visit most frequently” will be referred to as “favourite dog zones”. Since the participants evaluated their favourite dog zones in Margareten in the survey, Figure 50 also shows the sample sizes which were used to evaluate the dog zones in chapter 16. Interesting to note is that while only two (1%) of the participants have the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park as their favourite dog zone, 26% (44) of the participants still visit it at least twice in a year. The reason for why few people have it as their most visited dog zone is probably its location: Stefan-Weber-Park is at the border of the district and it is also very close to the more centrally located Parkanlage am Hundsturm which is with 24% (41) the most favoured dog zone between the survey participants.

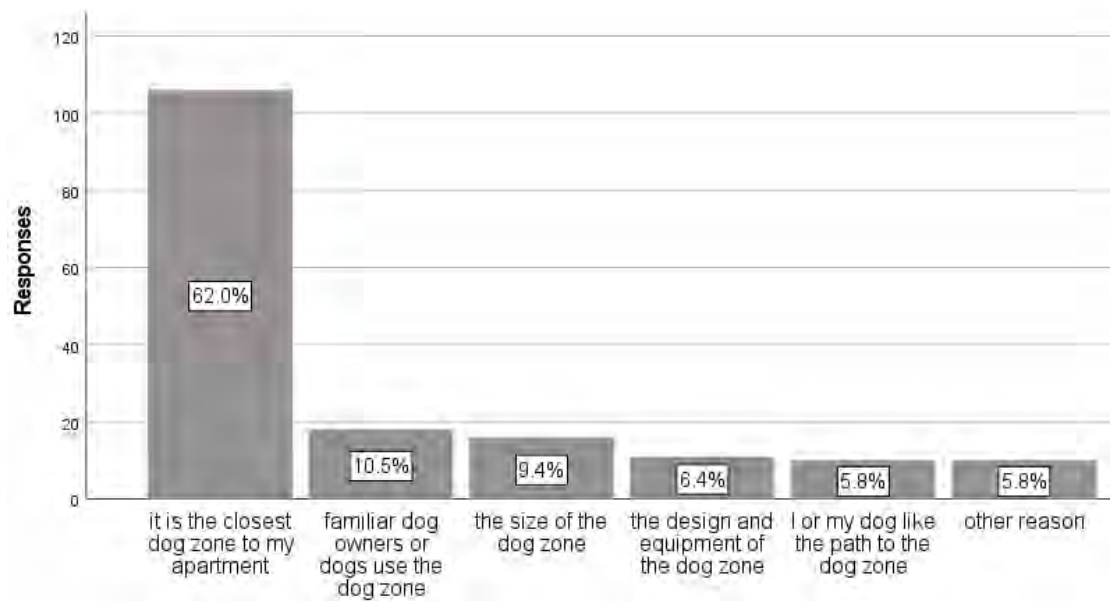


**Figure 50.** Responses to: “Which of the following dog zones do you visit most frequently?” ( $n = 171$ )

Figures 51 and 52 reveal that the participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ) heavily favour dog zones that are close to their homes: the favourite dog zone of 59% (100) of the participants is only up to five minutes away from their home. Only 10% (17) of the participants walk over ten minutes to their most visited dog zone. Selected by 62% (106) of the participants, closeness to their home is also rated as the most important reason why they visit their favourite dog zone the most. The second most selected reason with 11% (18) is that familiar dog owners or dogs use the dog zone and the third most selected reason with 9% (16) is the size of the favourite dog zone.



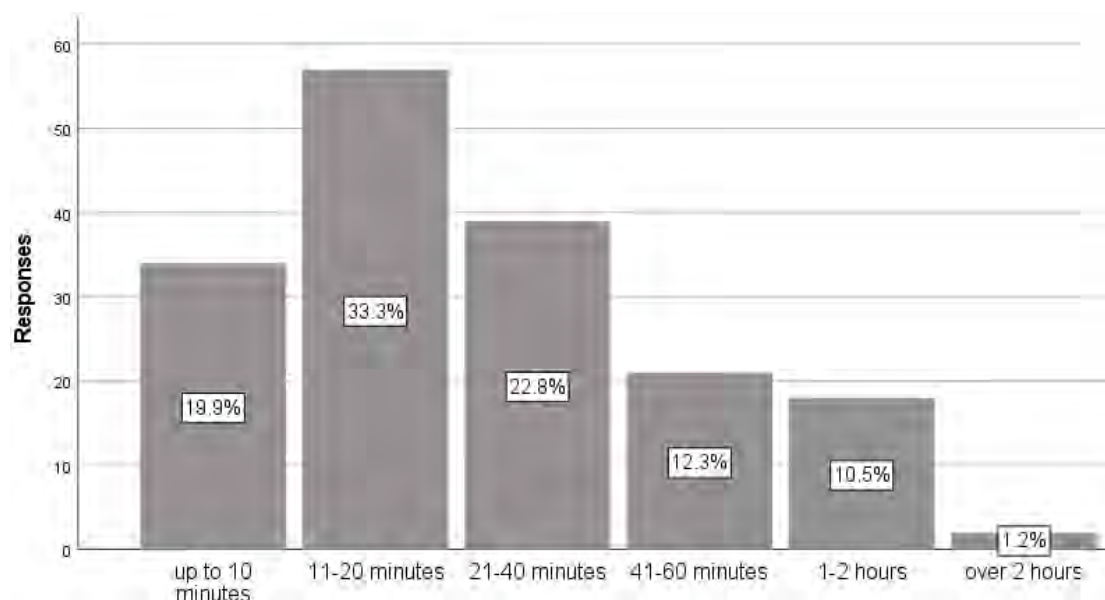
**Figure 51.** Responses to: “How far is the walk from your home to the dog zone you visit most frequently?” ( $n = 171$ )



**Figure 52.** Responses to: “What is the most important reason you visit this dog zone the most?” ( $n = 171$ )

Figure 53 shows that of the participants who visit dog zones in Margareten ( $n = 171$ ) 53% (91) usually stay up to 20 minutes in their favourite dog zone while 12% (20) usually stay over an hour. As the observations in chapter 17 show, these numbers in particular should be interpreted with much care: most observed visits to dog zones were under five minutes. It should be understood that a participant might for example visit dog zones followingly: less than five minutes in the morning, around 25 minutes after work and about 15 minutes in

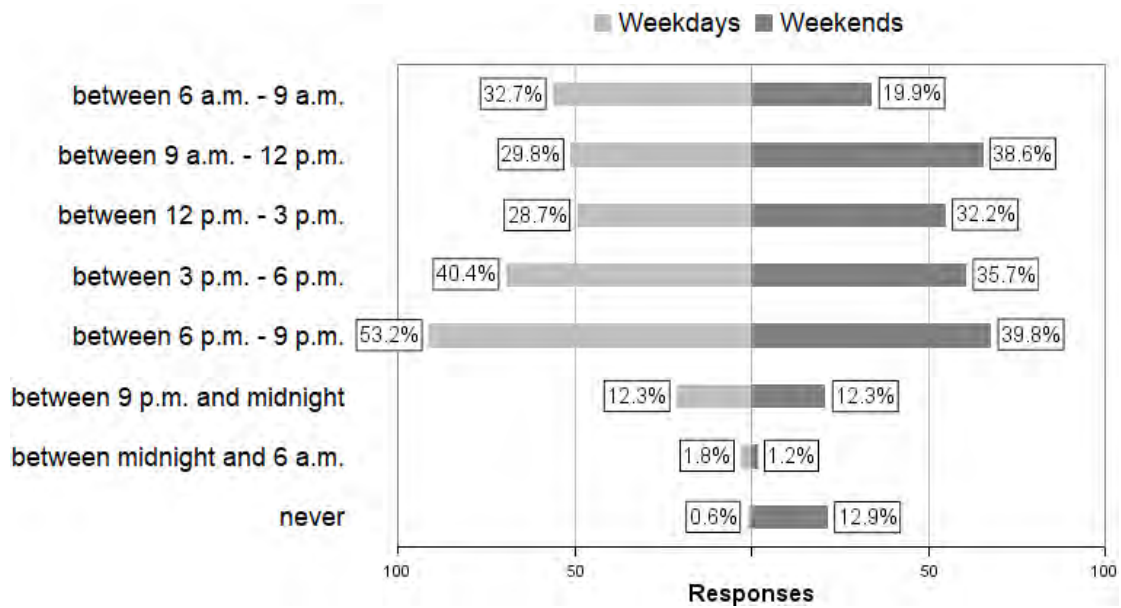
the late evening. What would such a participant select for this question? Perhaps 11-20 minutes as somewhat of a mean, maybe 21-40 minutes based on their longest stay during the day. If they added up all stays, they might even select 41-60 minutes. In retrospect, it would have been better to split up this question into multiple questions or word it differently.



**Figure 53.** Responses to: “How long do you usually stay in the dog zone that you visit most?” ( $n = 171$ )

Figure 54 shows during what times of the day participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ) usually visit their favourite dog zones. During the week, early mornings (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.) are more popular than during the weekend – because of this, later mornings (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) are more popular during the weekend. The popularity of the slot between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. is roughly the same during the week and the weekend. During the week the slots from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and especially 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. – with 53% (91) of the participants visiting dog zones around this time – are the most popular, probably because most people get off work around these times. During these times, the use pressure on dog zones is at its highest. It should be noted that many dog zones are closed from 9:30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Interestingly, 13% (22) of the participants never visit dog zones in the fifth district during the weekend – on one hand, this is probably because lots of participants use the weekend to visit bigger dog sites outside of the district. On the other hand, several dog owners also explained during interviews that during the weekend, they are often or always outside of Vienna, for example in Lower Austria or Burgenland at a second home and that they let their dogs run off-leash in their gardens or in forests.

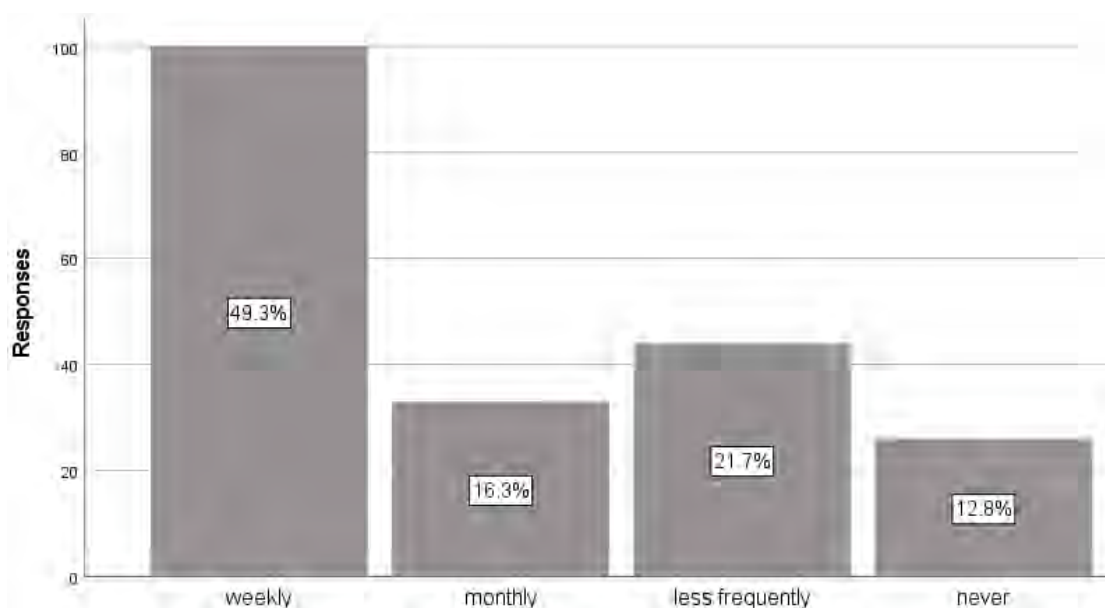


**Figure 54.** Responses to: “When do you usually visit the dog zone you visit most often between Monday and Friday” and “[...] on the weekend?” The percentages exceed 100% because multiple selections were possible. ( $n = 171$ )

Figure 55 shows how often the participants ( $n = 203$ ) visit bigger dog zones outside of the fifth district such as the dog zones in Wienerberg, Löwygrube or Prater. Of the participants, 49% (100) do so weekly, 16% (33) monthly and 13% (26) never.

Since an assumption that elderly people might have less energy or mobility to visit bigger dog zones outside of Margareten seemed reasonable, a Kruskal-Wallis H Test ( $n = 203$ ) was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no difference between the age groups and how often the participants visit bigger dog zones outside of the fifth district. It turned out that there was no significant difference between all age groups and how often the participant visits bigger dog zones outside of Margareten ( $H(5) = 8.06$ ,  $p = 0.15$ ) with a mean rank of 103.00 for “younger than 20 years”, 108.15 for “20 to 29 years”, 89.18 for “30 to 39 years”, 95.64 for “40 to 49 years”, 121.58 for “50 to 59 years” and 108.17 for “60 years and older”.

Since the mean rank showed somewhat of an increase in the two oldest age groups, a further Mann-Whitney U test was used to examine whether there was a significant difference between participants under 50 years old and participants who were 50 years or older. There was a marginally significant difference between how often participants under 50 years ( $Mdn = \text{weekly}$ ) and participants 50 years or older ( $Mdn = \text{monthly}$ ) visit bigger dog zones outside of the fifth district ( $U = 3122.00$ ,  $z = -1.96$ ,  $p = .051$ ) with a weak effect size  $r = .14$ .



**Figure 55.** Responses to: “How often do you visit bigger dog zones or dog parks (for example in Prater) outside of the fifth district of Vienna?” ( $n = 203$ )

### 15.3 Overall evaluation of all dog zones in Margareten

As part of the survey, the participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ) evaluated (see chapter 5.3) their most visited dog zone in Margareten. Not only does this chapter provide a general overview of the dog zone situation in Margareten by evaluating all of its dog zones together, but it also introduces the three types of charts which are instrumental to the evaluation of the individual dog zones in chapter 16.

Figure 56 shows the scoring (see chapter 5.3.3) of all dog zones for the four criterions.

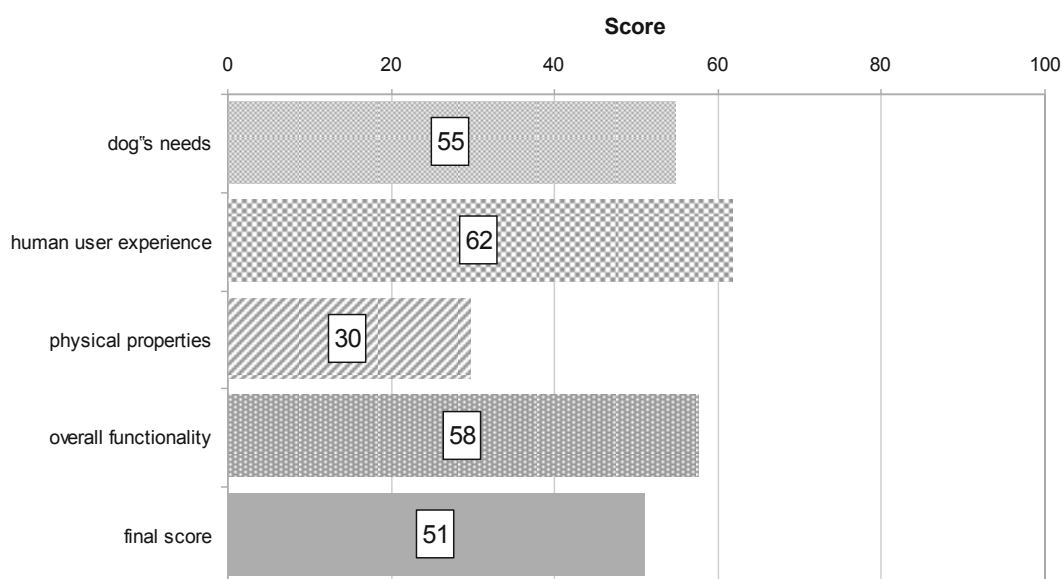
As a reminder, the full descriptions of the four criterions are:

1. How well the dog zone fulfils a dog’s needs, judged by their owners.
2. How well the dog zone fulfils a human user’s needs and standards and how well they identify with and take care of the dog zone.
3. How well the dog zone’s physical properties are rated.
4. How well the overall functionality of the dog zone is rated.

However, they are too long to be fully repeated in charts and in analysis, so the abbreviated versions as seen in Figure 56 are used instead.

Overall, the criterion “human user experience” (62) scored a favourable outcome, while “dog’s needs” (55) and “overall functionality” (58) scored rather

favourable outcomes. The criterion “physical properties” (30), however, scored a poor outcome. The “final score” (51) weighs all four criteria equally and is – barely – rather favourable. Of course, this final score in particular does not mean much, considering how much information it condenses. It does, however, report the overall sentiment of dog owners towards the dog zones in Margareten: the overall situation seems to be tolerable, but not great by any means. Clearly, a much more nuanced evaluation is necessary – as provided in chapter 16.



**Figure 56.** Overall scoring of the four criteria and “final score” of all dog zones that were evaluated. ( $n = 171$ )

While Figure 56 provides a rather quick overview, Figure 57 breaks down the individual scoring of the eleven goals for a successful dog zone.

As a reminder, the full descriptions of the eleven goals are:

1. Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog’s need for off-leash exercise.
2. Dog owners perceive that the dog zone satisfies their dog’s need for social interactions with other dogs.
3. Psychologically, dog owners perceive visits to the dog zone positively.
4. Dog owners feel a sense of responsibility for the dog zone.
5. Dog owners identify with the dog zone.
6. Dog owners perceive the dog zone as safe for them and their dogs.
7. Dog owners perceive the dog zone as clean.

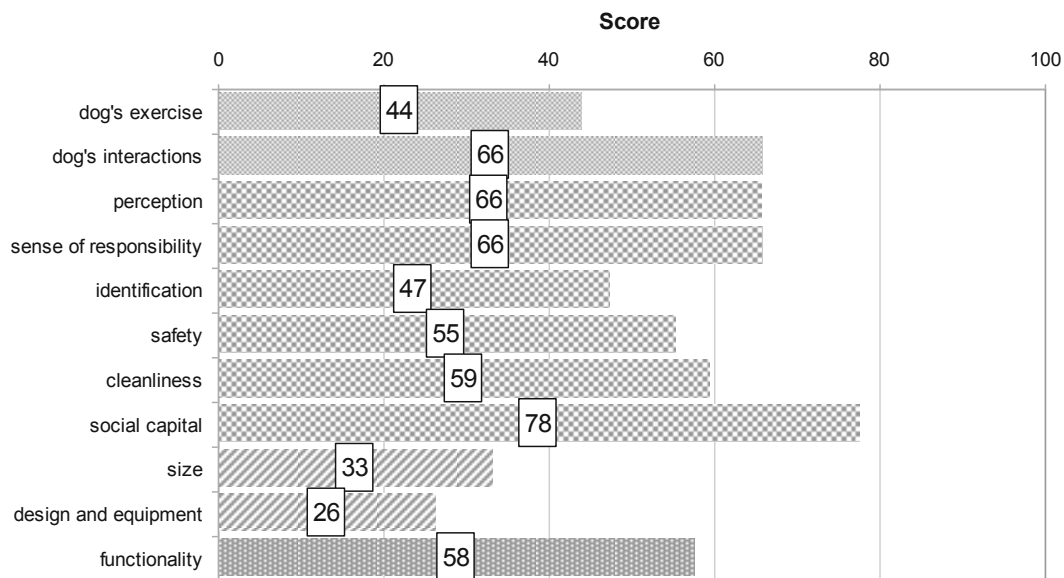
8. Social cohesion and social capital is engendered by the dog zone for the dog owners.
9. Dog owners are satisfied with the size of the dog zone.
10. Dog owners are satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.
11. Dog owners think that the dog zone has an overall high functionality.

Again, the goals are too long to be fully repeated in charts and in analysis, so the abbreviated versions as seen in Figure 57 are used instead.

Looking at Figure 57, we can see that the one goal which the dog zones in the fifth district are great at fulfilling is the engendering of social capital and social cohesion (78) – it can definitely be said that dog zones lead to interactions between people in public space and that they help dog owners form social connections. Overall, visits to the dog zones are perceived (66) favourably and most dog owners feel a sense of responsibility (66) for the dog zones. The ability of the dog zones to provide dogs with conspecific (dog-dog) interactions (66) is also rated favourably. However, the ability of the dog zones to provide the dogs with enough off-leash exercise (44) is rated rather unfavourably. A sense of identification (47) with the dog zones also gets a rather unfavourable overall rating; the cleanliness (59) is rated rather favourably. The overall size (33) of the dog zones in the fifth district gets an unfavourable rating and the overall design and equipment (26) get a poor rating. At least, the overall functionality (58) of the dog zones is rated rather favourably. As an introduction to the methodology, all goals were listed here in text form, but this will not be done for the evaluation of the individual dog zones in chapter 16 as the readers will be trusted to interpret the charts. Instead, interesting findings will be highlighted.

As a reminder of the links between the four criteria and eleven goals, the patterns used in the charts showing the criteria (e.g. Figure 56) and goals (e.g. Figure 57) also visually link these together.





**Figure 57.** Overall scoring of goals of all dog zones that were evaluated. ( $n = 171$ )

Finally, Figure 58 shows the distribution of the responses to the 19 different survey items which contributed to the overall evaluation. This gives an even more detailed look at the view of the participants.

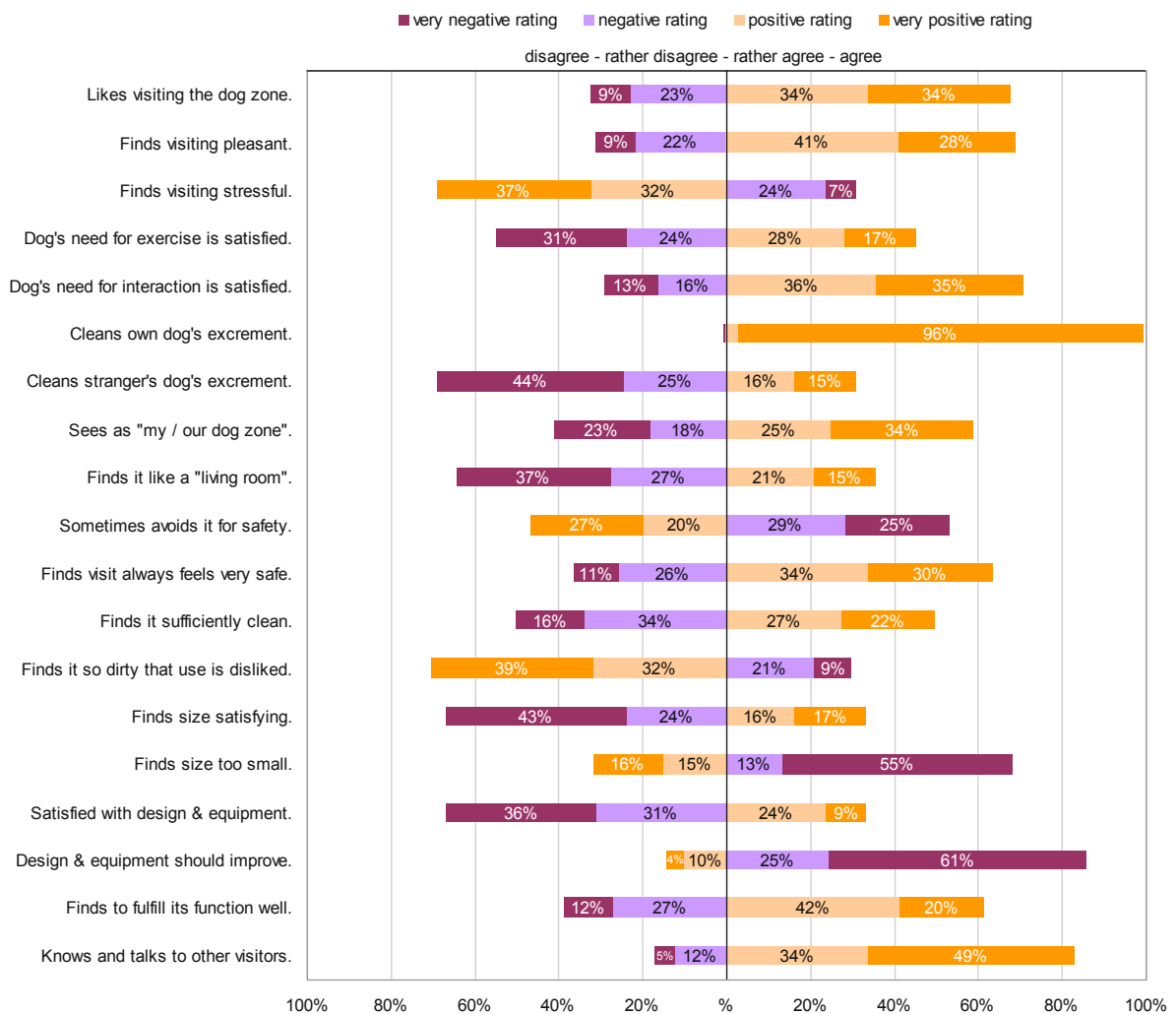
As a reminder, the full statements that were surveyed were:

- I like visiting the dog zone.
- I find visiting the dog zone pleasant.
- I find visiting the dog zone stressful.
- I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for off-leash exercise.
- I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for play and interaction with other dogs.
- I always clean up my dog's excrement in the dog zone.
- If I found a stranger's dog's excrement in the dog zone and that dog wasn't around anymore, I would clean up the excrement.
- For me, the dog zone is "my dog zone" or "our dog zone" with the other visitors.
- The dog zone is like a kind of "living room" in the open air for me.
- Sometimes I don't go into the dog zone because I feel it wouldn't be safe for my dog or for me.
- I think that a visit to the dog zone always feels very safe for my dog and me.
- I think the dog zone is sufficiently clean.
- I think the dog zone is so dirty that I dislike using it.

- I am satisfied with the size of the dog zone.
- I think the dog zone is too small.
- I am satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.
- I think the dog zone should be improved in terms of design and equipment.
- I think the dog zone fulfils its function well.
- I know some of the other visitors in the dog zone and sometimes talk to other dog owners.

Once more, the statements are too long to be fully repeated in charts and in analysis, so the abbreviated versions as seen in Figure 58 are used instead. In these charts, the statements were kept in the same order as they appeared in the survey. Furthermore, the responses are always ordered in the sequence “I disagree” – “I rather disagree” – “I rather agree” – “I agree”. The colour orange indicates a positive rating while the colour purple indicates a negative rating – in some statements disagreeing contributed to a positive rating (see chapter 5.3). The colours purple and orange were picked as the most barrier-free choices for colourblind people (cf. Montoliu 2021). These charts are dense in information – for the sake of better readability, percentages are shown without decimals and because of rounding, these might not always seem to add up to 100%.

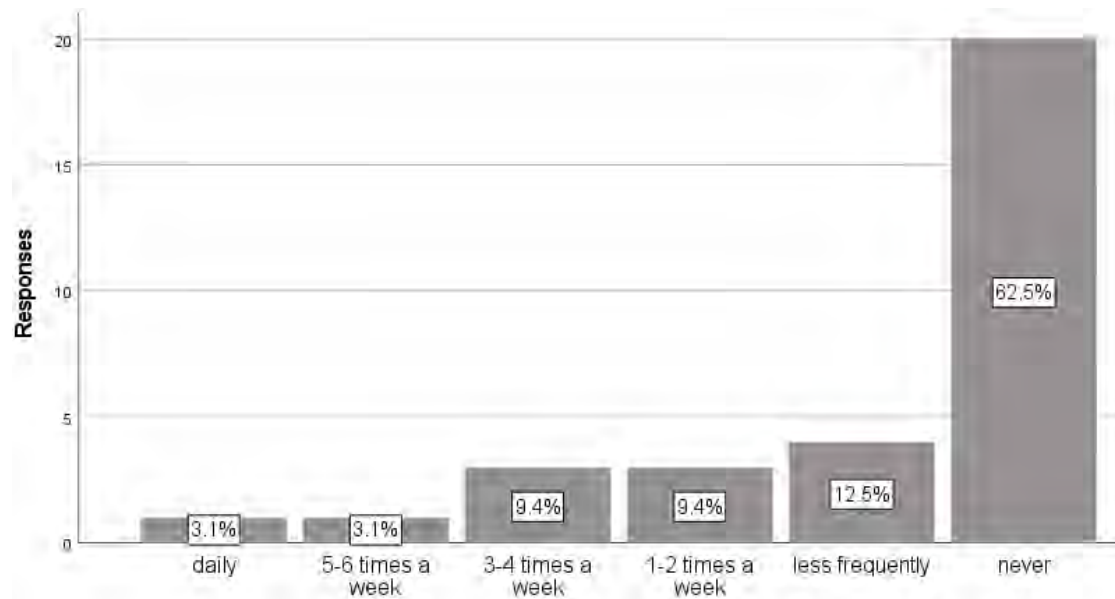
Looking at Figure 58, we can now see for example that almost all (96%) of the participants indicated that they pick up their dog’s excrement in the dog zone. However, a majority would not pick up a stranger dog’s excrement if they found it. We can also discover details such as that while about 33% (56) of the survey participants are at least rather satisfied with their dog zone’s design and equipment, about 86% (147) still at least rather agree that the design and equipment should be improved. This kind of difference also highlights why it was important that control questions were implemented in some cases – there can be a difference between thinking that “something is satisfying” (possibly reviewing the present with more pragmatism) and that “something should be improved” (possibly reviewing future potential with more hope for improvement) – the wording of a statement can make a difference.



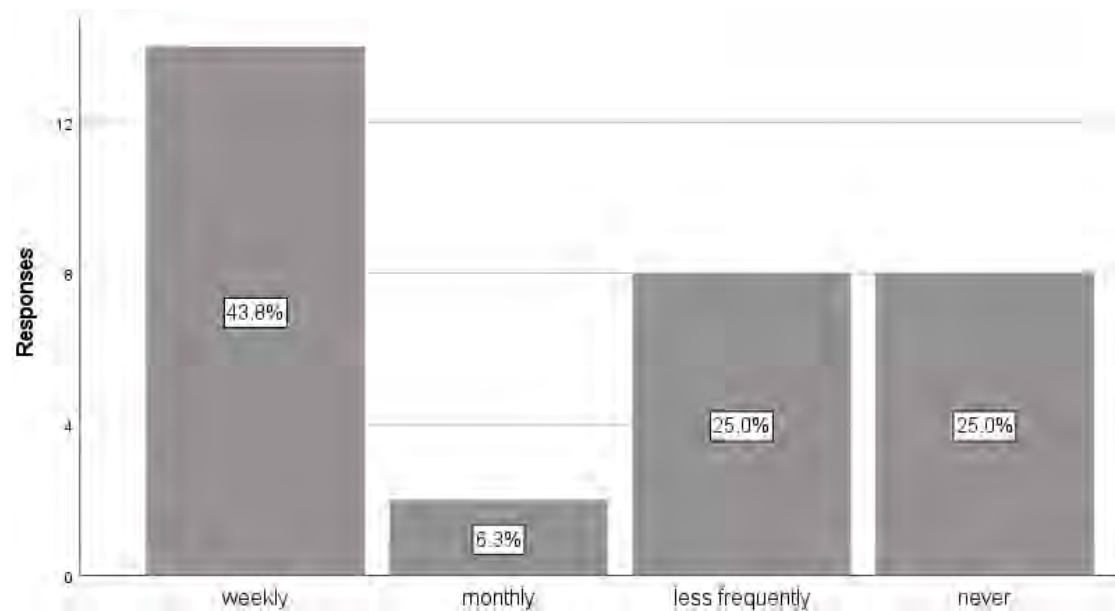
**Figure 58.** Overall evaluation of all dog zones that survey participants primarily visit in Margareten. ( $n = 171$ )

## 15.4 Why dog owners do not visit dog zones in the fifth district

In the survey ( $n = 203$ ), 16% (32) of the participants indicated that they never visit dog zones in Margareten. Of these, 22 live in Margareten while ten do not. Of the participants who do not visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 32$ ), 63% (20) indicated that they never visit small dog zones even in other districts, and only one (3%) of them does so daily (see Figure 59). However, 44% (14) of these participants do visit big dog sites in other districts weekly (see Figure 60).



**Figure 59.** Responses of participants who do not visit dog zones in Margareten to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna.” ( $n = 32$ )



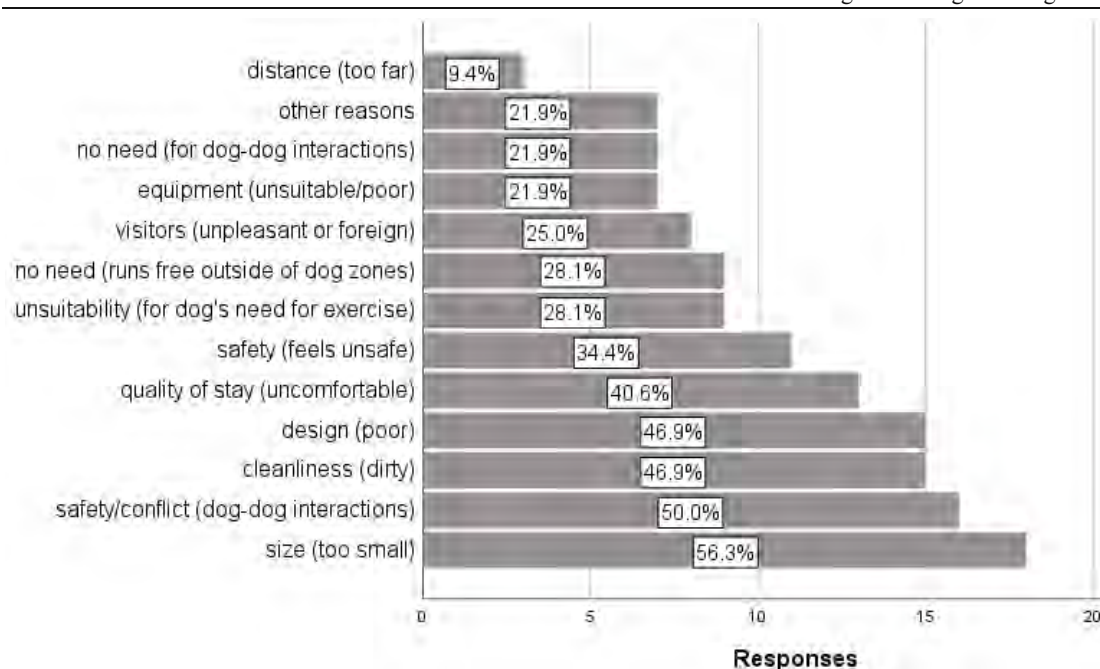
**Figure 60.** Responses of participants who do not visit dog zones in Margareten to: “How often do you visit bigger dog zones or dog parks (for example in Prater) outside of the fifth district of Vienna?” ( $n = 32$ )

The participants who do not visit dog zones in Margareten were asked to indicate the reasons why they do not do so.

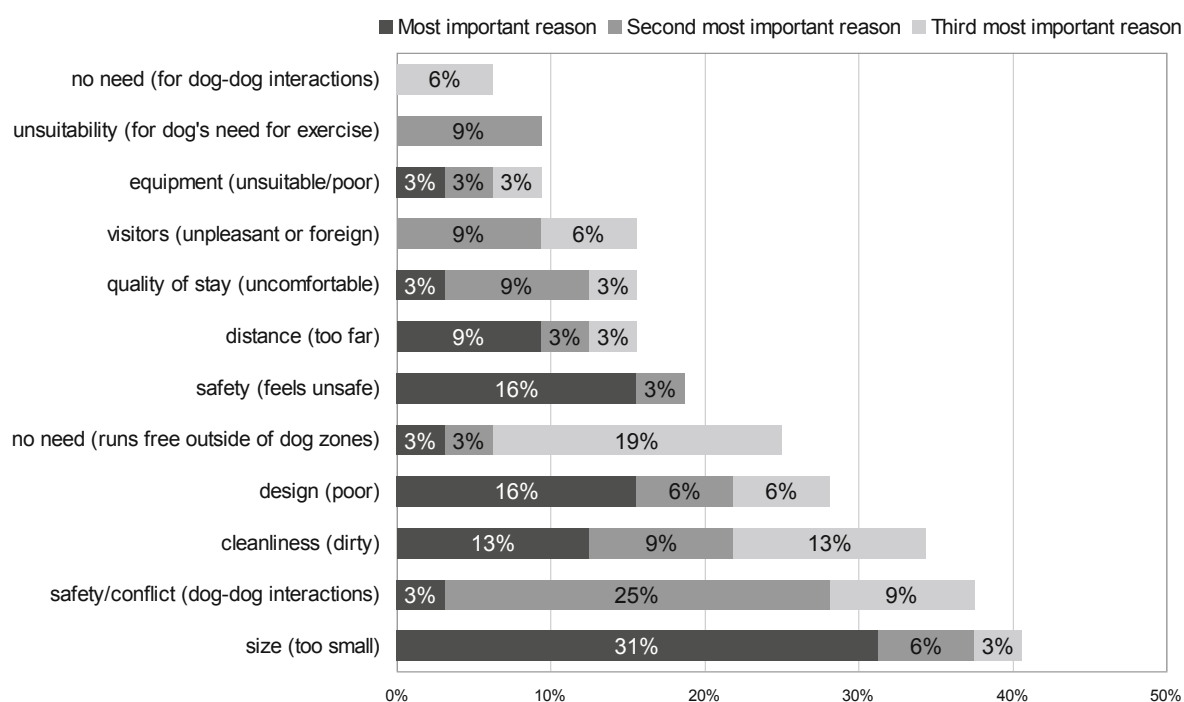
As a reminder, the reasons offered for selection were worded as follows:

- 
- Size: The dog zones in the area are too small
  - Design: Dog zones are too poorly designed
  - Equipment: Dog zones don't have suitable equipment or equipment that I expect
  - Cleanliness: In my opinion, dog zones are too dirty
  - Quality of stay: Visiting dog zones is too uncomfortable for me
  - Unsuitability: Dog zones in my area are not suitable for covering my dog's need for exercise
  - Safety: I feel that visiting dog zones may be unsafe for my dog or me
  - Safety/conflict: I am concerned about my dog's interactions with other dogs in dog parks
  - Potential for conflict: Other people don't like seeing my dog in the dog zone (e.g. because it's a listed dog)
  - Visitors: The people in dog zones are too unpleasant or foreign to me
  - Distance: The walk from my apartment to the dog zones is too long
  - No need: My dog doesn't need dog zones because I let him run free outside of dog zones
  - No need: My dog doesn't need dog zones because he can interact and play with enough other dogs outside of dog zones
  - Other reasons: (write-in)

A mean of 4.31 reasons were selected with a standard deviation of 2.31. The most important reason why dog zones are habitually avoided by the participants is the size of the dog zones in Margareten, which was selected by 56% (18) and was also the highest ranked option with 31% (10) ranking it as the most important reason. The second most important reason was safety, with 50% (16) being explicitly concerned about interactions between dogs; 34% (11) also chose the second safety-related concern, saying that the dog zones in the district do not feel safe for their dogs or for them. Cleanliness and poor design were also common choices and ranked high in the selection of the most important reasons. Interestingly, five participants ranked distance to dog zones as an important reason, but only three selected it in the previous question. Please refer to Figures 61 and 62 for detailed breakdowns about the reasons and rankings.



**Figure 61.** Responses of participants who do not visit dog zones in Margareten to: “Why do you not visit any dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna?” The percentages exceed 100% because multiple selections were possible. (*n* = 32)



**Figure 62.** Responses of participants who do not visit dog zones in Margareten to: “Please choose a maximum of three, but at least one reason why you do not visit dog zones in the fifth district.” (*n* = 32)

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## 15.5 How dog owners visit parks with their dogs

Margareten has 18 parks. All of the parks inside of the district except for Rudolf-Sallinger-Park have a dog ban – additionally, three parks on the border of the district (Herweghpark, Rosa-Janku-Park and Stefan-Weber-Park) do not have a dog ban.

**Table 18.** Parks in Margareten.

<b>park</b>	<b>dog ban</b>	<b>dog zone</b>
Bacherpark	yes	yes
Einsiedlerpark	yes	yes
Ernst-Arnold-Park	yes	yes
Ernst-Lichtblau-Park	yes	yes
Parkanlage Am Hundsturm	yes	yes
Parkanlage Leopold-Rister-Gasse	yes	yes
Rudolf-Sallinger-Park	no	yes
Stefan-Weber-Park	no	yes
Herweghpark	no	no
Rosa-Janku-Park	no	no
Bruno-Kreisky-Park	yes	no
Hanna-Gärtner-Park	yes	no
Klieberpark	yes	no
Parkanlage Siebenbrunnengasse	yes	no
Parkanlage Zentaplatz	yes	no
Scheupark	yes	no
Schütte-Lihotzky-Park	yes	no
Willi-Frank-Park	yes	no

Source: ViennaGIS 2022b and visits to parks

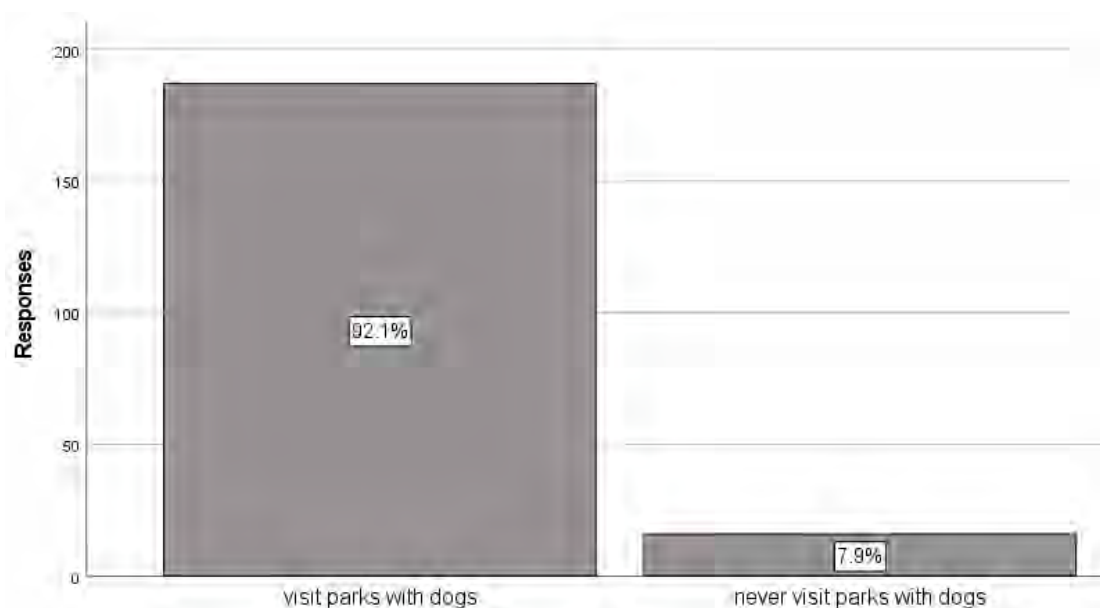
Of the participants ( $n = 203$ ), 92% (187) indicated that they visit parks with their dogs, while 8% (16) said that they never do so. This does not necessarily mean that 92% of the participants visit parks with their dogs that have dog bans. Still, as the empirical observations made for the study show (see chapter 17), dog bans are frequently ignored by some dog owners.

By Viennese law, visiting parks with off-leash dogs is always forbidden (see chapter 8.3). Even these regulations are commonly ignored by some dog owners (see Figure 65), as only 52% (112) of participants indicated that they never visit parks with their dogs off-leash.

At least, 64% (120) of the participants who visit parks with their dogs ( $n = 187$ ) “agreed” or “rather agreed” that they try to visit parks when there are few or no people in parks (see Figure 66). As the empirical observations for the study

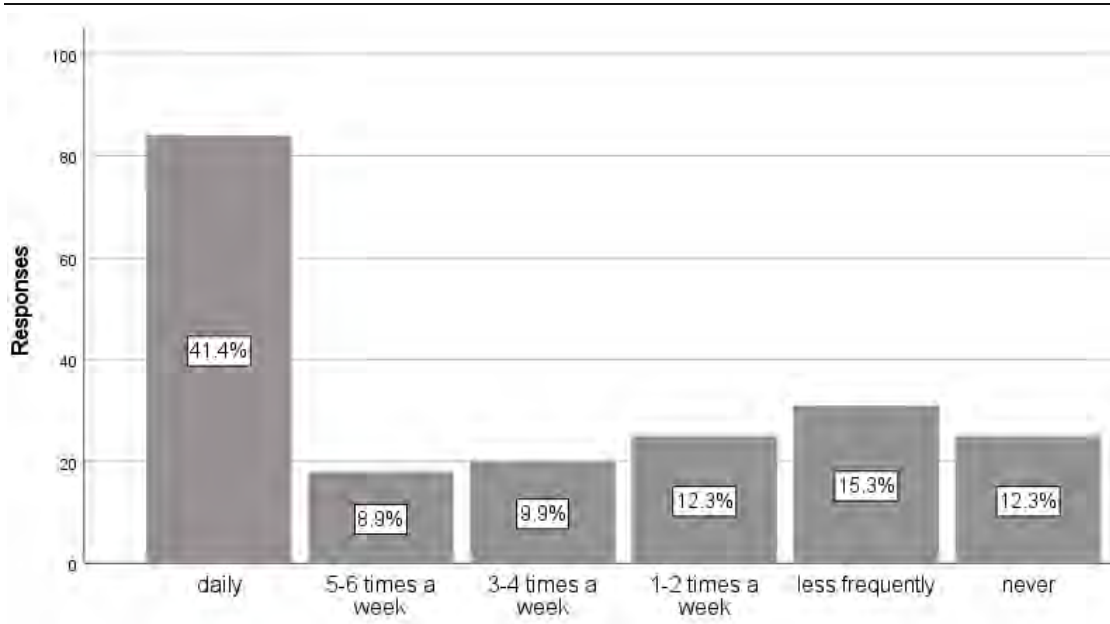
show (see chapter 17), many dog owners seem to visit parks with their dogs during the morning hours when there are few other park users present. When there are no or only few other people present, the potential for conflict is minimised.

The fact that only 10% (18) of participants who visit parks with their dogs ( $n = 187$ ) “agree” and a total of 41% (77) of them either “agree” or “rather agree” that bringing a dog into a park can lead to conflicts and arguments seems to imply that the majority of dog owners who take their dogs into parks have never or very rarely been involved in a conflict because of them bringing their dog into a park (see Figure 67). Still, a noteworthy number of dog owners who visit parks with their dogs think that there is at least some potential for conflict.

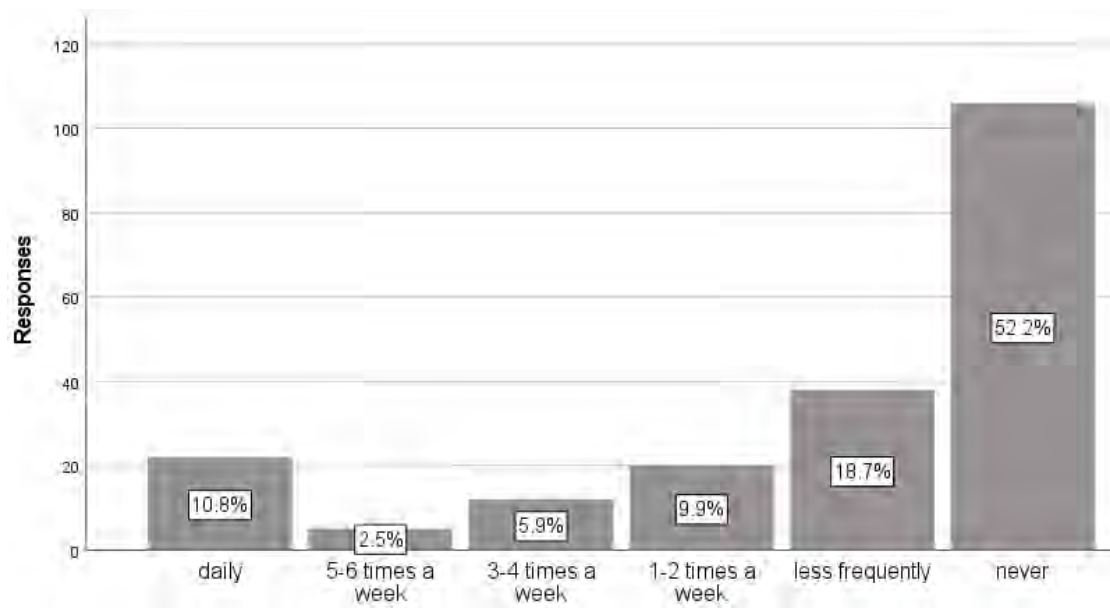


**Figure 63.** How many participants indicated that they visit parks with their dogs. ( $n = 203$ )

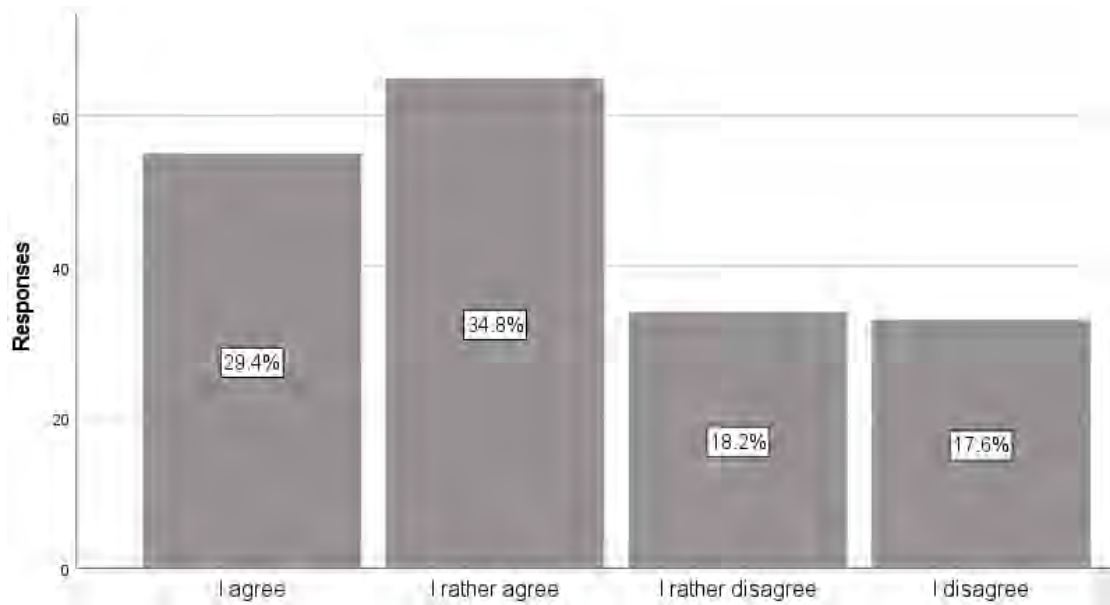




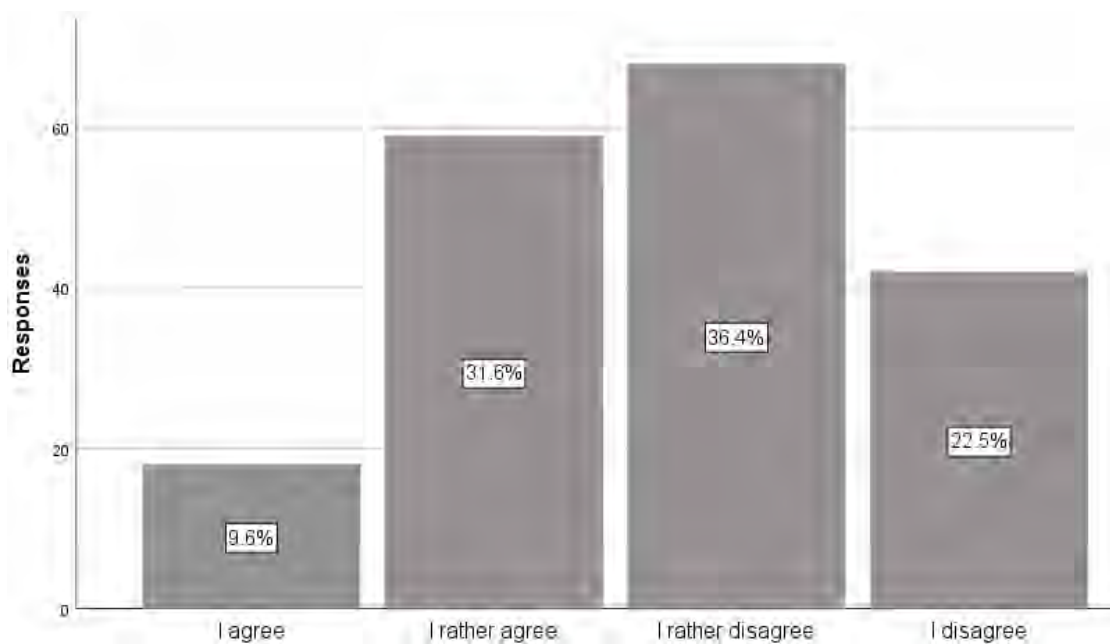
**Figure 64.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit parks with my dog on the leash.” ( $n = 203$ )



**Figure 65.** Responses to: “How often do you do the following activities with your dog?” – “Visit parks with my dog off the leash.” ( $n = 203$ )



**Figure 66.** Responses of participants who visit parks with their dogs to the statement: “I try to take my dog to parks when there are few or no other people around.” ( $n = 187$ )



**Figure 67.** Responses of participants who visit parks with their dogs to the statement: “I think that bringing a dog into a park can lead to arguments or conflicts with other park visitors.” ( $n = 187$ )

## 16 Evaluation of dog zones in Margareten

### 16.1 Comparison of scoring of all rated dog zones

**Table 19.** Scoring of all goals of all dog zones which were rated with the survey. ( $n = 171$ )

	Rudolf- Parkanlage Mittelzone	Sallinger- Park	Parkanlage am Hundsturm	Einsiedler- park	Leopold- Rister-Park	Ernst- Arnold- Park	Bacher- park
dog's exercise	60	49	41	27	67	37	6
dog's interactions	84	69	71	52	70	56	25
perception	76	61	75	58	73	53	53
sense of responsibility	65	72	68	61	60	61	70
identification	51	47	64	33	54	30	38
safety	60	51	62	45	67	52	47
cleanliness	72	62	71	39	62	46	39
social capital	83	79	89	57	85	68	72
size	68	24	28	23	34	33	11
design and equipment	50	25	23	17	29	19	17
functionality	77	56	63	45	67	41	47

**Table 20.** Scoring of all criterions of all dog zones which were rated with the survey. ( $n = 171$ )

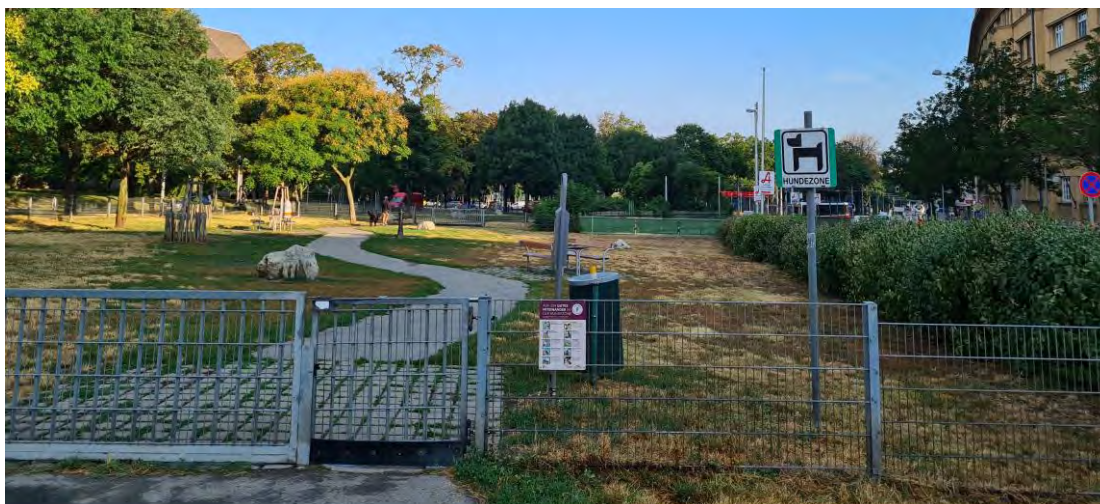
	Rudolf- Parkanlage Mittelzone	Sallinger- Park	Parkanlage am Hundsturm	Einsiedler- park	Leopold- Rister-Park	Ernst- Arnold- Park	Bacher- park
dog's needs	72	59	56	40	68	47	16
human user experience	68	62	71	49	67	52	53
physical properties	59	24	25	20	32	26	14
overall functionality	77	56	63	45	67	41	47
final score	69	51	54	38	58	41	32

The two tables in this chapter serve as a quick overview and a handy reference to the scoring of the different dog zones, as the differences will be explored in the upcoming chapters. As we can already tell with a glance, the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone was the only one to receive favourable ratings in all criterions. Leopold-Rister-Park, Parkanlage am Hundsturm and Rudolf-Sallinger-Park also received rather favourable final scores. The dog zones in Ernst-Arnold-Park, Einsiedlerpark and Bacherpark however received rather unfavourable to unfavourable final scores.

## 16.2 Dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone



Figure 68. Map of segmented dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. (own illustration)



**Figure 69.** View 1: View of the entrance area of the southern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 70.** View 2: View from inside of the southern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone towards the southern entrance area. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 71.** View 3: View from inside of the southern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone towards the southern entrance area. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 72.** View 4: View from inside of the southern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone towards the gate between the two segments. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



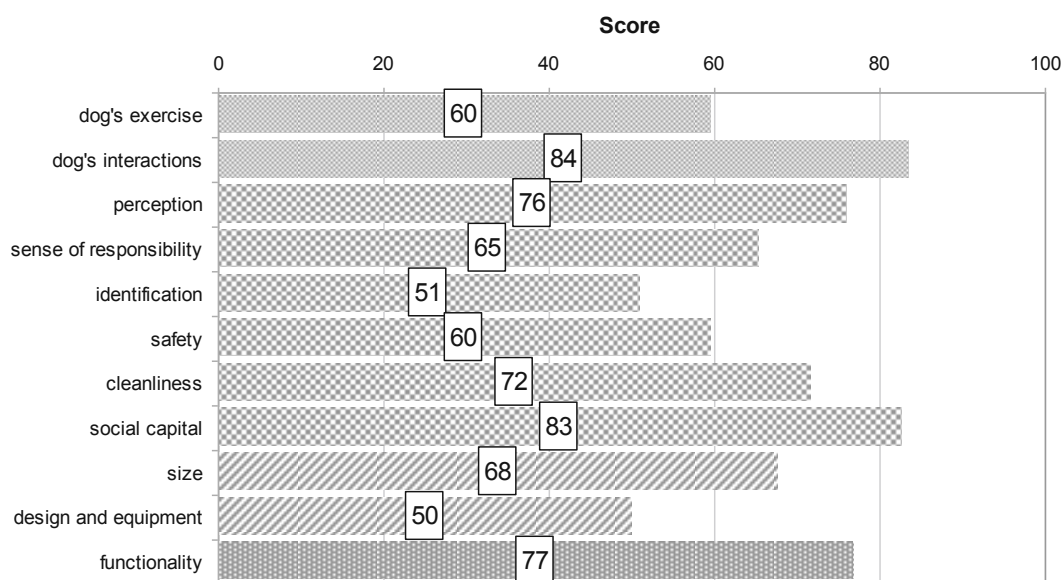
**Figure 73.** View 5: View from inside of the northern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone towards the northern gate. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 74.** View 6: View of the entrance area of the northern segment of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. (own photo, taken on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 21.** Details about the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone.

	northern section	southern section
size	1,585 m <sup>2</sup>	1,330 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes	yes
closing hours	no	no
terrain	lawn	lawn
lighting	lamps for dog zone	lamps for dog zone
drinking fountain	yes	yes
dog waste bag dispensers	1	1
rubbish bins	3	2
seating	2 tables with 2 benches each	3 tables with 2 benches each
trees inside	13	10
boulders	4	4
participants who visit	42% (71)	

**Figure 75.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. ( $n = 26$ )

With a total size of 2,915 m<sup>2</sup>, the sectioned dog zone of Parkanlage Mittelzone is not only the biggest dog zone of the district, but it also makes up 57% of the total area of dog sites in Margareten. Thanks to its size, a lawn can be maintained as the main terrain, although the lawn visibly suffers during the summer because of insufficient irrigation (see e.g. Figure 70).

The dog zone is located in the middle of the “Gürtel”, one of the most important traffic axes of Vienna which separates the “inner districts” of the city from the “outer districts” and is commonly used as an entry- and exit-point into and from the different districts. Because of its location at the border of the district with a high traffic road separating it from where people actually live, the



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location of the dog zone is quite poor for serving a large part of the fifth district, and the dog zone equally serves the 12<sup>th</sup> district on the other side of the Gürtel. Still, because of its large size, it has a unique role in the fifth district and is visited by 42% (71) of the survey participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ).

Unsurprisingly, the dog zone achieved the highest final score (69) out of all dog zones that were rated. It got rather favourable to very great ratings in all criteria and goals except for the goal “design and equipment” (50).

Despite its size, 35% (9) of the participants who rated it ( $n = 26$ ) at least rather agreed that the dog zone is too small. One dog owner said in an interview that the dog zone is a good solution in the middle of the city, but that he often takes his dog to a much bigger dog zone in Wienerberg in the 10<sup>th</sup> district.

A survey item in which the dog zone was rated lower is sometimes avoiding the dog zone for safety, as 58% (15) of the participants at least rather agreed that they do so. The segmentation of the dog zone is supposed to make separating incompatible dogs (and also smaller and bigger dogs) easier, giving more dogs the possibility to use it at the same time. The responses might however suggest that the dog zone is so well visited that safety concerns stay a relevant topic and processes of exclusion still regularly take place.

This analysis is supported by an interview, in which a dog owner explained that it happens way too often that the dog zone is already quite well visited and some additional dog owners enter the dog zone even though their dogs are incompatible with some other dogs that are already present. She thinks that such dog owners should be more considerate, they should see who is already in the dog zone and properly assess the situation before entering. Another dog owner said that they rarely visit the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone because there are always so many large dogs inside.

During interviews with dog owners it was also found out that there is a particular dog owner who often uses the dog zone and had decided that the tables in the dog zone should all have a tin can as an ashtray. Some dog owners were rather unhappy with this setup, complaining that the tin cans are filthy and they felt like the person who had set this up was acting as if they owned the whole dog zone, and that they should be more considerate about other visitors.

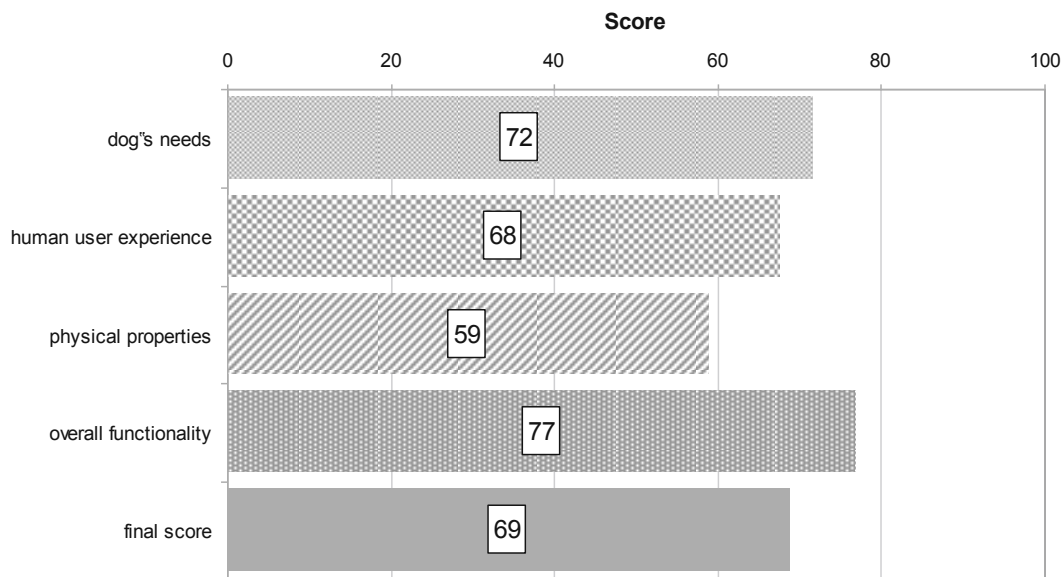
Of the generally positively rated survey items, it stands out that 62% (16) of the participants at least rather agree that the design and equipment of the dog zone should be improved.

One dog owner wished for more bushes to be planted on the side of Gaudenzdorfer Gürtel, because the high traffic roads are strong stimuli and some dogs are sensitive.

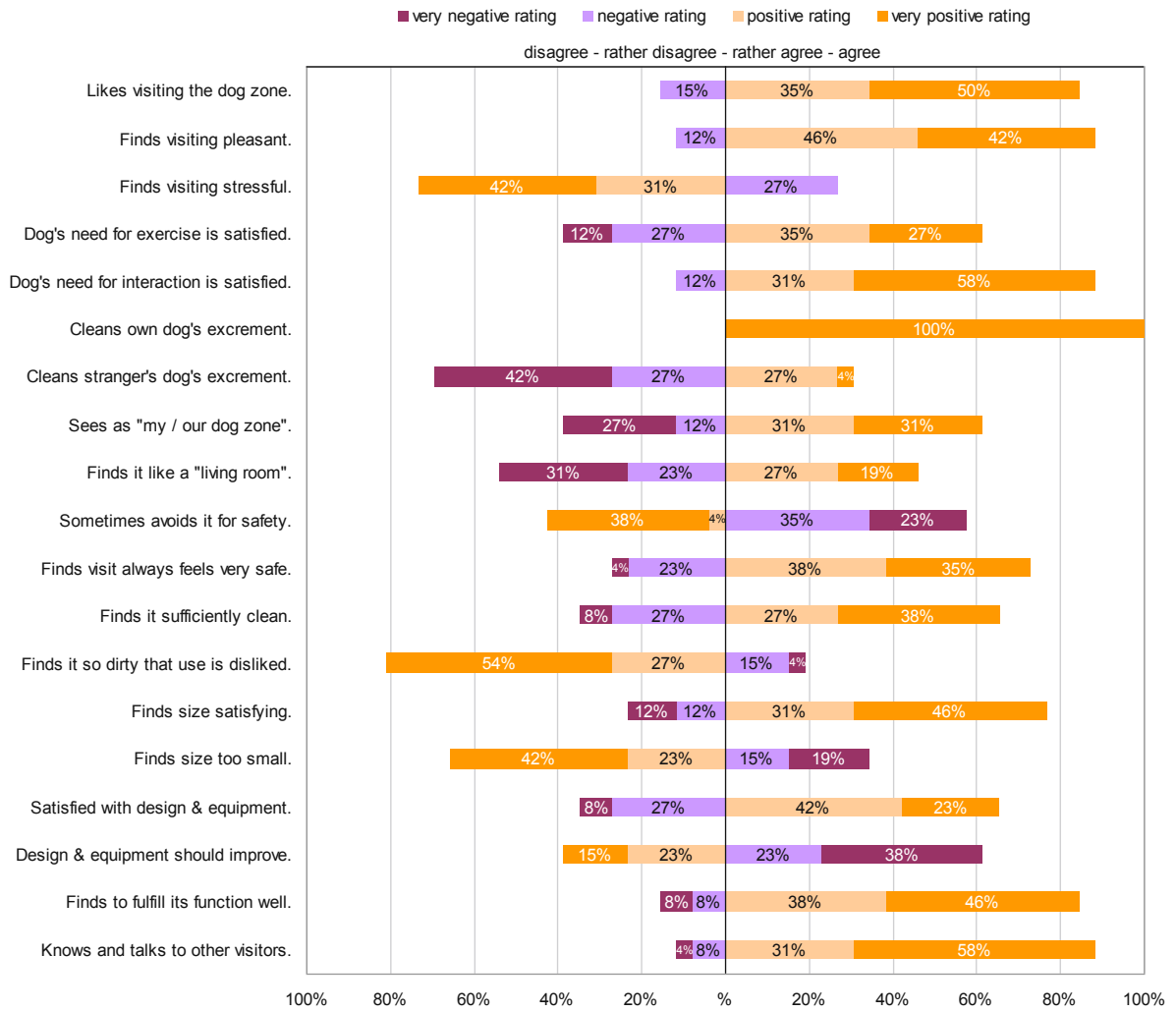
One dog owner complained that the gates close very slowly and that they were afraid that their dog could run out when someone enters with a stroller.

Several dog owners also complained that especially during the summer months, the tables in the dog zone invite people without dogs to come and sit inside the dog zone since there are no other possibilities to sit closeby. When confronted by dog owners, some of these “unwanted visitors” claim that they did not notice that it is a dog zone. Because of this, one dog owner suggested placing the dog zone signs on the doors so that it would be impossible to enter the dog zone without noticing. Another idea that was presented was providing some benches and tables outside of the dog zone close to the gates, so that people can sit down in the area without entering the dog zone.

The less optimal rating of the design and equipment of the dog zone might partially be the result of some dog owners thinking that agility equipment or other similar equipment should be present in the big dog zone, as is common in bigger dog zones in other countries.



**Figure 76.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. ( $n = 26$ )



**Figure 77.** Survey evaluation of dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. ( $n = 26$ )

### 16.3 Dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park



Figure 78. Map of dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (own illustration)



**Figure 79.** View 1: View of the whole rectangular dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 80.** View 2: View from inside of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



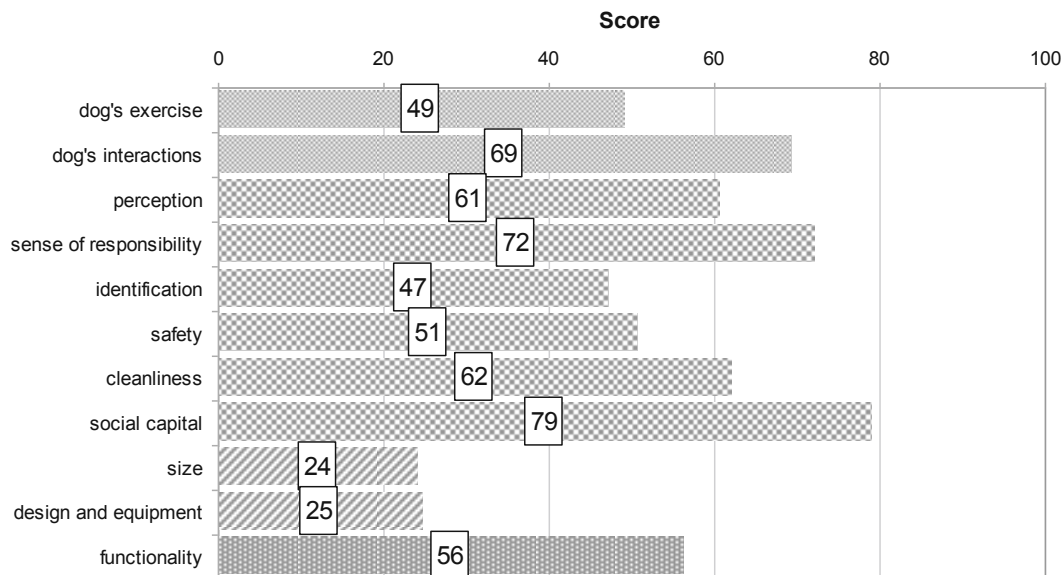
**Figure 81.** View 3: View from the other side of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 82.** View 4: View of the other entrance to the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 22.** Details about the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park.

size	276 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	yes
terrain	gravel surface
lighting	partially lit
drinking fountain	no, but one inside the park
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	2
seating	4 benches
trees inside	6 (4 right outside)
boulders	3
participants who visit	25% (43)



**Figure 83.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (*n* = 31)

The dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park is the easternmost dog zone of the district and plays an important role in providing as many dog owners as possible within the district with a close-to-home dog zone (see chapter 13.3).

What makes the Rudolf-Sallinger-Park itself special is the fact that it is the only park “inside” of the district which does not have a dog ban (see chapter 15.5). This means that dogs are allowed to enter the park on a leash. However, according to the Green Space Ordinance, dogs are never allowed to enter lawns outside of dog sites (see chapter 8.3) – so theoretically dogs are only allowed to use the paved areas of the park. However, in practice, all of the lawns in the parks are used by dog owners, sometimes even as an “expansion” of the dog zone, by letting dogs run off-leash (see chapter 17). Sometimes the

area right behind the dog zone is used just like a “section” of the dog zone, separating dogs and keeping the rather small dog zone from becoming too busy. Dog owners can even be observed interacting over the fence, some of them using the dog zone and some of them using the lawn.

The dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park received a rather favourable final score (51). Notably, it received the highest rating of all dog zones in the goal sense of responsibility (71) as 100% (31) of the participants who rated it agreed that they always pick up their dog’s excrement and 45% (14) at least rather agreed that they would pick up a stranger dog’s excrement inside the dog zone.

The ratings for size (24) and design and equipment (25) were poor. These were also repeatedly mentioned in interviews with dog owners. Some of them wonder why the dog zone needs to be so small when there are multiple unused lawns in the park which are – as a consequence – used by many dog owners anyway.

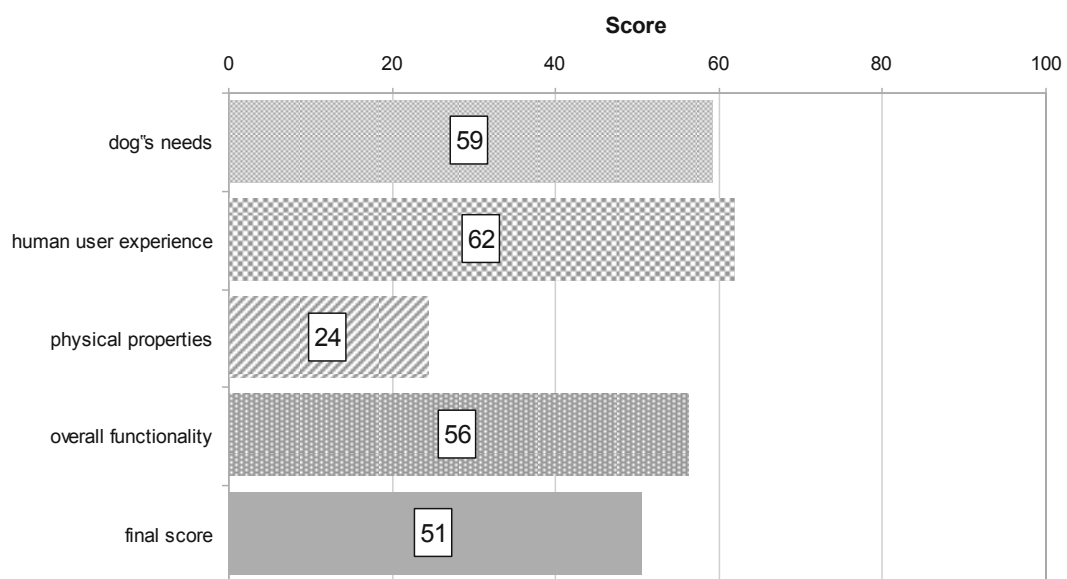
One dog owner explained that they seldomly visit the dog zone because their dog is very big and the dog zone is simply too small for it to do anything meaningful inside of it. They explained that they drive their dog to a bigger dog site almost every day (for example Löwygrube in the 10<sup>th</sup> district) and that they are planning to move close to a forest in the near future, solely because of their dog.

A different dog owner explained that it can often be noticed that the dog zone is simply too small: for example when two male dogs are visiting at the same time, they are “permanently on top of each other”. They think that there need to be more respite areas inside of the dog zone.

Regarding the design of the dog zone, multiple dog owners complained about the gravel surface. On one hand, the surface gets extremely dusty during the summer when it does not rain for a longer time. This also makes the dog zone develop a strong smell of urine. These dog owners say that it becomes impossible to use the dog zone in such a condition, and that it surely cannot be healthy to breathe in dust particles that smell like urine. On the other hand, when it does rain, a type of “urine foam” develops and streams into the north-eastern corner of the dog zone since it is built with a slight slope towards that corner. Since all of the liquids stream into one corner, the surface cannot absorb it all that quickly and puddles of repulsing “urine foam” form there, one of the dog owners explains, with others agreeing. Some of them would prefer bark mulch if it is not possible to establish a lawn.

One dog owner also mentioned that the dog zone desperately needs dedicated lamps so it can be used properly once it gets dark, and many dog owners miss a drinking fountain inside of the dog zone.





**Figure 84.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. ( $n = 31$ )

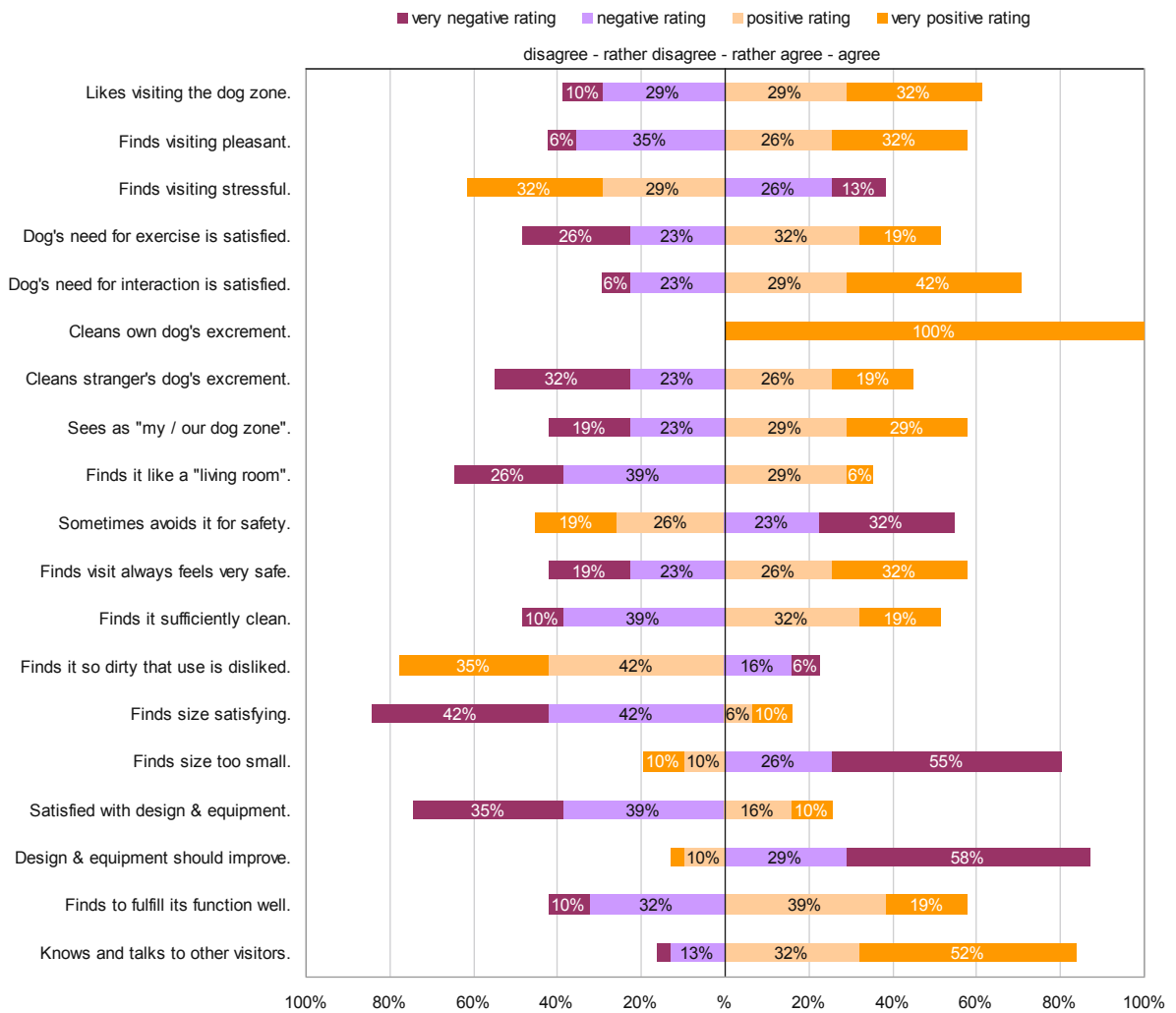


Figure 85. Survey evaluation of dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. (n = 31)

## 16.4 Dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm

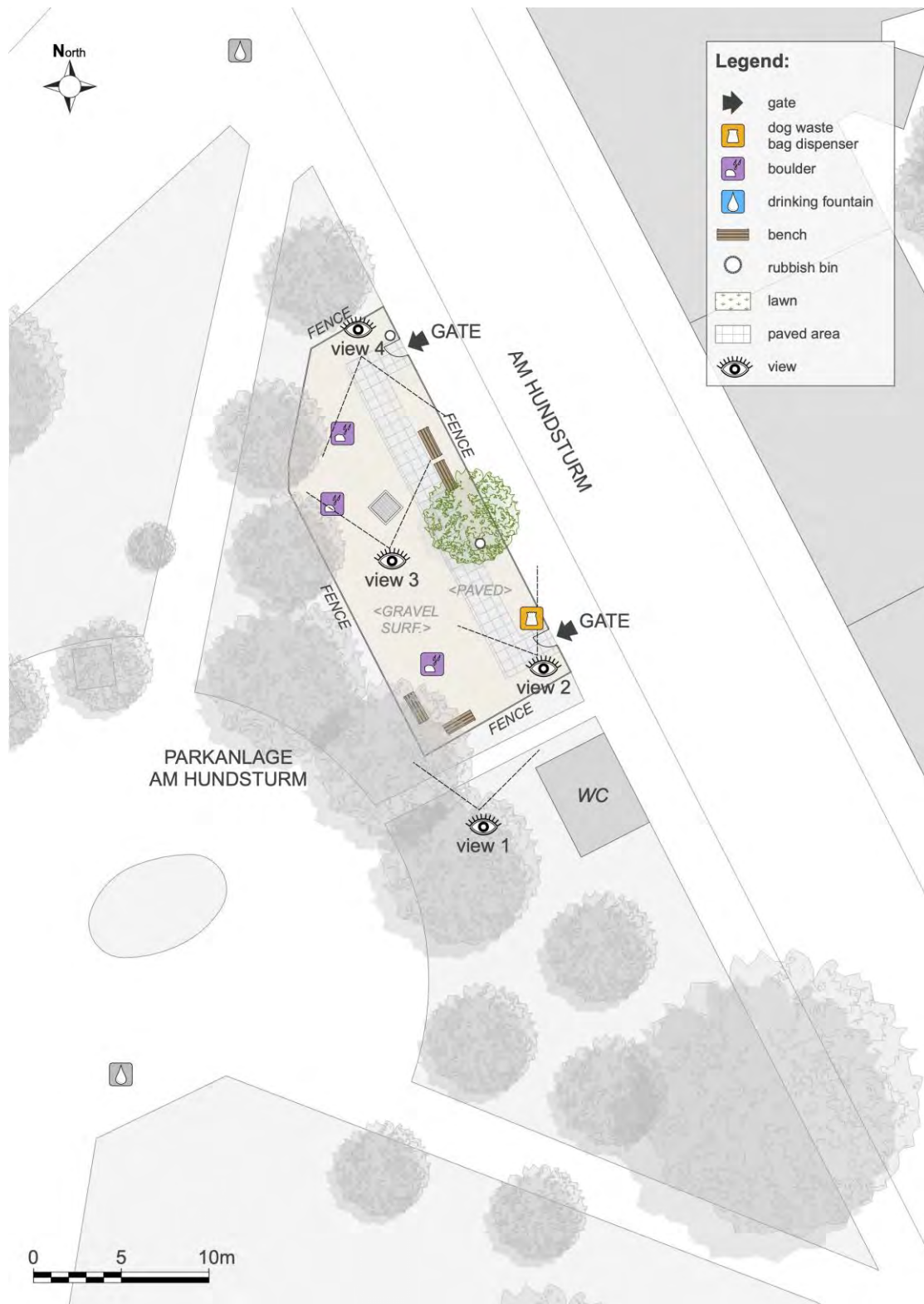


Figure 86. Map of dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (own illustration)



**Figure 87.** View 1: View of the whole dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 88.** View 2: View from inside of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)



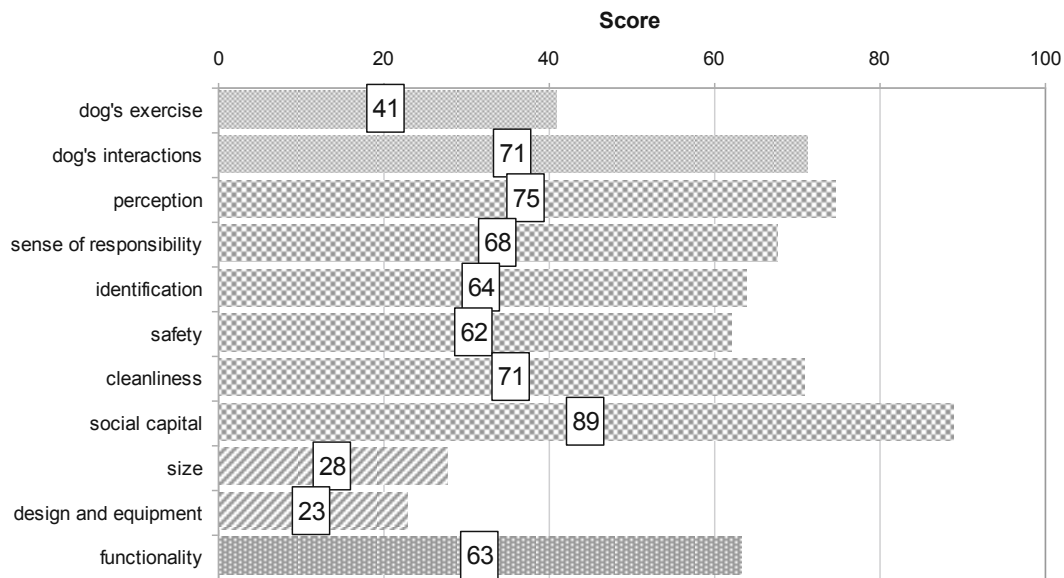
**Figure 89.** View 3: View from inside of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 90.** View 4: View from inside of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (own photo, taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 23.** Details about the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm.

size	214 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	yes
terrain	gravel surface
lighting	lamps for dog zone
drinking fountain	no, but two inside the park
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	2
seating	4 benches
trees inside	1 (4 outside)
boulders	3
participants who visit	48% (82)

**Figure 91.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. ( $n = 41$ )

When we look at the location of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm, we can see that it is quite close to both the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark and the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park (see chapter 13.3). Someone who visits the dog zone in Hundsturm can probably also visit one of those dog zones quite easily. Yet, the dog zone at Hundsturm clearly beats both of those in popularity among the survey participants – in fact, it is the most visited dog zone among survey participants, with 48% (82) of those who visit dog zones in Margareten ( $n = 171$ ) visiting it, and 24% (41) of them indicating it as their most visited dog zone in the district.

With only 214 m<sup>2</sup>, the dog zone ties with the one in Einsiedlerpark as one of the smallest permanent dog zones of the district and in fact, there are only three other permanent dog zones in Vienna which are smaller than these two:

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Gumpendorfer Gürtel in the sixth district (187 m<sup>2</sup>), Laubepark in the 10<sup>th</sup> district (98 m<sup>2</sup>) and Grünanlage Liesinger Platz in the 23<sup>rd</sup> district (161 m<sup>2</sup>). Unsurprisingly, the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm scored poorly in size (28). Considering this, the score of 41 in satisfying the dog's need for exercise seems surprisingly high in comparison.

The design and equipment (23) scored similarly poorly as the size. Regarding this, the dog owners had several complaints. Firstly, the dog owners were promised a privacy screen foil by the District Council (see chapter 13.2), but unlike other dog zones such as those at Einsiedlerplatz and Rudolf-Sallinger-Park, the one at Hundsturm actually never received one as of July 2022. The privacy screen foil is considered important by many dog owners because some dogs start barking at people who jog by the dog zone or drive by using e-scooters. There is also at least one resident who lives close to the park and often complains when the dogs start barking – the foil would also benefit anyone who lives closeby.

Another complaint that several visitors mentioned were the two new benches in the dog zone that had been added recently. Unfortunately, the benches are located so close to the fence that bigger dogs can use these to jump over the fence and escape the dog zone. This had already happened once when a big dog had spotted another dog on the other side of the fence.

Another issue that was mentioned was the ventilation grill for the underground car park that is located in the middle of the dog zone. The corners of the structure are so sharp that dogs have hurt themselves when running close to it. The dog owners have used duct tape to blunt the corners, but the tape falls off after some time and is an emergency solution. Bettina Lukas from the MA 42 explained in an interview that the MA 42 is not allowed to modify the structure because it belongs to the underground car park.

Several dog owners also mentioned that recently, junkies have been visiting the public toilet that is located right in front of the dog zone and that they have left drug syringes lying in the toilet. The dog owners are slightly worried about the possibility that their dogs could come in contact with a syringe. One dog owner mentioned that the issue is being addressed because social workers visit regularly. Some other dog owners advocate that the toilet should be removed and the dog zone should be made bigger instead.

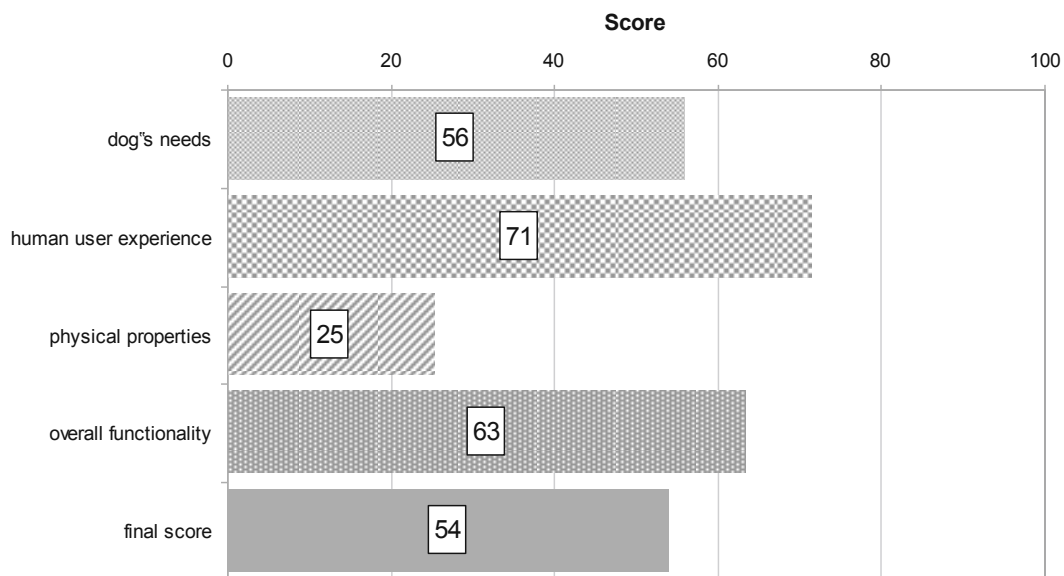
Further issues that were mentioned by a few visitors were that rat bait (poison) is being placed right behind the fence of the dog zone, and that the surface of the dog zone smells bad during the summer.

Considering that the dog zone scored poorly in size, design and equipment, it is surprising how well it scored in all other goals. In perception (75), the dog

zone achieved a great score, similar to the big dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone. In social capital (89), it achieved the highest score out of all dog zones that were rated: 95% (39) of the participants who rated it ( $n = 41$ ) at least rather agreed that they know and talk to other visitors. In interviews, several dog owners explained that the visitors know each other well. A couple with a dog even explained that while they live next to the (bigger) dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park, they come to the dog zone at Hundsturm every day instead because they like it the best since there are such nice people there. They also said that they prefer the dog zone at Hundsturm to the big one at Parkanlage Mittelzone because the traffic in that one is too loud and it is too dusty. They even said that their dog also only wants to visit at Hundsturm.

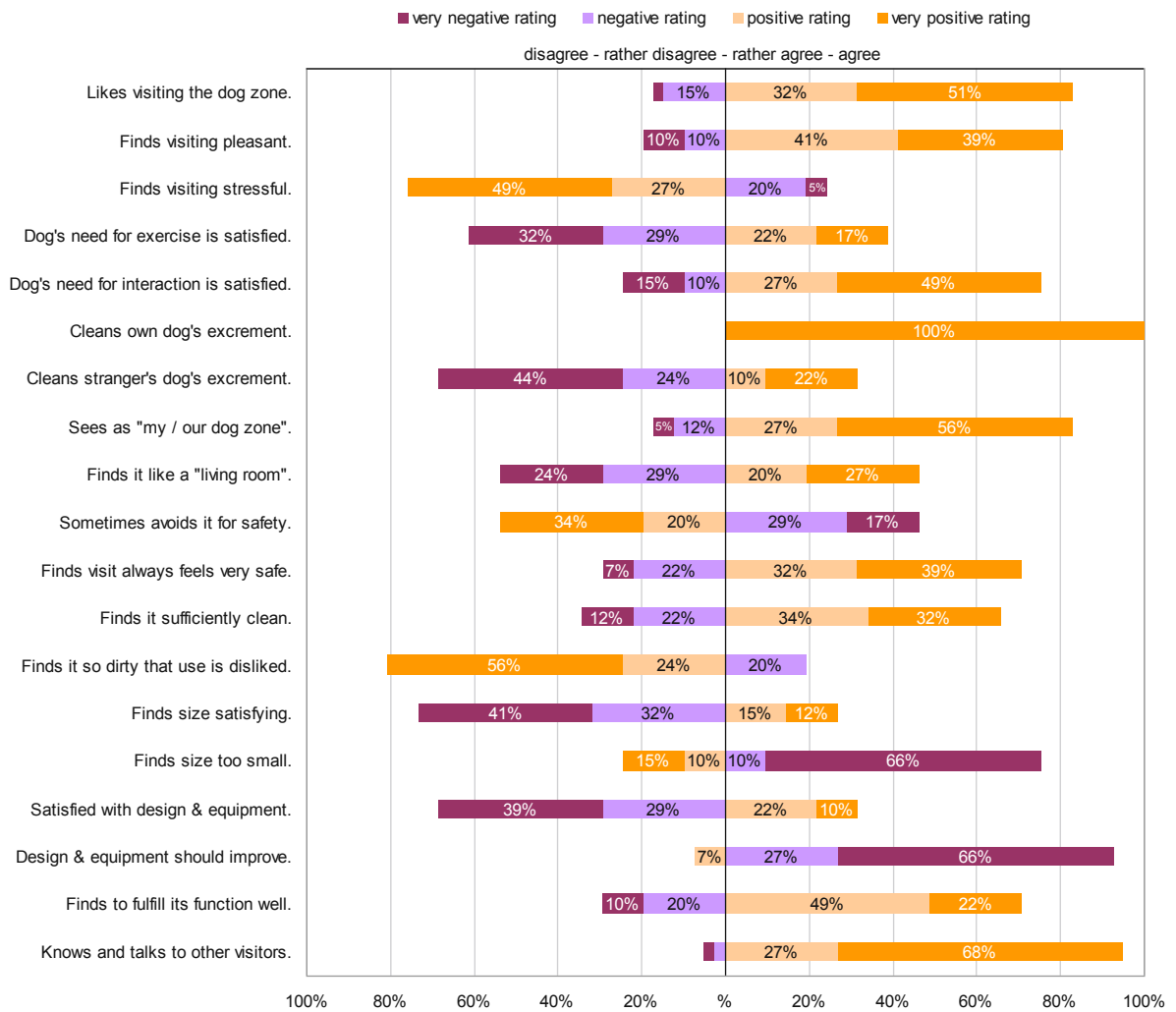
With this in mind, the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm also achieved the highest score out of all dog zones in identification (64): 83% (34) of participants indicated that they at least rather agree that they see the dog zone as “their” dog zone or “their shared” dog zone with the other visitors and 46% (19) at least rather agreed that it is like a “living room” in the fresh air.

The dog zone at Hundsturm also manages to achieve great scores in fulfilling the need of conspecific interactions between dogs (71) and in cleanliness (71). In an interview, one of the dog owners explained that every morning, they pick up all the dog waste that has been left behind in the dog zone.



**Figure 92.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. ( $n = 41$ )





**Figure 93.** Survey evaluation of dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. (n = 41)

### 16.5 Dog zone in Einsiedlerpark

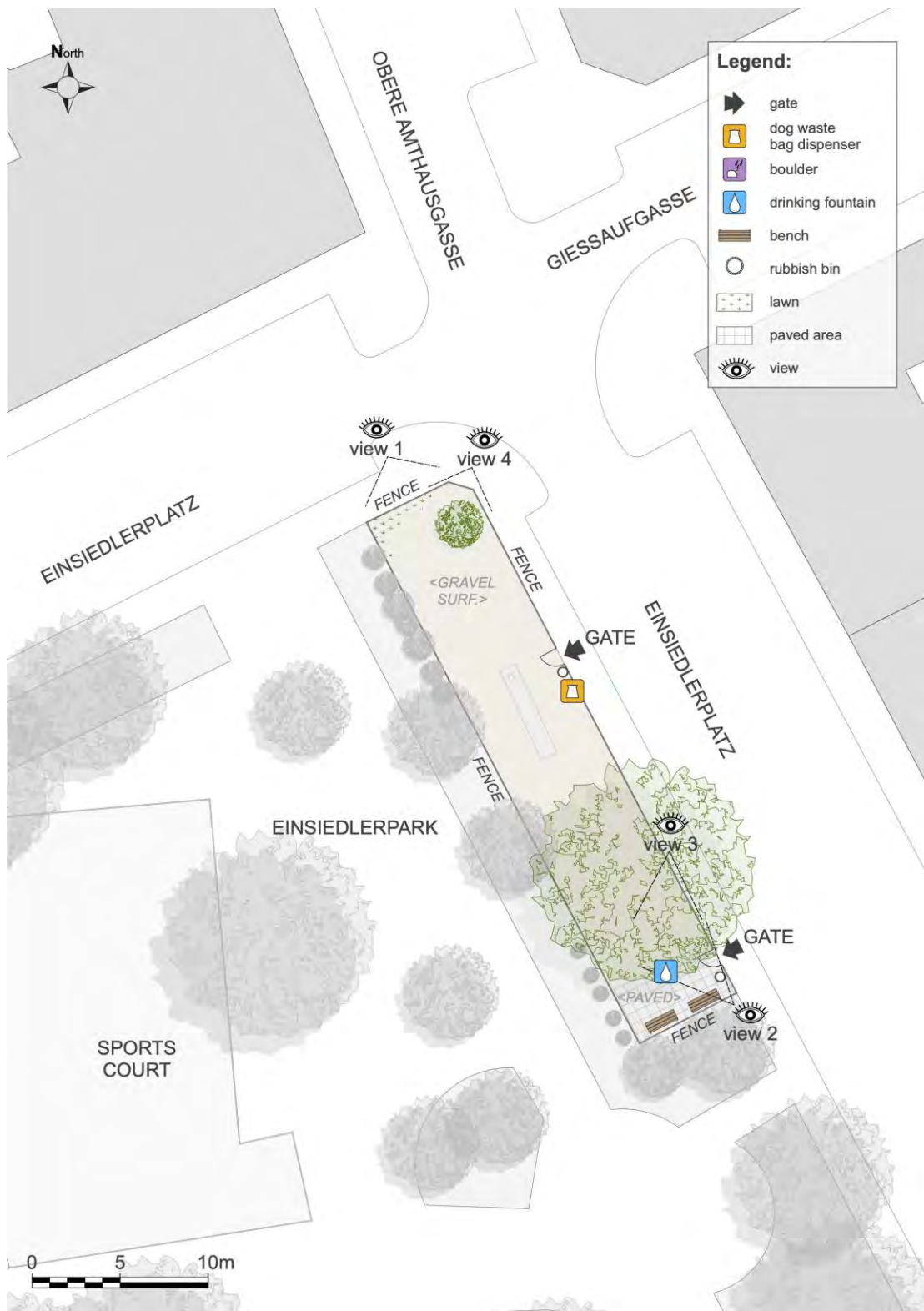


Figure 94. Map of dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (own illustration)



**Figure 95.** View 1: View of the whole I-shaped dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (own photo, taken on April 13th 2022)



**Figure 96.** View 2: View of one of the entrances to the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



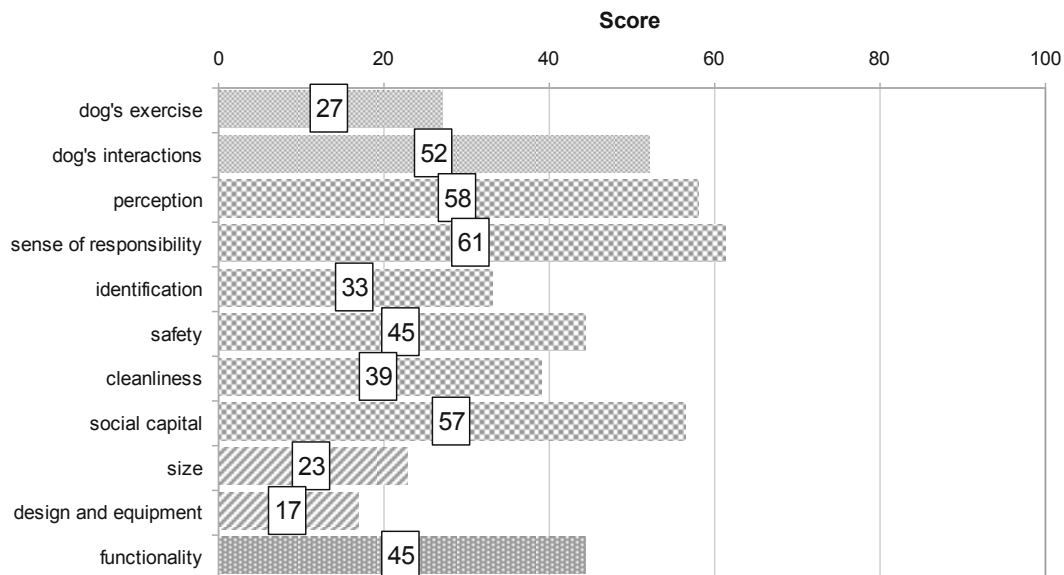
**Figure 97.** View 3: View of the seating area in the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 98.** View 4: The dog zone in Einsiedlerpark has received a privacy screen foil since the other photos, but the older photos are presented because they provide a better view of the dog zone. (own photo, taken on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 24.** Details about the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark.

size	214 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	yes
terrain	gravel surface
lighting	decently lit by street/park lamps
drinking fountain	yes
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	2
seating	2 benches
trees inside	2 (3 outside)
boulders	no
participants who visit	39% (67)



**Figure 99.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (*n* = 23)

The dog zone in Einsiedlerpark received an unfavourable final score of 38, meaning that it is viewed largely negatively. Since the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark is exactly the same size as the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm and they are located very close to each other, they make a very interesting comparison – especially because the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark scored worse in every single category, often considerably so. This might just be the most interesting result of the survey from an urban planning perspective: even though the same amount of spatial resources were dedicated to both dog zones, the one in Einsiedlerpark is perceived much more negatively by dog owners. What makes this even more interesting is that the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark has a drinking fountain, something that was criticised in every dog zone that lacks one – including the one at Hundsturm.

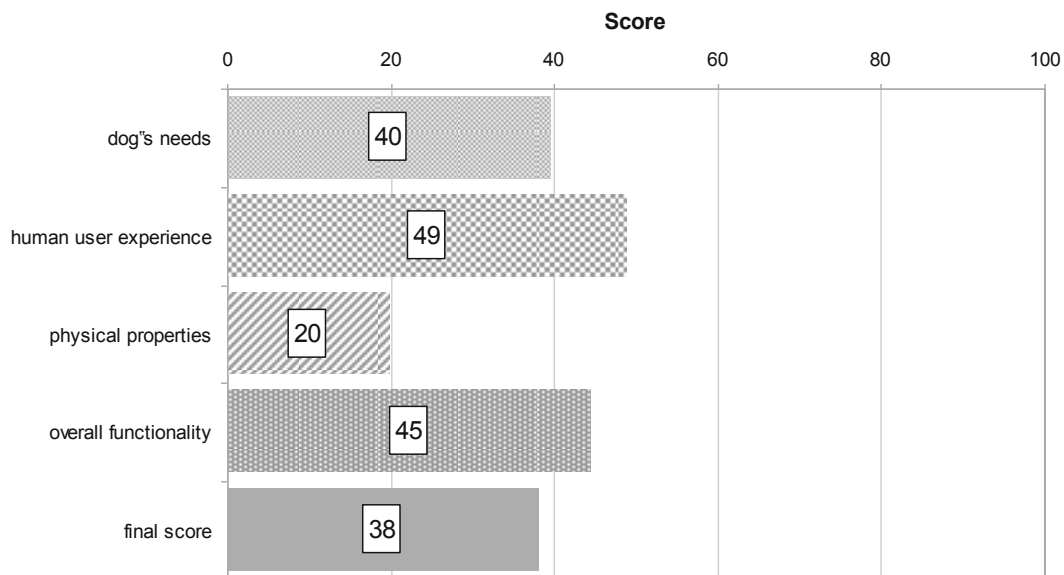
So why is the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark perceived so negatively? Some comments from dog owners that were made in other dog zones might give some first hints about it: One dog owner said that the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark is too dirty. This perception is supported by the participants who rated the dog zone at Einsiedlerpark, as it received an unfavorable rating in cleanliness (39) and shared the lowest rating with the temporary dog zone at Bacherpark. Of the participants who rated it ( $n = 23$ ), 48% (11) at least rather agreed that the dog zone in Bacherpark is so dirty that they dislike using it. Two dog owners at two other dog zones also mentioned that there are always “drunk” people in Einsiedlerpark close to the dog zone, and that is one reason why they do not visit the dog zone. One of the dog owners added that they do not think that these people are malicious per se, and the other dog owner claimed that these people “confuse” their dog. The researcher can confirm from more than a dozen visits to the dog zone that the same group of people does indeed gather daily at the tables close to the dog zone at Einsiedlerpark. Yet another dog owner in Hundsturm explained that they stopped visiting the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark because there are too often “dangerous” dogs in the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark.

Looking at the survey results, we can see that the rather favourable perception score (58) of the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark is considerably lower than the great perception score (75) of Parkanlage am Hundsturm. The difference in the answers to the statement “the dog zone is like a kind of „living room” in the open air for me” are astounding: while 46% (19) at least rather agreed at Hundsturm, only 13% (3) at least rather agreed at Einsiedlerpark. While Hundsturm scored the highest score out of all dog zones in the goal identification (64), Einsiedlerpark scored the second lowest (33). Hundsturm scored the highest in social capital (89) and Einsiedlerpark scored the very lowest (57).

Summing this up, dog owners find the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark quite dirty, they do not particularly like visiting it and they also do not know the other visitors as well as in other dog zones. Unlike at Hundsturm, the dog zone is not perceived like a “living room in the fresh air”. It should also not be forgotten that despite the overwhelmingly negative views, the 23 participants who evaluated the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark indicated that it is their most visited dog zone. How do these two dog zones that are so similar on paper give off such differing images? One thing that led Hundsturm to such a high rating was the social cohesion and identification with the dog zone that could also be “felt” while interviewing the participants there. During visits in the afternoons, there were always multiple dog owners present in the dog zone at Hundsturm, chatting with each other. Naturally, such a social climate would also lead to the dog zone being perceived as more pleasant, and when user groups come together, dogs also get the chance to have more interactions with each other. During visits to

the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark on the other hand the dog zone was often empty, or only one or two different user groups were present.

Does this mean that the main reason why the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark is perceived so negatively is its social climate and that it is dirtier because the visitors feel less of a responsibility to clean up? Maybe, but the physical design of the dog zone might also contribute to that perception. The dog zone in Einsiedlerpark is very narrow, which arguably gives it less of a roomlike and more of a corridorlike quality. A narrow corridor is usually a passageway, not a space that is meant for enjoying a stay. Both benches are located at one end of the dog zone, which might also make the rest of the dog zone feel like “empty space”, considering how it is lacking any visually interesting design elements, barring the two trees. Indeed, some dog owners commented that the dog zone could use some additional elements such as agility equipment, tires, tree trunks or boulders.



**Figure 100.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. ( $n = 23$ )

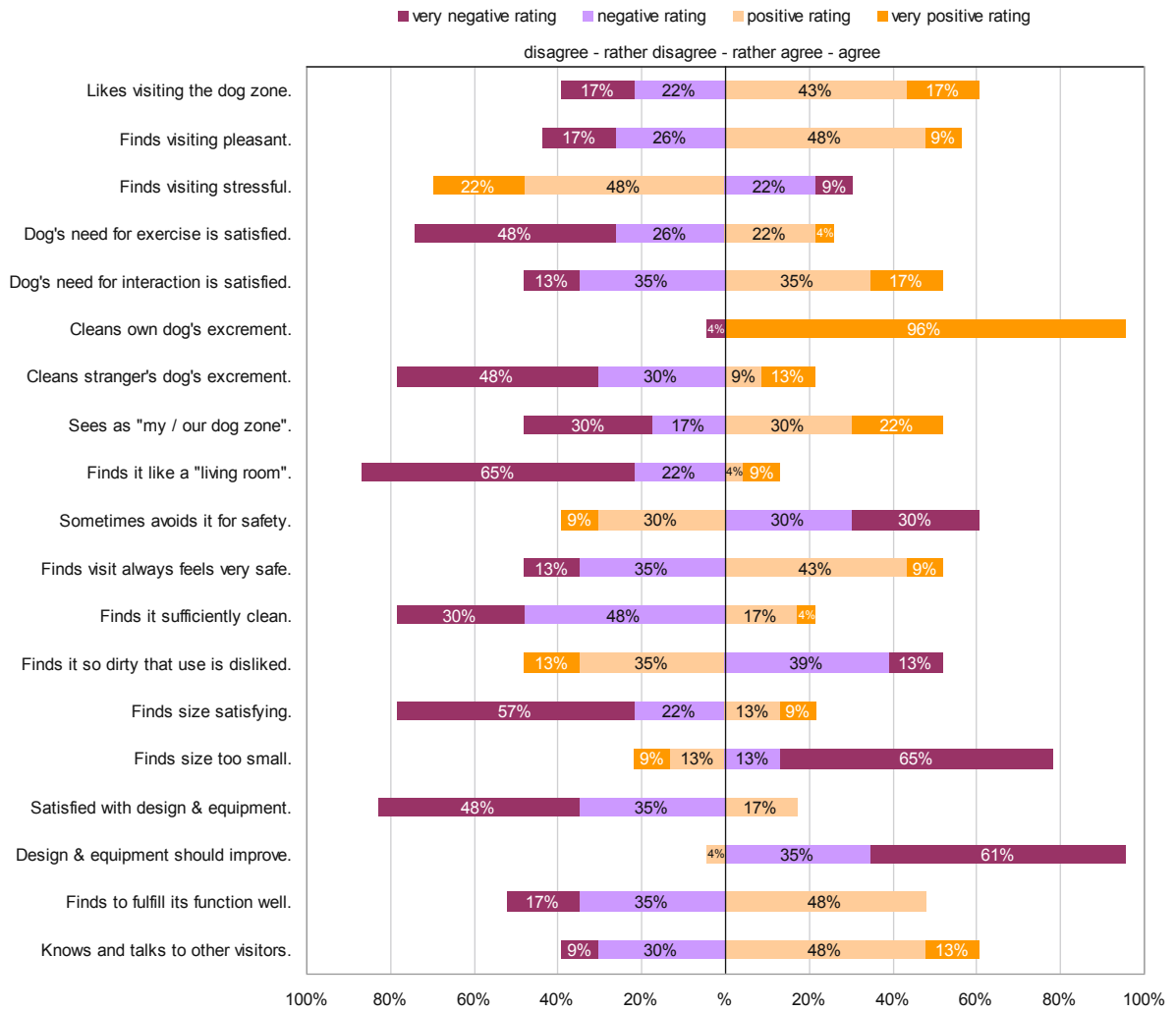


Figure 101. Survey evaluation of dog zone in Einsiedlerpark. (n = 23)



## 16.6 Dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park



Figure 102. Map of dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. (own illustration)



**Figure 103.** View 1: View of one of the entrances to the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 104.** View 2: Better view of the mostly bowl-shaped structure of the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



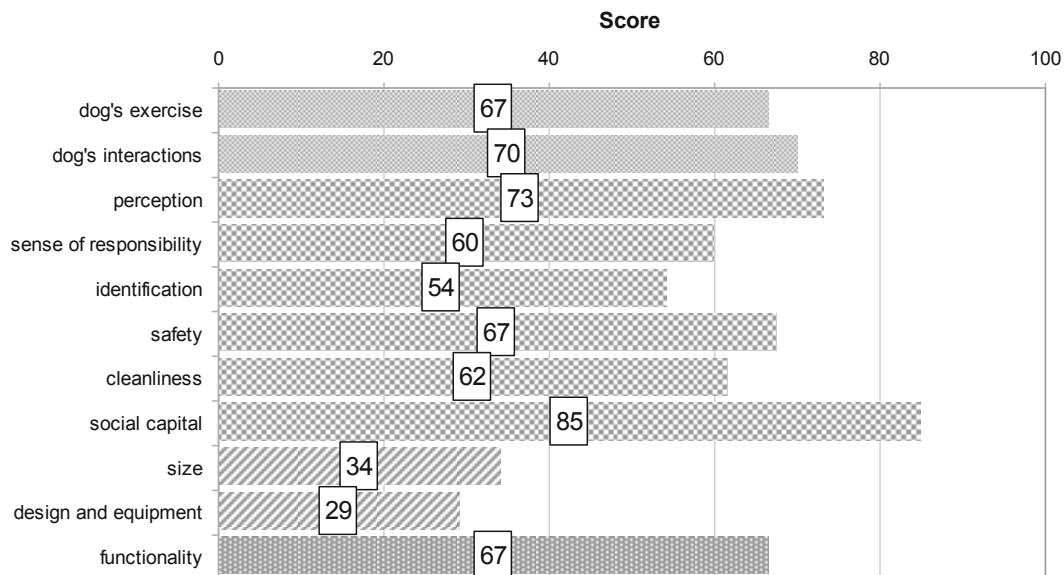
**Figure 105.** View 3: View of one of the entrances to the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park in March. (own photo, taken on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022)



**Figure 106.** View 4: View from the side of the park on the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 25.** Details about the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park.

size	354 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	yes
terrain	gravel surface
lighting	1 lamp inside dog zone
drinking fountain	yes
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	1
seating	4 benches
trees inside	4 (7 outside)
boulders	no
participants who visit	18% (31)

**Figure 107.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. ( $n = 15$ )

The dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park achieved the second highest final score (58) out of all dog zones, and since the highest final score (69) is for the segmented dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone, it can also be titled as the “highest scoring smaller dog zone”.

For a large part, the scoring of the dog zone can be compared to that of the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm: in dog’s interactions (71 for Parkanlage am Hundsturm), perception (75), safety (62), social capital (89), and functionality (63), there is no more than a deviation of five points between the two dog zones. In identification (64) however, the dog zone Parkanlage am Hundsturm scores 10 points higher. Similarly, Parkanlage am Hundsturm achieves nine more points in cleanliness (71) and eight more points in sense of

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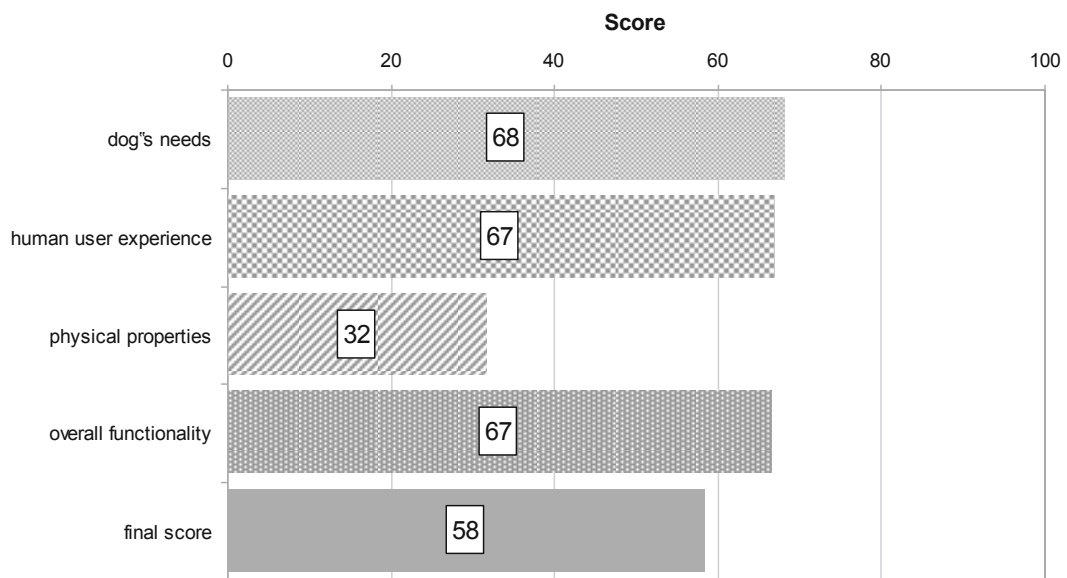
responsibility (68). Leopold-Rister-Park scores just six points higher in both size (34 for Leopold-Rister-Park) as well as design and equipment (29).

By far, the biggest difference in score is in the goal of providing dogs with enough off-leash exercise: here, the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park scores a favourable score (67) while the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm scores a rather unfavourable score (41). While both dog zones are decidedly rated as too small, it seems like the additional 140 m<sup>2</sup> of Leopold-Rister-Park are already enough to turn the view of dog owners into a much more favourable one in terms of space for off-leash exercise.

This does not mean that a 350 m<sup>2</sup> big dog zone is ideal, though: many dog owners at Leopold-Rister-Park talked about how there are incompatible dogs, and when an incompatible dog is in the dog zone, other user groups are excluded from using it. While the dog zone is big enough to provide dogs with some off-leash exercise, it is not big enough to separate two incompatible dogs – especially when the dog zone is not structured at all so there are no “respite areas”.

One issue that was mentioned by several dog owners in the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park were conflicts with a local resident. Several dog owners explained that a certain person lives close to the dog zone and that they often complain about the dog zone and sometimes even distribute suspicious substances on a lawn close to the dog zone, possibly meant to bait the dogs or scare the dog owners.

Another issue that was mentioned by several dog owners were irresponsible dog owners in the neighbourhood. According to them, some people stay in the dog zone for far too long without considering that other user groups would also like to visit, but cannot do so because of incompatible dogs. Furthermore, some other dog owners with listed dogs (see chapter 8.5) do not comply with the regulations and let their listed dogs run off-leash and unmuzzled in the neighbourhood. Because of these people, one of the dog owners prefers to visit dog zones in the first district. Other dog owners also mentioned that some younger dog owners disregard the closing hours of the dog zone by jumping over the fence, and according to one dog owner they sometimes leave behind rubbish in the dog zone. One dog owner thinks that if a lot of people are going to disregard the closing hours anyway, the dog zone should just stay open instead so at least everyone could use it in the late evening.



**Figure 108.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. ( $n = 15$ )



**Figure 109.** Survey evaluation of dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park. (n = 15)

### 16.7 Dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park

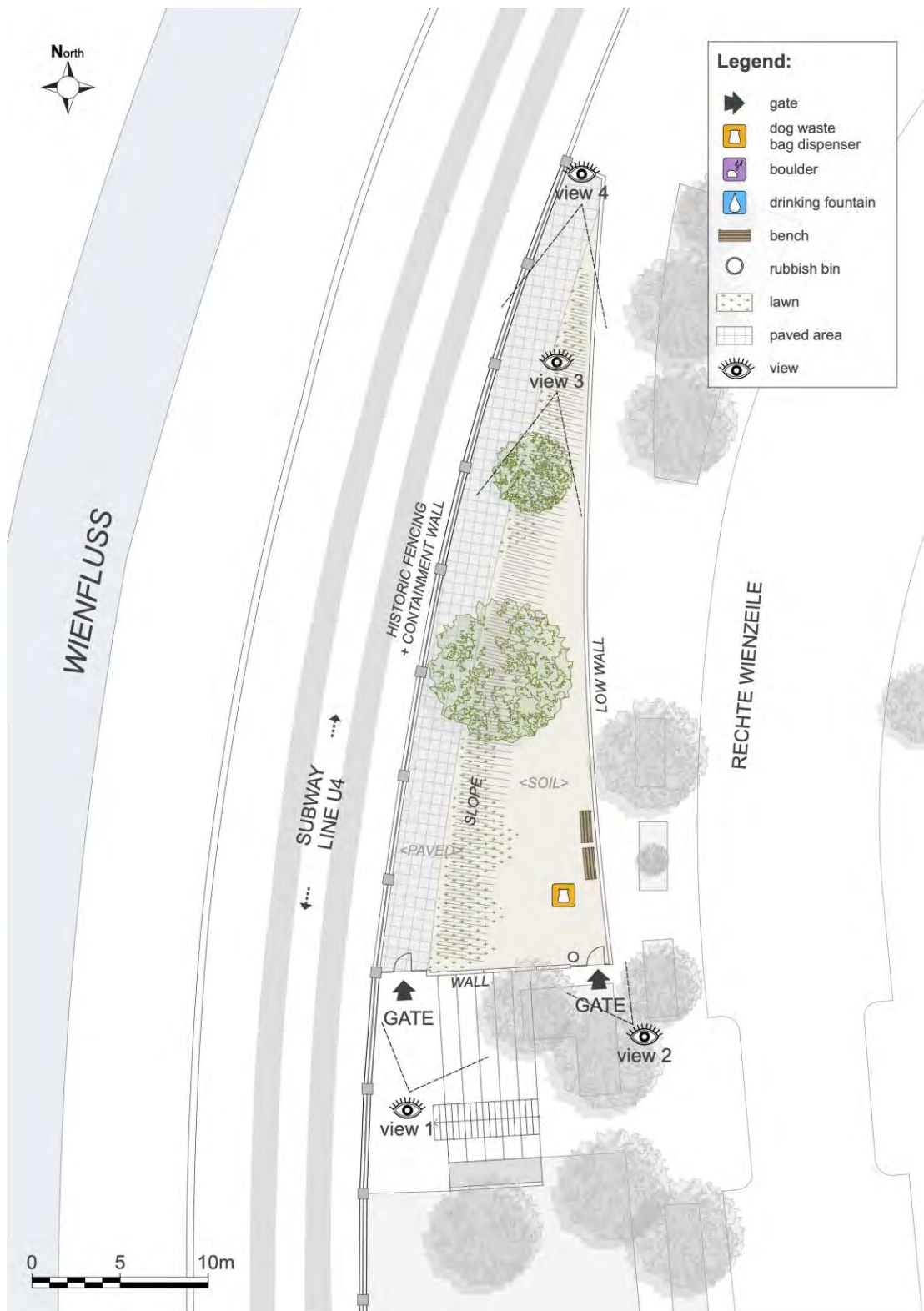


Figure 110. Map of dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (own illustration)





**Figure 111.** View 1: View from outside towards both of the entrances to the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 112.** View 2: View of one of the entrances to the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)



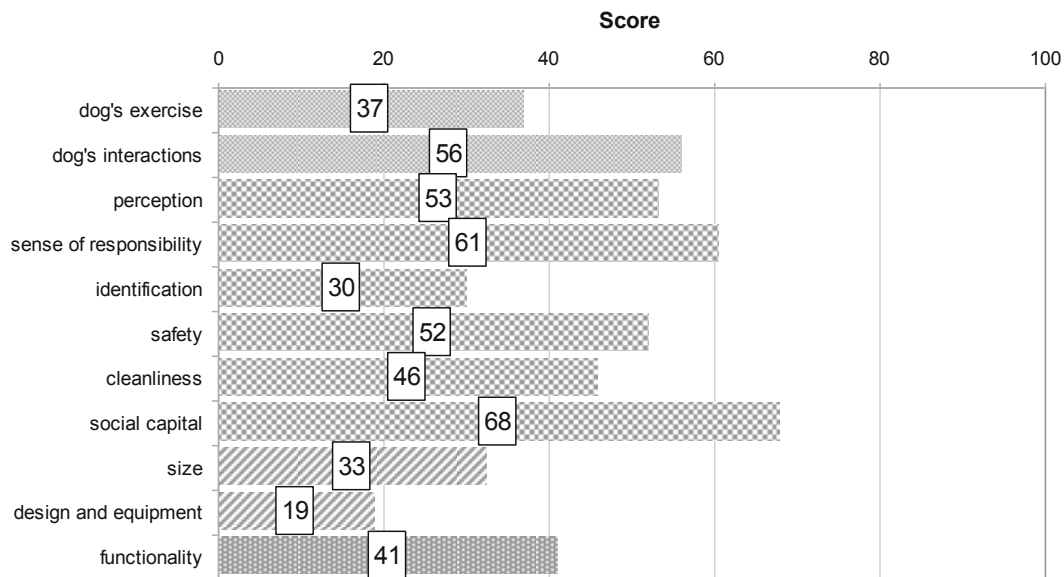
**Figure 113.** View 3: View of the structure from inside the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 114.** View 4: View of the structure of the dog zone from the "end point" of the triangular shaped dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 26.** Details about the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park.

size	332 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes, but not according to modern standards
closing hours	no
terrain	soil with specks of grass, large paved area
lighting	poorly lit by street lamps
drinking fountain	no
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	1
seating	2 benches
trees inside	2
boulders	no
participants who visit	30% (52)



**Figure 115.** Scoring of goals of the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. ( $n = 25$ )

On paper, the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park is 332 m<sup>2</sup>. However, it is located on a slope, and about a third of the dog zone consists of a paved path on the top of the slope. Since paved surfaces are not suitable for dog's play (see chapter 7.7), it can also be argued that the real size of the dog zone is about 225 m<sup>2</sup>.

Overall, the dog zone received rather mediocre ratings, with a rather unfavourable final score of 41. What immediately stands out is the poor score in identification (30) – the lowest of all dog zones that were rated. Only 36% (9) of participants who rated the dog zone ( $n = 25$ ) indicated that they at least rather agree that they see the dog zone as “their” dog zone or “their shared” dog zone with the other visitors and only 16% (4) “rather agreed” that it is like a “living

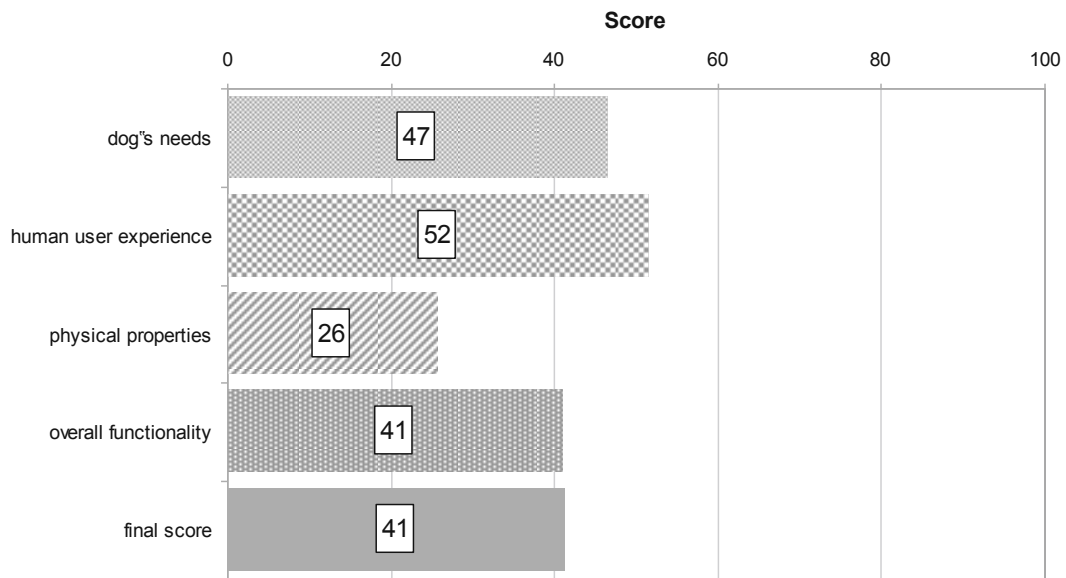
room” in the fresh air – not a single participant “agreed”. The sentiment that the dog zone is unappealing was shared by many visitors during interviews. In one interview, a dog owner even went as far as describing it as the most terrible dog zone on the planet. Multiple visitors think that the sloped “design” is unsuitable for a dog zone. The fencing of the dog zone is also insufficient: on the southern side of the dog zone, the wall is so low that bigger dogs can jump over it and escape. On the northern side of the dog zone, the historic fencing features large gaps through which a small dog such as a Chihuahua could possibly run through – this could have deadly consequences, since the dog might fall off the cliff. Reflecting all of this, the dog zone received a very poor score (19) in the goal design and equipment.

The Ernst Arnold-Park itself is actually less of a “park” than the rest of the parks in the district, since it is really only a long stretch of lawn with some trees, bushes and four benches (see Figure 116). Yet, the green area of the park is over 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> big. Despite the lack of “use” for the area, the park has a dog ban – which is regularly ignored. In fact, there are usually more dogs on the lawn in the “park” than inside of the dog zone – sometimes on a leash, but often also off-leash. In interviews, the dog owners explain that they do not understand why the dog zone is so small and so badly designed when there is so much unused green space right next to the dog zone. Roman Tretthahn from “Parkbetreuung Margareten” (“Park support Margareten”) also explained that his team had noticed the same issue and suggested to the District Council that they should enlarge the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park (cf. interview Tretthahn 2022).

In an interview, Mitis from the District Council explained that some time ago there was, in fact, an application to improve the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park that was filed by the District Council. The application was sent to the appropriate Municipal Department (MA 42) and they evaluated what would have to be done in order to carry out the idea. The answer by the MA 42 was, however, not satisfactory to the District Council: improving the dog zone in the park would have been too expensive for the District Council. A part of the area is heritage protected (“denkmalgeschützt”), which makes it harder to make changes to it. In the end the District Council decided that they would not make any changes to the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (cf. interview Mitis 2022)



**Figure 116.** A view at Ernst-Arnold-Park – the park itself. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 117.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. ( $n = 25$ )

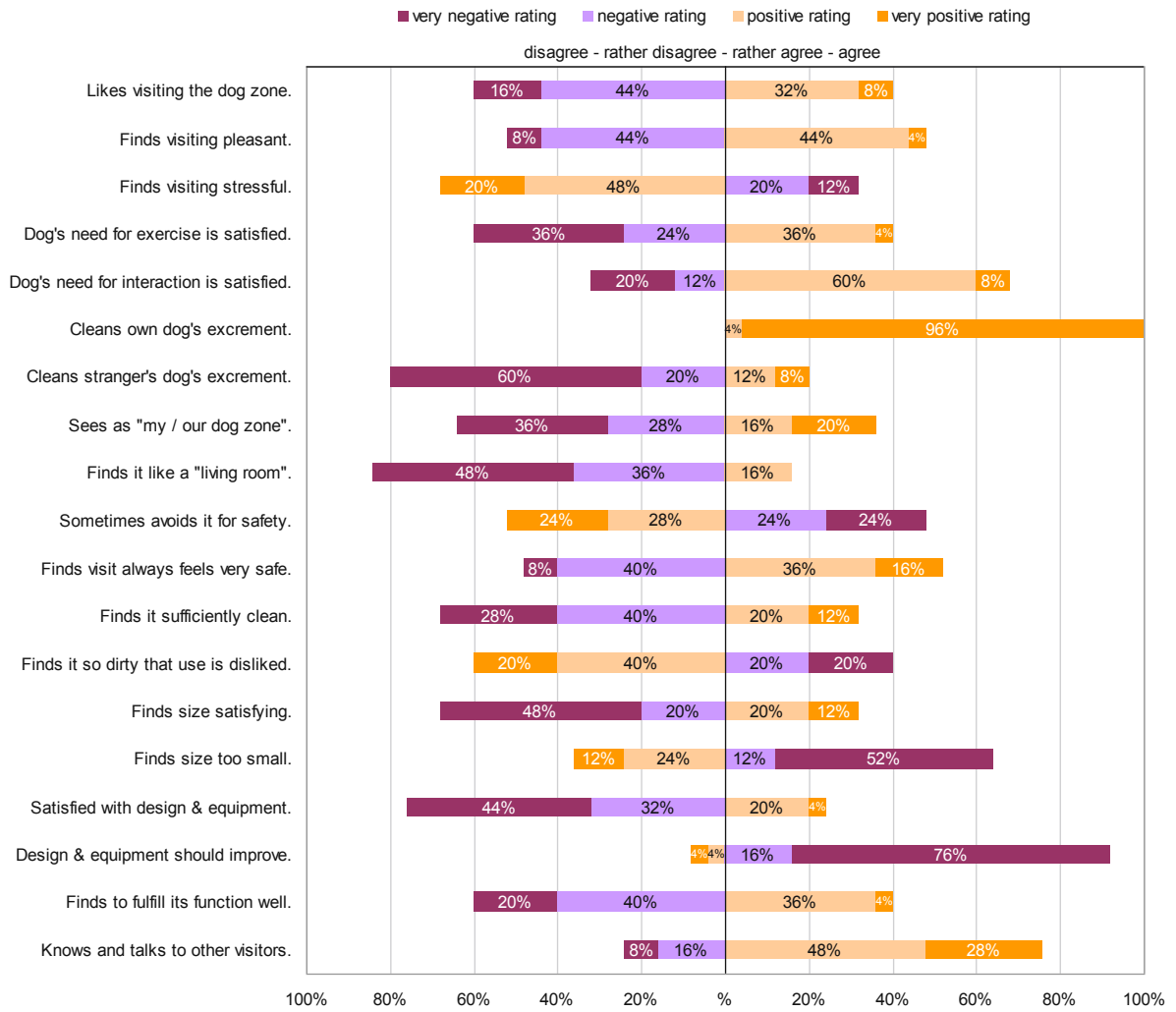


Figure 118. Survey evaluation of dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park. (n = 25)

## 16.8 Dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park



Figure 119. Map of dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park. (own illustration)



**Figure 120.** View 1: View of the whole rectangular dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)

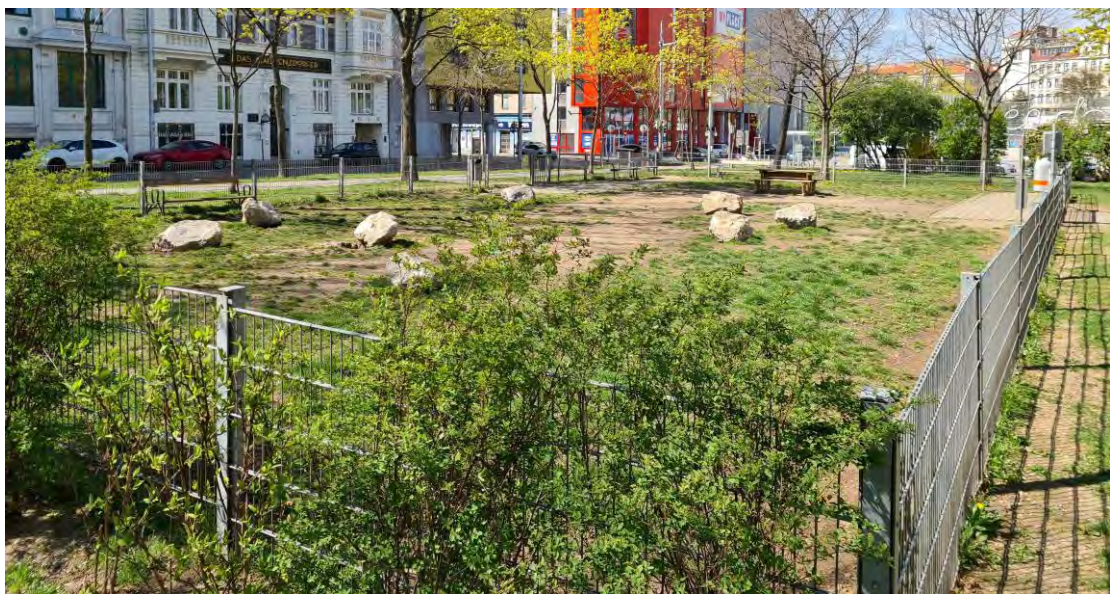


**Figure 121.** View 2: View of both of the entrances to the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park. The second entrance is on the opposite side of the dog zone. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)





**Figure 122.** View 3: View of the structure from inside of the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 123.** View 4: View of the structure from outside of the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 27.** Details about the dog zone in Stefan- Weber-Park.

size	463 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	no
terrain	lawn, soil
lighting	partially/barely lit by street lamps
drinking fountain	yes
dog waste bag dispensers	3
rubbish bins	2
seating	6 benches and one table with 2 benches
trees inside	no
boulders	8
participants who visit	26% (44)

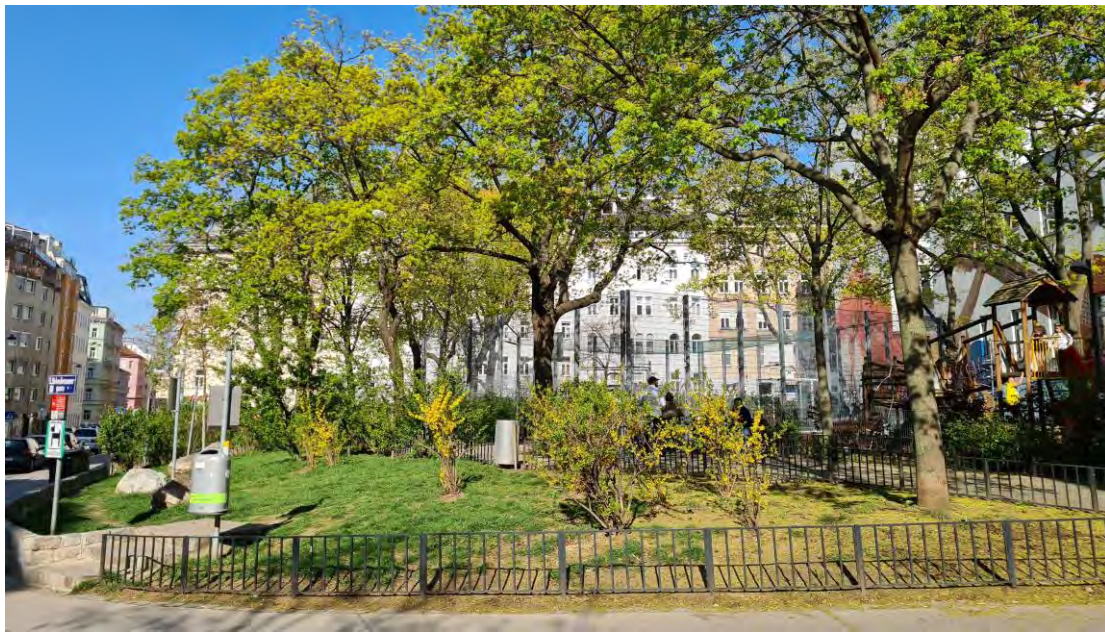
Just like Parkanlage Mittelzone, the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park is located at a very corner of the fifth district, in the middle of the Gürtel, one of the main traffic axes of Vienna. It is also the second biggest dog zone of the district and serves the dog owners of the 12th district just as it does those of Margareten. While at least 26% (44) of the participants who visit dog zones in the fifth district ( $n = 171$ ) indicated that they sometimes visit the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park, only two dog owners selected it as their most visited dog zone of the district. Since the sample size is so small, it would not only be pointless but also methodologically incorrect to analyse the results and form scores.

Although there is a lawn that is a much appreciated design element for most dog owners, the dog zone lacks any other type of vegetation in it. The trees outside of the dog zone can provide some amount of shade to cover a part of the dog zone at some points during the day, but large parts of the dog zone remain exposed to the sun, which can make its use very uncomfortable during hot summer days.

## 16.9 Dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park



Figure 124. Map of dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. (own illustration)



**Figure 125.** View 1: View of the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. (own photo, taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 126.** View 2: View of the "entrance" (steps) to the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. The dog zone is not properly fenced in. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 127.** View 3: View from the corner of the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park, with a piece of missing fencing. The fence has been fixed since. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 128.** View 4: View of the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park. The dog zone is slightly elevated from the sidewalk, but there is no fence to it. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 28.** Details about the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park.

size	238 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	no
closing hours	no
terrain	lawn (some soil around bushes)
lighting	partially lit by street lamps
drinking fountain	no (one inside playground of the park)
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	3
seating	no
trees inside	3 (1 outside)
boulders	4
participants who visit	5% (8)

Out of all the dog zones in Margareten, the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park is most obviously a “relict” from past days: the side to the sidewalk has no fencing whatsoever. Many years ago, other dog zones in Margareten also used to be designed like this: for example the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm and the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark also used to be fenceless (cf. Eckl & Ramharter 2006: 70ff.). When asked about the state of this dog zone in an interview, Wolfgang Mitis, the chairman of the District Council Committee for Environment, said that he had not heard any complaints about the dog zone, and that redesigning dog zones is considered when a park is redesigned (cf. interview Mitis 2022).

In its current state, the dog zone seems more like a meadow with some boulders that just does not happen to have a dog ban. The fact that it borders a sidewalk and a road with car traffic makes it difficult to let dogs visit the dog zone off-leash. If a jogger or a child ran by, or an e-scooter, scooter or a bicycle drove by, some dogs might get distracted and escape the dog zone.

Considering the state of the dog zone and the fact that it is located very close to the big dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone, it is not too surprising that not a single survey participant selected the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park as their most visited dog zone – only 5% (8) of the survey participants indicated that they visit the dog zone at all. Even the tiny temporary dog zone at Bacherpark is used by more survey participants, as 22% (37) of them said that they visit it at least twice a year. It might be that the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark has a higher functionality than the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park.

## 16.10 Temporary dog zone in Bacherpark



Figure 129. Map of dog zone in Bacherpark. (own illustration)

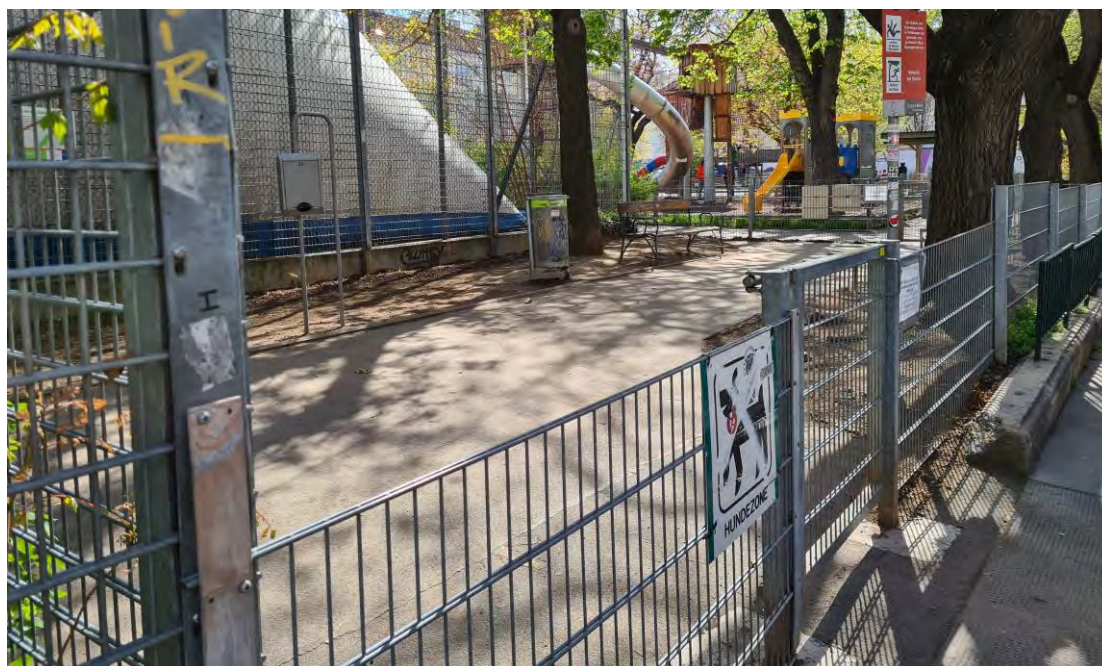




**Figure 130.** View 1: View of one of the entrances to the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)



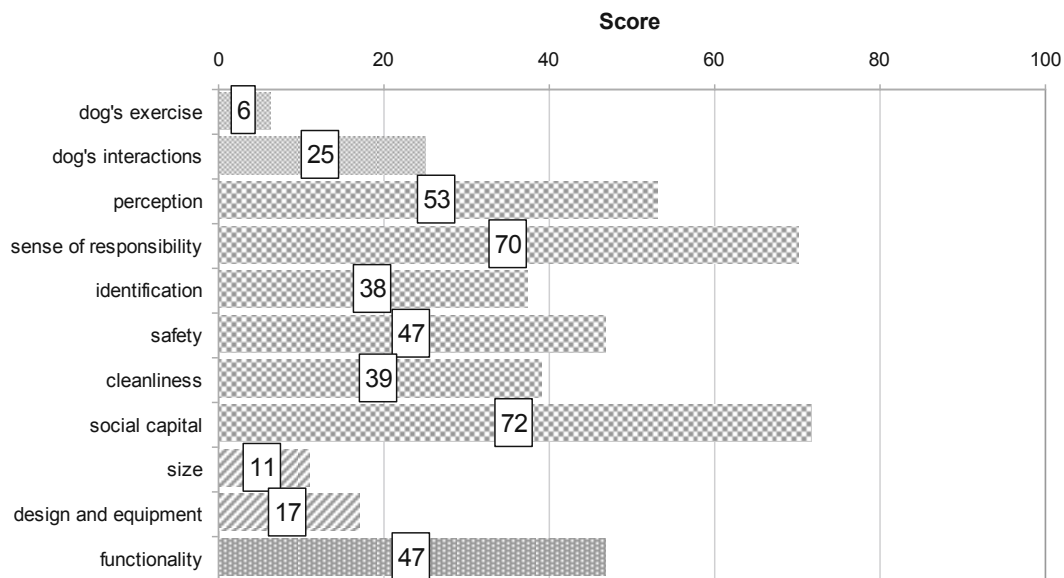
**Figure 131.** View 2: View of the structure of the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. (own photo, taken on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2022)



**Figure 132.** View 3: View of the other entrance to the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. (own photo, taken on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)

**Table 29.** Details about the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark.

size	95 m <sup>2</sup>
fencing	yes
closing hours	no
terrain	mostly paved, soil
lighting	poorly lit by street lamps
drinking fountain	no, but one inside the park
dog waste bag dispensers	1
rubbish bins	1
seating	2 benches
trees inside	3 (1 outside)
boulders	no
participants who visit	22% (37)



**Figure 133.** Scoring of goals of the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. ( $n = 8$ )

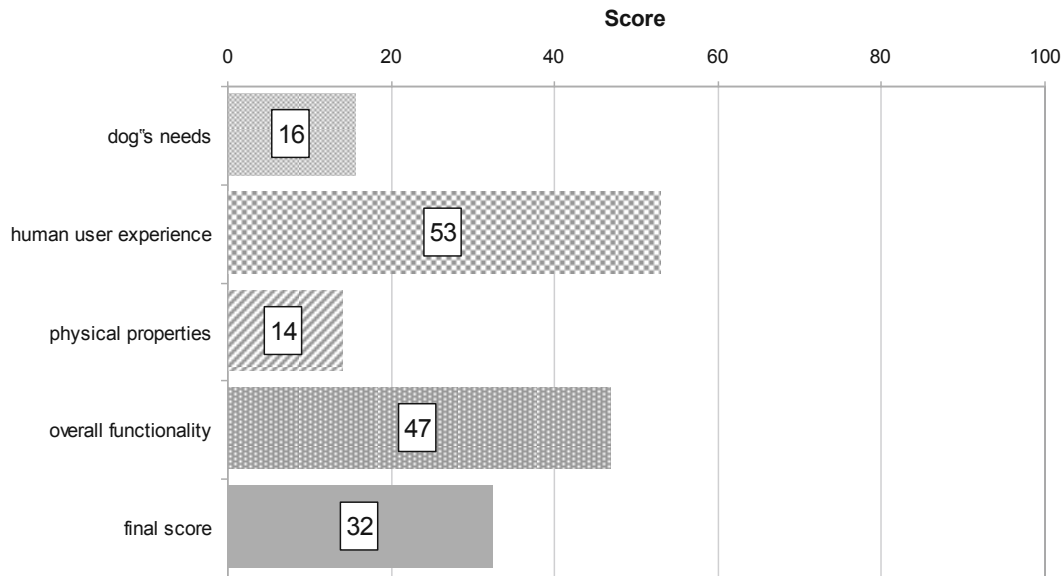
Before the subway construction started in February of 2021, Bacherpark used to have a proper dog zone with the size of 350 m<sup>2</sup> (cf. Hlava 2013). The current tiny dog zone in Bacherpark is meant to serve as a temporary replacement for the duration of the construction work and is not even listed in the official list of dog zones (cf. City of Vienna 2022). This emergency solution was provided by the District Council since there was a wish from local dog owners to have at least some kind of dog zone in Bacherpark. It will be evaluated what kind of permanent dog zone can be (re)established in the park once the subway construction has finished.

For what it is, the dog zone is actually visited surprisingly well, which is possibly explained by its central location in the district: after all, 22% (37) of the participants who visit dog zones in Margareten ( $n = 171$ ) indicated that they sometimes visit the temporary dog zone.

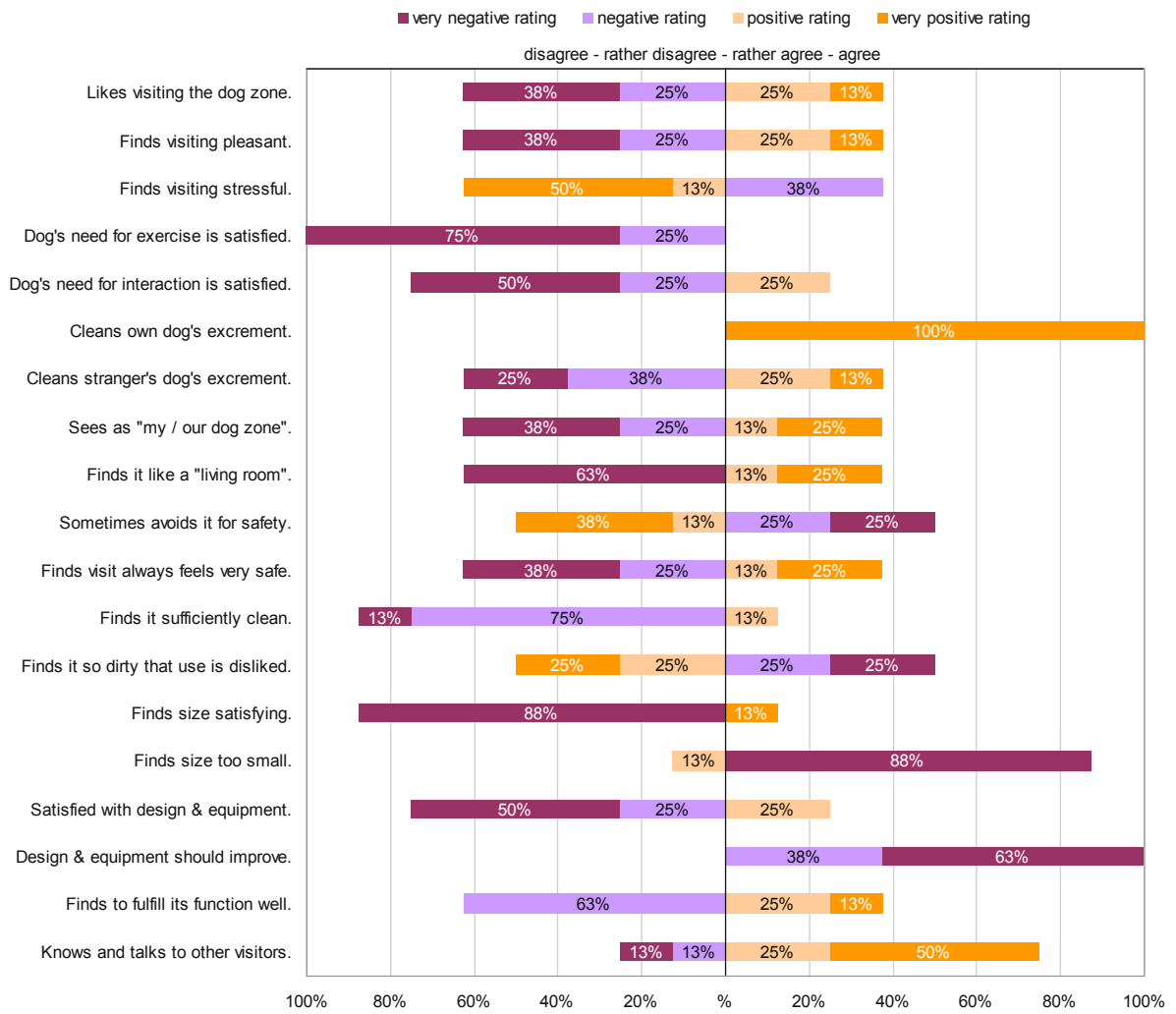
The fact that the area was not planned as a proper dog zone is quite obvious: a majority of the area is covered in a paved path which is not a suitable terrain for playing dogs (see chapter 7.7). On the sides of the dog zone there is common ivy (*Hedera helix*) growing which is mildly poisonous for dogs (cf. Bertero 2021: 28ff.).

The temporary dog zone achieved very poor to rather unfavourable ratings in eight out of eleven goals, including poor to very poor ratings in fulfilling a dog's needs for off-leash exercise (6) and conspecific interactions (25). However, 75% (6) of the participants who rated the dog zone ( $n = 8$ ) at least rather agreed that they know and sometimes talk to other visitors of the dog

zone. It seems like despite everything that is negative about the dog zone, it might still fulfil a social function for the dog owners who visit it most frequently. In an interview, one dog owner said that they mostly visit the temporary dog zone because they live right next to it, and that they also sometimes visit the big dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone, but no other dog zones besides those two.



**Figure 134.** Scoring of the four criteria and final score of the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. ( $n = 8$ )



**Figure 135.** Survey evaluation of temporary dog zone in Bacherpark. (n = 8)

## 17 Evaluating the observations of the dog zones at Parkanlage am Hundsturm and Rudolf-Sallinger-Park

### 17.1 Observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm during a weekday



**Figure 136.** Parkanlage am Hundsturm: 11:48 a.m. (own photo, taken on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022)



**Figure 137.** Parkanlage am Hundsturm: 3:40 p.m. (own photo, taken on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022)

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The weekday observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm was made on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The weather was sunny and the temperature during the morning hours ranged from 11 to 19 degrees Celsius, in the afternoon to evening hours the temperature ranged from 20 to 24 degrees Celsius.

During the course of the day, 146 unique target user groups were identified and documented. The dog zone was entered 109 times by 93 unique target user groups. Of the target user groups that visited the dog zone ( $n = 93$ ), 48% (45) had meaningful interactions with other target user groups within the dog zone (“coming together”). Target user groups walked by the dog zone 13 times while it was occupied (“avoidance” or “disinterest”) and three times while it was empty (“disinterest”). A total of eight entry attempts into the dog zone “failed” because of incompatibilities between dogs (“avoidance”) and one target user group left the dog zone to let another target user group enter in their stead (“temporal juxtaposition” and “exiting”).

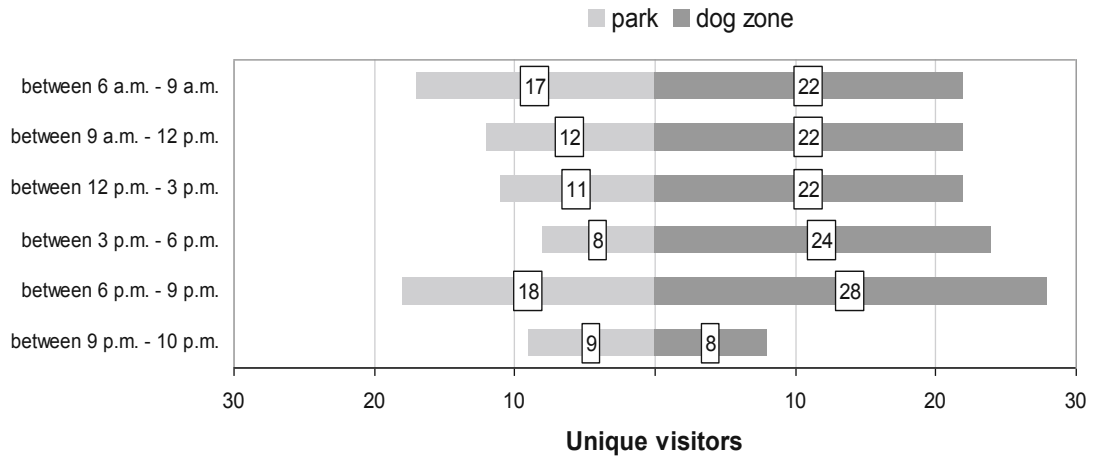
Three escalations between dogs took place, but they did not lead to actions of displacement. Around 6:57 p.m. a resident walked down from her apartment and yelled at the two present target user groups that they should stop their dogs from barking (“opposition”). One of the present dog owners stood up and walked away from the furious resident, but did not leave the dog zone (“action of displacement”).

During the course of the day, 65 unique target user groups visited the park which has a dog ban (“rebellion”), of them, 15% (10) let their dogs run off-leash at some point during the day (even clearer “rebellion”). However, a vast majority of the visits to the park were very short – about two minutes. The target user groups faced no “opposition” whatsoever while visiting the park, four “coming together” between target user groups were recorded inside the park and one “coming together” between a target user group and non-target user group was recorded.

On the other hand, during the course of the day, 17 non-target user groups made “spatial claims” on the various lawn areas of the park: for example people sitting and laying in shade, people sunbathing, picnicking and and a group of adults practising gymnastics.

Figure 138 shows when target user groups visited the dog zone and the park. Please note that the blocks of time are arranged similarly to the survey, but that the last block is only one hour long as opposed to the rest. Dog owners mostly visited the park during the morning when there were still few people in the park and during the evening once most people had left the park. When many people were in the park, target user groups mostly walked through the park very quickly, but as even a walk through the park with a dog is prohibited

by law, such an action was recorded as “rebellion”. The number of visitors to the dog zone stayed fairly stable during the day, with some more target user groups visiting in the evening.



**Figure 138.** Unique target user group "visitors" during the six indicated time frames in Parkanlage am Hundsturm and its dog zone on a weekday (May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022).



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## 17.2 Observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm during a weekend day



**Figure 139.** Parkanlage am Hundsturm: 11:21 a.m. An off-leash dog on a lawn in the park. (own photo, taken on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022)



**Figure 140.** Parkanlage am Hundsturm: 7:35 p.m. A child plays with a dog in the park. (own photo, taken on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022)

The weekend day observation at Parkanlage am Hundsturm was made on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The weather was sunny and the temperature during the morning hours ranged from 14 to 20 degrees Celsius, in the afternoon to evening hours the temperature ranged from 18 to 23 degrees Celsius.

During the course of the day, 128 unique target user groups were identified and documented. The dog zone was entered 78 times by 66 unique target user groups. Of the target user groups that visited the dog zone ( $n = 66$ ), 32% (21) had meaningful interactions with other target user groups within the dog zone (“coming together”). Target user groups walked by the dog zone 14 times while it was occupied (“avoidance” or “disinterest”) and three times while it was empty (“disinterest” or “habitual avoidance”). A total of four entry attempts into the dog zone “failed” because of incompatibilities between dogs (“avoidance”) and three target user groups left the dog zone to let another target user group enter in their stead (“temporal juxtaposition” and “exiting”). Two escalations between dogs took place which led to one target user group “exiting” the dog zone.

During the course of the day, 76 unique target user groups visited the park which has a dog ban (“rebellion”), of them, 22% (17) let their dogs run off-leash at some point during the day (even clearer “rebellion”). However, a vast majority of the visits to the park were very short – about two minutes.

On the other hand, during the course of the day ten non-target user groups made “spatial claims” on the various lawn areas of the park: for example couples on a picnic, children playing with a frisbee and with a ball and several people sunbathing.

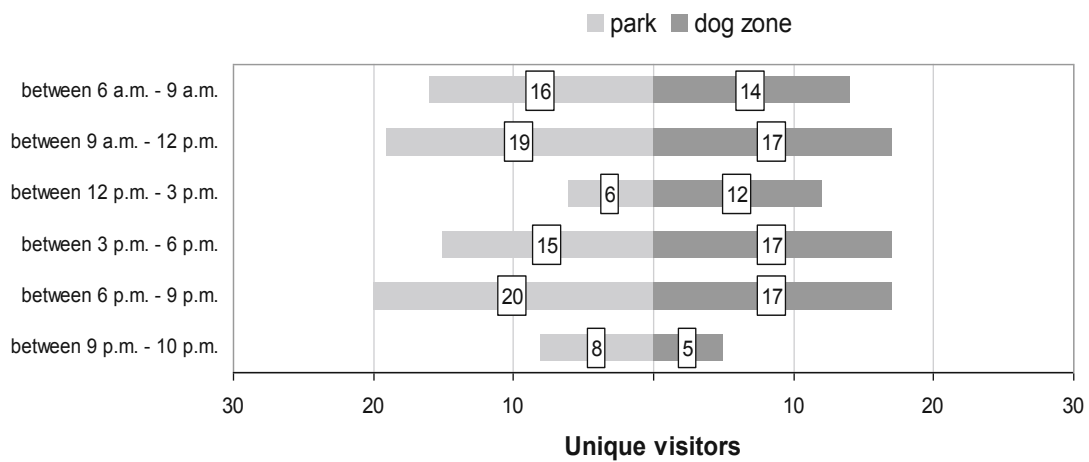
Inside the park, one dog “escalation” took place between three target user groups, which led to two of the target user groups “exiting” to make space for the third target user group that had just entered the park.

The target user groups faced no “opposition” whatsoever from non-target user groups while visiting the park, four “coming togethers” between target user groups were recorded inside the park and three “coming togethers” between a target user group and non-target user group were also recorded: the first one was a mother and her small child watching a dog and talking with the dog owner, the second one was a girl who played with a stranger’s dog and a ball (see Figure 140) and the third one was a small boy who pet a stranger’s dog.

Figure 141 shows when target user groups visited the dog zone and the park. Again, dog owners mostly visited the park during the morning when there were still few people in the park and during the evening once most people had left the park. Just as during the weekday, when many people were in the park, target user groups mostly walked through the park very quickly. The number of

visitors to the dog zone stayed fairly stable during the day, with a few less visitors in the early morning and early afternoon.

What is noticeable is that during the weekend, more target user groups visited the park and also more of the dog owners let their dogs run off the leash in the park. On the other hand, less of them visited the dog zone than during the weekday. However, as already stated, the atmosphere in the park towards dogs was very friendly.



**Figure 141.** Unique target user group "visitors" during the six indicated time frames in Parkanlage am Hundsturm and its dog zone on a day during the weekend (May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022).

### 17.3 Observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park during a weekday



**Figure 142.** Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: 6:06 a.m. The dog zone is being unlocked. The water is from the automatic irrigation of the lawn behind the dog zone. (own photo, taken on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022)



**Figure 143.** Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: 8:52 a.m. A dog owner and two dogs on a lawn in the park. (own photo, taken on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022)

The weekday observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park was made on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The weather was sunny and the temperature during the morning hours ranged from 15 to 25 degrees Celsius, in

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the afternoon to evening hours the temperature ranged from 24 to 28 degrees Celsius.

During the course of the day, 129 unique target user groups were identified and documented. The dog zone was entered 64 times by 55 unique target user groups. Of the target user groups that visited the dog zone ( $n = 55$ ), 47% (26) had meaningful interactions with other target user groups within the dog zone (“coming together”). Target user groups walked by the dog zone 38 times while it was occupied (“avoidance” or “disinterest”) and 24 times while it was empty (“disinterest” or “habitual avoidance”). One entry attempt into the dog zone “failed” because the dog zone was already closed by the time the target user group arrived (9:52 p.m.) and two target user groups left the dog zone to let another target user group enter in their stead (“temporal juxtaposition” and “exiting”). One escalation between dogs took place, but since it was over the fence between two dogs that had previously shared the dog zone, it only led to displacement within the park.

Rudolf-Sallinger-Park does not have a dog ban, so dogs are allowed to enter the park. However, even then dogs are not allowed to enter the lawn areas of the park by law. This law is very commonly ignored in this park though and many dog owners who use the dog zone also let their dog(s) enter the lawn areas of the park (“rebellion”).

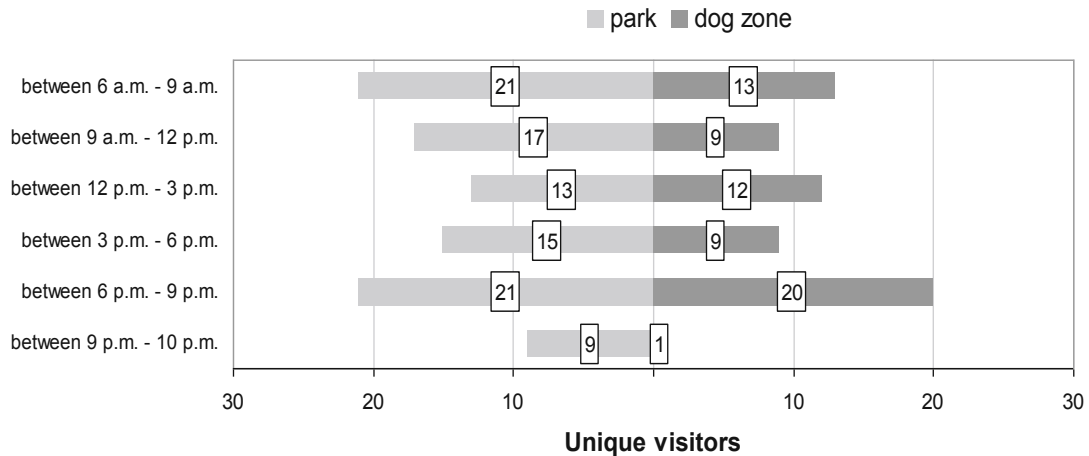
Since dogs are allowed to enter the paved areas of the park, Figure 144 does not include dogs that only used the paved area of Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: only dogs that entered a lawn were counted.

During the course of the day, 83 unique target user groups visited the lawn areas of the park (“rebellion”), of them, 14% (12) let their dogs run off-leash at some point during the day (even clearer “rebellion”). Also in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park, a vast majority of the “visits” to the lawns by dogs were very short – about two minutes.

From 3:50 p.m. to 5:12 p.m., two young girls stayed on the lawn behind the dog zone with a picnic blanket, playing. From 5:59 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., a young woman sat down under a tree in a different lawn area. These were the only two “spatial claims” of non-target user groups towards the lawn areas of the park during the course of the day.

The target user groups faced no “opposition” whatsoever from non-target user groups while visiting the park or lawn areas, eight “coming togethers” between target user groups were recorded inside the park and six “coming togethers” between a target user group and non-target user group were also recorded. In one of these, a man petted the dog and in another of these, a mother showed off a stranger’s dog to her baby.

Figure 144 shows when target user groups visited the dog zone and the lawn areas of the park. During all times of the day, more target user groups visited the lawn areas than the dog zone. This is because most target user groups who visited the dog zone also visited the lawn areas before or after visiting the dog zone, but not all target user groups that visited the lawn areas also visited the dog zone. The evening was by far the busiest time in the dog zone.



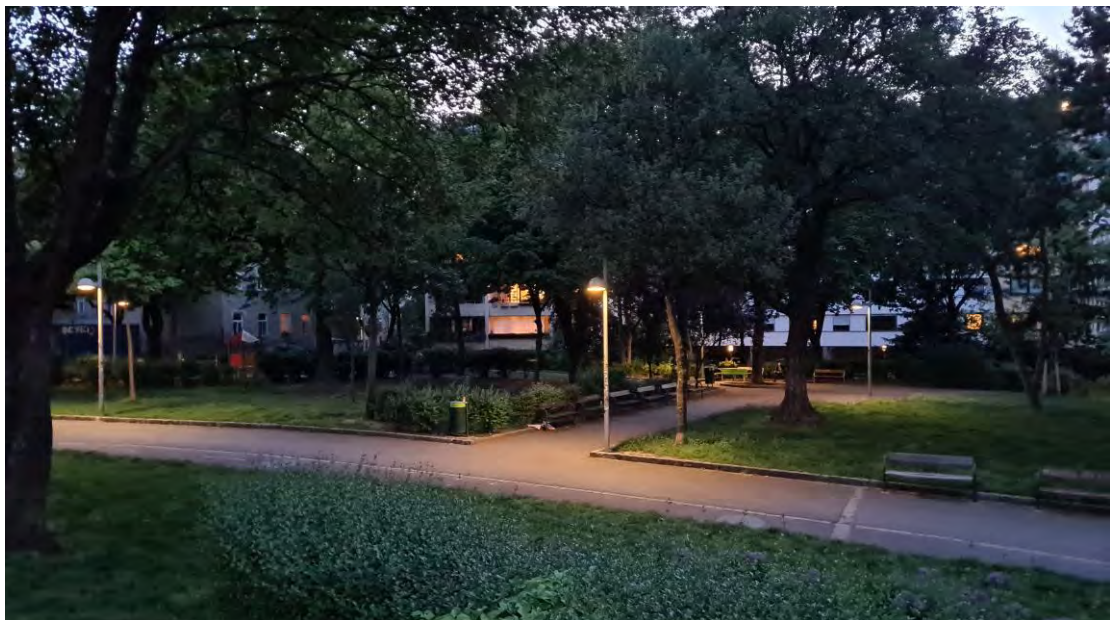
**Figure 144.** Unique target user group "visitors" during the six indicated time frames in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park and its dog zone on a weekday (June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022).

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## 17.4 Observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park during a weekend day



**Figure 145.** Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: 3:59 p.m. (own photo, taken on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022)



**Figure 146.** Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: 9:00 p.m. (own photo, taken on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022)

The weekend day observation at Rudolf-Sallinger-Park was made on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The weather was sunny and the temperature during the morning hours ranged from 18 to 23 degrees Celsius, in

the afternoon to evening hours the temperature ranged from 21 to 26 degrees Celsius.

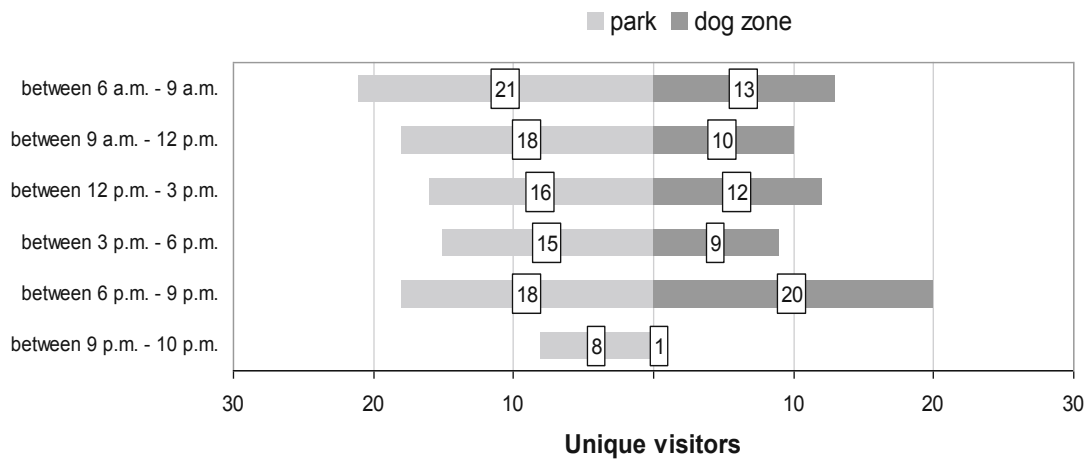
During the course of the day, 136 unique target user groups were identified and documented. The dog zone was entered 62 times by 54 unique target user groups (40% of all target user groups that were observed). Of the target user groups that visited the dog zone ( $n = 54$ ), 44% (24) had meaningful interactions with other target user groups within the dog zone (“coming together”). Target user groups walked by the dog zone 49 times while it was occupied (“avoidance” or “disinterest”) and 20 times while it was empty (“disinterest” or “habitual avoidance”). A total of five entry attempts into the dog zone “failed” because of incompatibilities between dogs (“avoidance”) and one entry attempt “failed” because the dog zone was already closed by the time the target user group arrived (9:41 p.m.). Three target user groups left the dog zone to let another target user group enter in their stead (“temporal juxtaposition” and “exiting”). Three escalations between dogs took place which led to a total of two target user groups “exiting” the dog zone.

During the course of the day, 90 unique target user groups visited the lawn areas of the park (“rebellion”), of them, 14% (13) let their dogs run off-leash at some point during the day (even clearer “rebellion”). Again, a vast majority of the “visits” to the lawns by dogs were very short – about two minutes. On the other hand, not a single non-target user group used any of the lawns in the park during the day.

Finally, even during this observation day, the target user groups faced no “opposition” whatsoever from non-target user groups while visiting the park or lawn areas. Eight “coming togethers” between target user groups were recorded inside the park and three “coming togethers” between a target user group and non-target user group were also recorded: again, in one of these interactions, a mother and a child were involved and in another one, a father and his child were involved.

Figure 147 shows when target user groups visited the dog zone and the lawn areas of the park. The results are very similar to the results from the weekday observation.





**Figure 147.** Unique target user group "visitors" during the six indicated time frames in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park and its dog zone on a day during the weekend (May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022).

## 17.5 Conclusion from the observations

It can be stated as a fact that many dog owners do indeed disregard rules concerning their dog's entry into parks or into lawn areas. However, the dog owners seem to break the law mindfully: in Parkanlage am Hundsturm, less dog owners even cross the park during times when there are many other visitors present, and very few dog owners stay in either of the parks for extended periods of time. In the parks, no conflicts between target user groups and other user groups were observed. It seems like the spatial negotiation processes between dog owners and park visitors – which are in theory prohibited by law (see also chapter 2.6) – can have harmonic outcomes in practice.

In Rudolf-Sallinger-Park, other user groups usually just sit on the benches, and they rarely want to use the lawns which are instead frequented by dogs. In Parkanlage am Hundsturm, there are at least a few more people who like to claim the lawns for relaxation, and sometimes children play or run around on a lawn for some time.

The following chapters will recommend dedicating more space to dogs in both of these parks. The recommendations are based on "spatial claims" that were made on the lawns of the two parks by different user groups – on one hand, by many dog owners, on the other hand by few other user groups. It is concluded that even if one current lawn area in both of the parks was dedicated to a dog zone, the remaining lawn areas of the parks could still provide other user groups with a satisfying amount of space to play and relax.

# 18 Recommendations for dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna

## 18.1 Chapter introduction

In Margareten, space for parks and dog zones is a scarce resource, so the few remaining parks and dog zones should be designed to be as “inclusive” as possible, taking into consideration that different user groups have different needs and expectations for the same site (see also chapter 2.3).

Using the knowledge that has been gained from all the research and guided by the results of the analyses, this chapter presents recommendations on how all nine dog zones of Margareten could be improved. Two key strategies are presented for making the urban green sites of the district more inclusive.

Select dog zones are recommended to be structured using natural elements such as bushes. These elements can softly divide the dog zones into several “areas” or “rooms”. Right now, the lines of sight in the dog zones are rarely broken, which makes them feel like singular, big rooms. This does not offer dogs and dog owners the possibility to retreat from other present user groups. Better structuring would let user groups alternate between settings of “coming together” and “spatial juxtaposition” in different areas of the dog zones. With better structuring, the dog zones can accommodate more user groups at the same time, making them as inclusive as possible. A structuring of dog zones would not only improve the perception of the “design and equipment goal” of dog zones. The possibility to go out of the way of other user groups while staying inside of the dog zones (“action of displacement”) also would contribute towards the goal of “safety”. The visual interest added by natural obstacles also makes the dog zones more interesting to traverse for the dogs: in structured dog zones, dogs can for example run around bushes, so structuring can also make dog sites better equipped in meeting the goal to providing a sufficient environment for a “dog”s (need of off-leash) exercise”. The much heightened “functionality” of structured dog zones would also lead to a more positive human “perception” of the dog zones. The first key strategy that contributes greatly towards a dog zone”s goals is structuring select dog zones in Margareten.

It has been established that urban planners should allocate spatial resources in a fair and responsible way (see chapter 2.1). It has also been illustrated that in order to properly fulfil their dog”s natural needs, dog owners are dependent on dog zones (see e.g. chapter 9.1) and that they have limited

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relocative resources to satisfy these needs far away from their homes (see chapter 2.5). Because of their dependence on the infrastructure of their immediate living environment, dog owners can be understood as a vulnerable group whose needs should be accommodated in planning where possible. Therefore, expanding dog sites should seriously be considered at sites in which this would be possible in a fair and responsible way. The analyses have determined that this is possible in two parks (see chapter 17). The second key strategy is expanding select dog zones.

In one of the dog zones (see chapter 18.5), a recommendation in the form of a special community board is presented which is meant to heighten the “identification” of user groups with the dog zone, which in turn can lead to a higher “sense of responsibility” for the dog zone. At the same time, the measure can also lead to a more positive “perception” of the dog zone and possibly even to more engendering of “social capital”. If the measure is deemed effective, the concept can be expanded to other dog sites.

Of course, the recommendations also address specific issues which were identified in the individual dog zones. Furthermore, a suggestion for introducing “district level dog site master plans” for a more holistic planning approach is presented (see chapter 18.11).

## 18.2 Recommendation for dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone



Figure 148. Suggested changes to the dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone.

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The dog zone in Parkanlage Mittelzone is already a very good dog zone for an inner city district and was rated favourably. However, the dog zone is located right next to one of the main traffic axes of the city, which is a very dangerous road. In order to make the dog zone safer, it is suggested to implement double entry gates. This would make it impossible for dogs to escape when a new user group enters the dog zone. Not only would this setup make the dog zone safer, it would also reduce the stressfulness of entry situations as there is no more fear of letting dogs escape involved.

A second suggestion is setting up a few tables and benches on the outside of the dog zone, in – where possible – shaded areas close to the gates. Especially during the summer, some people without dogs like to enter the dog zone, which can lead to frustrating (and sometimes even dangerous) situations. By providing seating and tables outside of the dog zone, people without dogs have no excuse to lounge around in the dog zone.

### 18.3 Recommendation for dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park



Figure 149. Suggested changes to the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park.

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As made clear by the analysis in chapter 13.3, the eastern part of Margareten provides a very small amount of dog site per dog. This means that the expected use pressure on the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park is very high. Because of this it can clearly be recommended to expand the dog zone.

This conclusion is backed up by the observations of the park and its dog zone. As the observations showed, the lawns in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park are currently mostly used by dog owners and dogs. The good news is that there is no reason for the dog zone to be as small as it currently is – it can easily be expanded with the area right behind it. Even then, two big “unused” lawn areas would be left for other user groups.

As a part of a local idea competition called “Wiener Klimateams” with a budget of about 2,000,000 euros for projects in the fifth district, the author submitted the idea about expanding the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park. However, the submission did not receive a grant.

The original submission was in German and can be found in appendix 9. This is an English translation of the submission (cf. Mirzaiyan-Tafty 2022):

“Key points, in a nutshell:

- Plant lawns and bushes in the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park.
- Enlargement of the dog zone without discriminating against other user groups.
- Create automatic irrigation for the 690m<sup>2</sup> lawn outside the dog zone.

As part of a study on dog zones in Margareten (Mirzaiyan-Tafty 2022, not yet published), 201 dog owners in the district were reached in April-June 2022 with a representative survey. The most common requests are larger dog zones and greenery in the dog zones, especially a lawn. These wishes are unrealistic in most parks because an extension of the dog zones is not possible due to space restrictions or other user groups would be disadvantaged by an enlargement of the dog zone. A clear exception, however, is the Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: The three existing, spacious lawns of the park are mainly used by dog owners. This statement is clearly supported by empirical, all-day (06-22) non-participant observations (May/June 2022) made both during the week and at weekends.

The dog zone in the Rudolf-Sallinger-Park is equipped with a gravel surface, the effect of which on the microclimate is better than a sealed area, but worse than a lawn. A gravel surface dusts (a lot) when the weather is dry, while a turf not only binds dust and carbon dioxide, but also produces oxygen, increases humidity and reduces temperature fluctuations. (cf. Ehmayer 2011: 56) Not only are small dog zones generally avoided by many dog owners, a dog

zone with a gravel surface is seen by many dog owners as particularly unreasonable on dry summer days, which drives dog owners (and dogs) further into areas which they should not actually enter. This means that a larger dog zone with a higher quality of stay, a dog zone which dog owners like to use, benefits all residents in the neighbourhood, because dogs are kept as far away from other areas as possible.

In order to create a lawn in a dog zone, the dog zone must be large enough that the lawn can withstand the use pressure by the dogs. The existing dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (276 m<sup>2</sup>) is too small for a lawn, but if the dog zone is enlarged by the area that is directly behind the dog zone – and it is already mainly used by dog owners anyway – the dog zone would be large enough for a lawn. According to a measurement in the Vienna city map, the enlarged dog zone would be 700 m<sup>2</sup>, which would be significantly larger than the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park (463 m<sup>2</sup>), which is equipped with a lawn. In addition, the enlarged dog zone would correspond to the guidelines from the "Parkleitbild 2021" of the City of Vienna, which recommends 500m<sup>2</sup> as the minimum size for a dog zone for animal welfare reasons. A "climate-friendly" dog zone also makes sense for animal welfare reasons. Klimateams Wien considers "social justice" as a criterion for submissions. Dogs have no say in the planning of their spaces and can suffer from heat just like all humans. A cooler dog zone that features more natural elements is in the best interests of all dogs. In this sense, an installation of a drinking fountain within the enlarged dog zone would also be conceivable.

After the enlargement of the dog zone from 276 m<sup>2</sup> to 700 m<sup>2</sup>, two lawns of 690 m<sup>2</sup> and 660 m<sup>2</sup> each (1350 m<sup>2</sup> in total) would still be available for other uses (picnic, games, ...). This means that other park visitors who want to claim the use of meadows will not be affected by the enlargement of the dog zone. The 660 m<sup>2</sup> lawn area with a mound and a flowerbed is more attractive anyway for e.g. a picnic, and the 690 m<sup>2</sup> area offers ample shade on hot summer days. The 690 m<sup>2</sup> meadow should also be equipped with automatic irrigation as part of the redesign – just as the 660 m<sup>2</sup> meadow already has. Thus, the lawn would also hold up better in this part and be even more attractive for park visitors. The enlarged dog zone should not only be completely equipped with a lawn, but also be structured with numerous bushes, which also contributes to a better microclimate. Structuring the dog zone also serves the dogs, as they are offered visual retreat areas in the event of conflicts. Good structuring with vegetation makes the dog zone acceptable for more simultaneous users, while a small, unstructured dog zone often leads to avoidance of the dog zone due to the potential for conflict in a small, open area.

The existing automatic irrigation for the lawn behind the dog zone should also be expanded so that it also irrigates the new lawn in the dog zone and significantly increases its chances of surviving under the pressure of use. The



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survey showed that 81% of those questioned who mainly use the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park ( $n = 31$ ) feel that the dog zone is "too small". In addition, 87% of those surveyed think that the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park should be improved in terms of equipment and design.

With the redesign, the dog zone would:

- Ensure a better microclimate in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park.
- Address the wishes of dog owners directly and ensure a higher quality of stay in the dog zone.
- Improve acceptance of the dog zone by dog owners, which would keep more dogs away from areas they should not be entering. This way, not only the dog owners benefit from the redesign, but the whole neighbourhood.
- Not negatively affect other park visitors, but possibly even positively (better microclimate).

[...] I am gladly available for further questions.

Reference: Ehmayer (2011): Leitfaden zum nachhaltigen Urbanen Platz, on behalf of the MA22 Vienna environmental protection department"

## 18.4 Recommendation for dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm

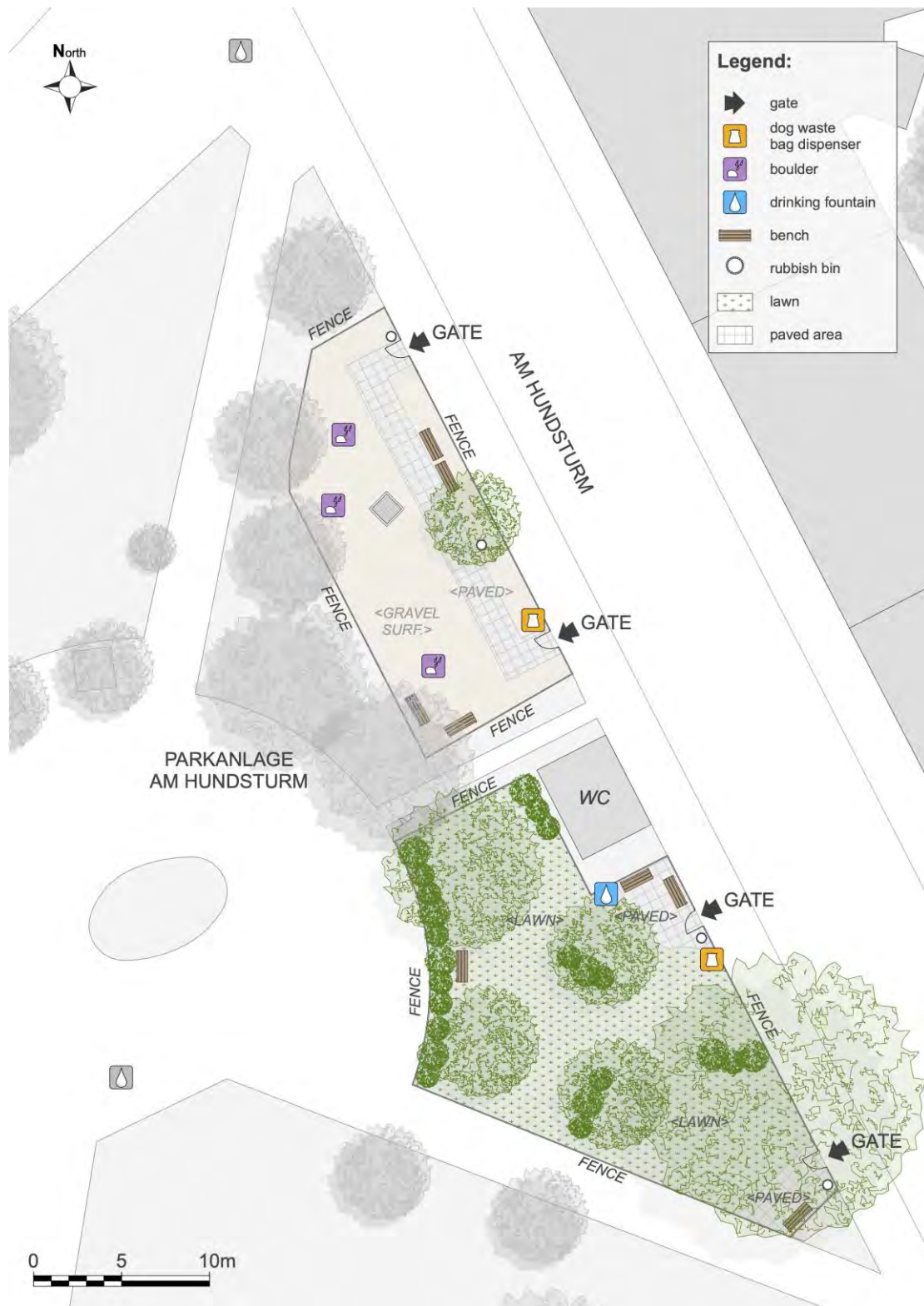


Figure 150. Suggested changes to the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm.

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As the survey and observations revealed, the small dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm is very popular among dog owners. During peak hours, even eight dogs can be seen in the dog zone at the same time. Some dog owners also like to stay in the dog zone for about an hour or even longer, which can lead to the exclusion of incompatible dogs. The use pressure on the dog zone is high.

While the observations revealed that there are some spatial claims by other user groups towards the several lawn areas of the park, the park can definitely handle “losing” one of the lawns for an expansion of the dog zone – or more accurately, for a second dog zone. This is because the design of the park does not allow expanding the current dog zone, since the public toilet needs to stay easily accessible to park visitors.

This separate dog zone can alleviate pressure from the existing one while providing a greener ambience and better structuring with added bushes. The structuring of the dog zone allows more user groups to visit at the same time. The bushes and big, existing trees create roomlike qualities inside the new dog zone, which helps design a pleasant stay. The existing piping of the public toilet can be utilised for easily providing the new dog zone with a water fountain.

The suggested second dog zone has a size of 345 m<sup>2</sup> – just a little bit smaller than the current dog zone at Leopold-Rister-Park. Together, the two dog zones would total to 559 m<sup>2</sup>. This might prove just enough for the lawn to survive in the second dog zone – either way, there is no reason to replace the current lawn in the suggested area of expansion with a different type of terrain; this can be considered, if the lawn deteriorates over time under too much pressure. Of course, this outcome should be counteracted with automatic irrigation, which has become standard practice in similar situations.

### 18.5 Recommendation for dog zone in Einsiedlerpark



Figure 151. Suggested changes to the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark.

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According to the survey participants, the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark in its current state can be described as a worse version of the closeby dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm. The dog owners do not identify with the dog zone and the dog zone engenders less social capital than all other dog zones of the district. The functionality of the dog zone is rated rather unfavourably.

In order to differentiate the dog zone from other dog zones in the district, it is recommended to use bark mulch as the terrain instead of a gravel surface. The dog zone is narrow but fairly long, so it is well suited for playing fetching games while there are no other dogs in the dog zone. However, because of the gravel surface, a ball quickly gets covered in sand and gravel. One dog owner complained in an interview that their dog always swallows sand and gravel when they play with a ball and that the dog sometimes gets a stomach ache as a result. Furthermore, some dogs like digging activities, but the fifth district currently lacks any dog zones with bark mulch that would allow such activities.

Additionally, bark mulch keeps the dog zone usable during and after rainfall. After rainfall, gravel surfaces stay muddy for some time, which makes dog zones with such terrain very unappealing to use. Also, during hot summer days, gravel surfaces become very dusty and develop a bad smell.

With bark mulch as its terrain, the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark can fulfil functions that other dog zones cannot, making it more special and worth visiting, improving the perception of the functionality of the dog zone.

There is also a second measure that is recommended for the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark: establishing a special “community board”. The two-sided community board which can be used and read from both the dog zone and from outside of the dog zone allows dog owners and also other residents of the neighbourhood to post notes on it, for example an advert for dog sitting.

In fact, this community board is not only a “recommendation”, the funding as well as permission to establish it have already been secured thanks to the author of this thesis winning a local idea competition that was held in the beginning of 2022, organised by “Agenda Margareten” (cf. Agenda Margareten 2022). The community board was designed by the author in cooperation with Agenda Margareten, and it will be set up in the beginning of 2023. The design of the board was also created with the help of many visitors of the dog zone: dozens of dogs that visit the dog zone in Bacherpark were photographed by the author, and these dog pictures will be printed as a type of permanent “frame” on the board. In this way, the community board became a participatory project with the local dog owners, and even just the design of the board alone is expected to generate a higher identification of many visitors with the dog zone, which can create positive feelings towards the dog zone. This means that the strategically placed community board can help the dog zone in fulfilling some of its “goals”. If

the community board is well received and it helps contribute to some of the goals of a dog zone, it can also be considered as a measure for improving other dog sites.

## 18.6 Recommendation for dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park



**Figure 152.** Suggested changes to the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park.

As all small dog zones, the dog zone in Leopold-Rister-Park has a problem with incompatible dogs. The dog zone has a relatively large open area that provides no visual interest or structuring and can feel unappealing to move in, which is counter-productive to the purpose of a dog zone.

The recommendation is to structure the dog zone with the help of some bushes softly into two “areas”. The division allows more user groups to be present as dogs on different sides of the dog zone are not forced to permanently be in visual contact with each other. Dogs also often tend to stay close to their owners: if all seating is concentrated in one area, the dogs stay in a small area around their owners and a lot of the space stays underutilised. Keeping this in mind, two new benches are added on the other side of the bushes in a shady area.



## 18.7 Recommendation for dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park



**Figure 153.** It is recommended to lift the dog ban in Ernst-Arnold-Park by declaring it as a dog exercise area. (own photo, taken on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022)

The situation in Ernst-Arnold-Park is curious: there is a relatively small dog zone – a third of the area of which is paved – located on a slope. On the other

hand there is a big “park” with over 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>, but it only consists of an “unused” lawn that is mostly visited by dog owners and dogs. Since the park consists of a lawn and no paths, it is simply illegal to allow dogs to enter it, which is probably why the park has a dog ban. The whole setup however makes little practical sense.

It is recommended to declare at least a part of Ernst-Lichtblau-Park as a “dog exercise area”. A dog zone would need to be fenced in, and because of the protected historic fencing, the modern standard of fencing for dog zones cannot be reached. However, a dog exercise area does not need to be fenced in. The practical interpretation of the difference between a dog zone and a dog exercise area is that “dog zones” are established in areas with “park” in their name, and “dog exercise areas” are established elsewhere (see chapter 10.3). However, the law does not require this, as the existence of a dog exercise area in Max-Winter-Park further proves. Once at least a part of the park has been set up as a dog exercise area, the current dog zone can be repurposed with a different function.

## 18.8 Recommendation for dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park



**Figure 154.** Suggested changes to the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park.

The dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park has a similar problem to the one in Leopold-Rister-Park: while it is a bit bigger than the rest of the smaller dog zones of the district, it is visually small because of a lack of structuring. The dog zone also does not have any trees inside, which can make the central areas unpleasant during hot days.

The recommendation is to plant trees inside the dog zone and structure it a little with the help of some bushes. The setup that is pictured (see Figure 154) softly divides the dog zone into a more relaxed area with lots of seating (no benches have been added in the recommendation) and a more “active” area with natural obstacles and visual interest.

Since there are water fountains inside the dog zone, installing automatic irrigation for the lawn is possible. This would keep the lawn in a much better shape during the summer months. Installing such a system for smaller dog zones with a lawn has become standard practice (cf. interview Lukas 2022) and it would make a lot of sense to retrofit the dog zone in Stefan-Weber-Park in this regard.

## 18.9 Recommendation for dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park



Figure 155. Suggested changes to the dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park.

The dog zone in Ernst-Lichtblau-Park seems to be visited by few dog owners from the district. The lack of fencing in a relatively small area makes it unappealing. However, the dog zone is actually bigger than the much more popular one in Parkanlage am Hundsturm, and it even has a lawn which is generally very appreciated by dog owners. This means that the dog zone has a lot of “hidden potential”. Naturally, the recommendation is to fence in the dog zone and to place some benches inside in shady areas to provide more quality of stay. In the recommendation, the stairs are flattened for barrier free entry and a second entry is added, of course in the form of a gate. One boulder is removed to make place for the new arrangement. These adjustments would greatly improve not only the overall functionality of the dog zone, but also the human perception, as it would feel more like a green room than like a random patch of lawn at the side of a park.

## 18.10 Recommendation for temporary dog zone in Bacherpark



Figure 156. Suggested changes to the temporary dog zone in Bacherpark.

The current dog zone in Bacherpark is only temporary, but a cheap recommendation that would improve it is still presented. Currently, the terrain in the dog zone is mostly paved, which is very poor for dog's play. Therefore, it is recommended to fill about half of the dog zone with bark mulch. This would allow dogs to play and dig in the area and it would give the small dog zone a function that is currently lacking in the dog zones of Margareten. The area in front of the seats can stay paved for the convenience of the human visitors. The recommendation also moves the dog waste bag dispenser away from the area with bark mulch to a gate for convenience, so that dog owners do not need to enter the small dog zone (which might already have visitors) if they only want to grab a dog waste bag.

Furthermore, the northern gate should be properly sealed with a rubber-add-on so that small dogs cannot escape from under the gate while it is closed and the toxic vegetation (*Hedera helix*) should be removed.

### **18.11 Recommendations for future planning and research of dog sites**

This research has shown that many dog owners in Vienna consider dog sites a valuable infrastructure, as plenty are willing to use even spaces that they consider suboptimally sized, designed and equipped. This proves that even very small and basic dog sites fulfil a function to dog owners. Except for the dog zone in Bacherpark – which is the smallest (temporary) dog zone in the whole city – all dog zones were rated favourably in their ability to fulfil the dog's need for social interactions with other dogs. Very notably, all dog zones were rated to engender social capital for the users. These findings support the view of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection that a small dog site is still better than no dog site. On the other hand this finding goes against the recommendations of previous studies about dog sites in Vienna which question if there is any benefit to smaller dog sites, such as dog sites under 800 m<sup>2</sup> (cf. Putscher 2001: 27).

The document analysis, the expert interviews and even just the design of the dog zones of Margareten show that dog sites do not get much attention in any kind of urban renewal or urban planning processes in Vienna. The fact that the only "change" for the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark from the renewal process of the park in 2018 was that fragrant bushes were planted around the dog zone (outside of it) exemplifies how dog sites are viewed more as a "necessary evil" that creates problems (such as bad smells), rather than a valuable public space that could and should be designed as well as possible – just like the rest of any public park.



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Similarly, the redesign of Parkanlage am Hundsturm in 2020 also kept the dog zone as it was, even though it would have presented the perfect opportunity to enlarge one of the smallest dog zones in the whole city. The spatial dimensions of the park would have undoubtedly been able to accommodate such a solution. In April of 2022, the plans for the redesign of Leopold-Rister-Park were unveiled: again, the dog zone will not be changed at all.

It is understandable that local decision makers cannot be expected to truly understand the issue of dog sites. After all, the issue is much more complex than it might seem on the first glance: dog sites are not just spaces in which various dogs gather and play happily with each other. Dog sites are social spaces that are visited by a variety of different types of dogs, some more and some less compatible. The reality of the user experience of dog sites with all of its issues and conflicts cannot be expected to be understood without a conscious deepening of understanding of the topic. In practice, this however means that district politicians – people who lack a deep understanding and a holistic view of the issue – make the planning decisions, especially concerning the distribution of space.

With the current planning approach for dog sites, decisions are made on a case-by-case basis whenever a specific issue is brought up either by politically active citizens, politicians or (rarely also) employees of a Municipal Department. This is a suboptimal approach that actively hinders the development and modernisation of dog sites.

Instead of the current planning approach for dog sites it is recommended to adopt a “holistic planning approach” for dog sites, which:

- takes the dog site situation in the whole district (and surrounding districts) into account;
- recognises the strengths and weaknesses of the existing individual dog sites in the district;
- aims to develop the dog site infrastructure in a “spatially just” way, so that dog sites are distributed in a sensible way inside of a district, providing all the citizens with a nearby dog site;
- makes sure that the sizes of dog sites are set in a fair proportion to the rest of the parks and green spaces;
- makes sure that dog sites are designed in a sensible manner, maximising the usability of the space inside the dog sites and
- takes into account what other nearby dog sites have to offer, whenever a dog site is being (re)designed – in this way, nearby dog sites can be given designs that fulfil different functions from each other. This is especially relevant when the dog sites in question are small and thus spatially limited in their functionality.

With over 200 dog sites present in Vienna, these are clearly not a marginal phenomenon in the city. Dog sites should be finally given the planner's attention they deserve. They should be understood as a proper part of green and open space infrastructure. It is recommended that – similar to various district development strategies – districts should hire planners to develop “district level dog site master plans”. Just like any other master plans, these would enable a “holistic planning approach” going forward, taking into account the important aspects which were listed before.

This means that “district level dog site master plans” would provide a holistic view of the overall dog site situation in a district and help make better planning decisions going forward. Such a holistic concept would also finally provide political legitimisation for the modernisation and improvement of dog sites. Since so far the interests of dogs and dog owners have been ignored in basically all Viennese planning documents, this has resulted in planners and politicians alike to largely ignoring dog sites in park (and urban) renewal processes. If “district level dog site master plans” existed, there would be no need to start a new (political) discussion from scratch every time that the potential for establishing a dog site or the possibility for park- or urban renewal is presented.

By showing how the existing dog zones of the fifth district can be realistically improved and how the dog zones could support each other by providing different functions by design, the recommendations given in this thesis can be seen as a first draft for a “district level dog site master plan” in Margareten. The map in chapter 13.3 also points out where there are deficits of accessibility in the dog site infrastructure on a district level and how the former dog zone in Klieberpark was in a vital position for providing as much of the district as possible with access to a dog site. If there was already a “district level dog site master plan” during the redesign of Klieberpark in 2017, removing the dog zone would have been recognised as a mistake.

The research methodologies developed for this thesis can be adopted for research of dog sites in other districts, the results of which can further be used as the basis for developing “district level dog site master plans” for the whole city. Of course, these methodologies can be adapted as necessary and can also be used to study dog sites outside of Vienna.

The dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm and the dog zone in Einsiedlerpark are both 214 m<sup>2</sup>, but the difference in user perception of these two dog zones is striking. By researching more dog sites in Vienna and making a larger scale comparison between these, elements of “good dog site design” as perceived by user groups could also be studied, and the results could be used to design better perceived dog sites in the future.

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## 19 Conclusion

This thesis has highlighted why the issue of dog zones is a relevant urban planning issue, not only in Vienna but everywhere in the world. Dogs are a part of cities and they are “here to stay”, yet the issue receives little to no attention from many professional planners, especially in Vienna. “Locking dogs away” into their own spaces where they can move freely might seem like an undesirable solution to planners who have been taught the value of “multifunctional spaces” – and based on observations it seems principally true that regular parks can host both “regular visitors” and dogs at the same time.

It is easy to imagine a compromise, allowing dogs to move off-leash in selected parks as long as they are muzzled. However, from a legal perspective, such a solution is currently not possible in Vienna. Perhaps in the future the legislation can be adjusted, so that at least a pilot project can be tested. On the other hand it is also true that not all dogs are highly sociable, that not all dogs can be trusted to freely run off-leash in every park.

Dog sites are a valuable spatial typology that gives dogs the ability to move off-leash without the owners needing to worry that they might run off or that they might scare – or hurt – a stranger. Dog sites are social spaces that let dogs experience conspecific interactions that are not complicated by a leash. Dog sites have also proven to be great facilitators for making new social contacts and strengthening social cohesion in the neighbourhood.

The author believes that these precious spaces have not been given the attention which they deserve, in Vienna in general, but also specifically in the fifth district of Vienna. It is hard to make good planning decisions when an issue is not well studied and understood. Now, the evaluation of the dog zones in Margareten sheds light on how well (or poorly) the dog zones of the fifth district fulfil their goals as a very special type of urban infrastructure.

As a conclusion to the research, the author presented several ways in which all nine dog zones in the research area can be improved, so that they can better meet the goals of an ideal dog site. Two key factors in the improvements are better structuring of the dog zones and the expansion of two dog zones of the district. One of the other recommended improvements – a special community board – is already being implemented. Even if not all of the suggested improvements were possible because of financial priorities (or any other reasons), the author hopes that at least some of the presented ideas will be implemented in the future. On a larger scale, the author suggests the implementation of “district level dog site master plans”. These would enable a

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holistic planning approach for dog sites and help make both better and more legitimate planning decisions.

In autumn of 2021, the local politicians wondered how the dog zones in the fifth district could realistically be improved. Ultimately, the author hopes that this thesis functions as a deep and detailed analysis to anyone who is interested in improving dog zones in the fifth district – or also anywhere else in the world for that matter.

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Format: Person (date of interview) – occupation – method of transcription

Interviews with dog owners (31.03.2022 - 21.04.2022): 32 interviews with dog owners in Margareten – transcription of main points (not included in the appendix)

Gräber, Simone (24.05.2022) – employee of Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection – audio recording of interview, transcription of main points (appendix 6)

Gstettner, Sebastian (25.03.2022): - employee of MA 42 Parks and Gardens, person responsible for the fifth district – helpful discussion, no transcription

Lukas, Bettina (10.05.2022) – employee of MA 42 Parks and Gardens, person responsible for the matter of dog zones in Vienna – audio recording of interview, transcription of main points (appendix 4)

Maričić, Ve (15.04.2022) – District Council member of the fifth district of Vienna, member of the Environmental District Council Committee – helpful discussion, no transcription

Mitis, Wolfgang (18.05.2022) – District Council member of the fifth district of Vienna, lead of the Environmental District Council Committee – audio recording of interview, transcription of main points (appendix 5)

Trethahn, Roman (25.03.2022) – member of Fair-Play Team Margareten and Parkbetreuung Margareten – audio recording of interview, full transcription (appendix 3)

### List of figures:

**FIGURE 1.** INTERFACE OF SURVEY (IN GERMAN) FOR QUESTION C3, SCREENSHOT FROM SOSCISURVEY 2022, USED WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM SOSCISURVEY. 45

**FIGURE 2.** THE FORMER “DOG TOILET” AT BRIGITTAPLATZ (CF. ECKL & RAMHARTER 2006: 86) IS NOW USED FOR KEEPING RUBBISH BINS. THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FORMER DOG TOILET CAN BE SEEN TO THIS DAY: WATER WAS SPRAYED FROM THE METALLIC ELEMENTS ON THE SIDES OF THE FORMER DOG TOILET AND THE DOG WASTE WAS FLUSHED INTO THE GUTTER WHICH CAN BE SEEN BETWEEN THE TWO RUBBISH BINS IN THE BACK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 85

**FIGURE 3.** “VIENNESE DOG TOILET” IN MARGARETEN IN 2006. PICTURE USED WITH PERMISSION (CC FREE TO SHARE UNDER ATTRIBUTION), NO CHANGES MADE. (WIKIMEDIA COMMONS 2006) 86

**FIGURE 4.** LAWN-ADVERTISEMENT-SIGN IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. THE SIGNS DEPICT A PLEADING DOG, DOG WASTE AND THE TEXT: “SIND DIR 50,- WURST?” A LIBERAL TRANSLATION WITH A SIMILAR MESSAGE WOULD BE: “DON’T YOU GIVE A CRAP ABOUT 50 EUROS?” (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 88

**FIGURE 5.** DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSER AND RUBBISH BIN IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 90

**FIGURE 6.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 99

**FIGURE 7.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN DUBLIN, IRELAND. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 99

**FIGURE 8.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN MIAMI, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 100

**FIGURE 9.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 100

- FIGURE 10.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN RECIFE, BRAZIL.  
(GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 101
- FIGURE 11.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN DELHI, INDIA.  
(GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 101
- FIGURE 12.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN CAIRO, EGYPT.  
(GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 102
- FIGURE 13.** COMMENTLESS GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 102
- FIGURE 14.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN SINGAPORE. (GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 103
- FIGURE 15.** GOOGLE USER REVIEW AND GOOGLE MAPS VIEW OF A DOG SITE IN TOKYO, JAPAN.  
(GOOGLE MAPS 2022) 103
- FIGURE 16.** SEGMENTED DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. A GATE WITH A SLIDE LOCK CONNECTS BOTH SEGMENTS. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 114
- FIGURE 17.** TYPICAL PRIVACY SCREEN FOIL APPLIED INTO A TYPICAL DOUBLE WIRE MESH FENCE AT THE DOG ZONE OF RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 114
- FIGURE 18.** TYPICAL DOUBLE WIRE MESH FENCE WITH TYPICAL GATE AT THE DOG ZONE AT PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. IN THE PICTURE, THE GATE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 2022) 117
- FIGURE 19.** THE DOG ZONE IN ALLERHEILIGENPARK IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT IS SPLIT INTO TWO SEGMENTS. BOTH SEGMENTS FEATURE VERY GENEROUSLY DIMENSIONED DOUBLE ENTRY GATES. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 118
- FIGURE 20.** DOG OWNER AND DOG LEAVING THE DOG ZONE USING A DOUBLE ENTRY GATE IN THE DOG ZONE IN ALLERHEILIGENPARK IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT. PHOTO TAKEN AND PUBLISHED WITH CONSENT FROM THE PICTURED DOG OWNER. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 118
- FIGURE 21.** LAWN IN THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. THE LAWN SURVIVES HERE EVEN THOUGH THE DOG ZONE IS VERY SMALL. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 121
- FIGURE 22.** TYPICAL GRAVEL SURFACE WITH HOLES FROM DIGGING AND A PAVED AREA AROUND THE SEATING AND DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 122
- FIGURE 23.** BARK MULCH USED AS ONE OF SEVERAL MAIN TERRAINS AT THE DOG ZONE IN ESTERHÁZYPARK IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 122
- FIGURE 24.** DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. ON THE SIDE OF THE PARK, BUSHES TAKE OVER THE FUNCTION OF THE PRIVACY SCREEN FOIL. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 123
- FIGURE 25.** YOUNG FENCED IN TREE AT THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. IN THE BACKGROUND, OLDER TREES THAT ARE NOT FENCED IN ANYMORE CAN BE SEEN. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2022) 124
- FIGURE 26.** AN OLD AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM (HORSE CHESTNUT TREE) IN THE DOG ZONE IN ALLERHEILIGENPARK IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF VIENNA. SINCE THE SHELLS OF THE SEEDS ARE



COVERED IN SPIKES AND THE SEEDS ARE SLIGHTLY POISONOUS, IT IS NOT AN OPTIMAL CHOICE FOR A DOG ZONE, BUT PRESERVING EXISTING TREES IS A PRIORITY FOR THE CITY OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	125
<b>FIGURE 27.</b> BOULDER ELEMENT IN THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. ADDITIONAL BOULDERS CAN BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	128
<b>FIGURE 28.</b> A LAYING TREE TRUNK IN THE DOG ZONE IN ALLERHEILIGENPARK IN THE 20 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF VIENNA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	129
<b>FIGURE 29.</b> DIGGING PIT FILLED WITH BARK MULCH WITH DOGS AND A DOG OWNER IN THE DOG ZONE IN ESTERHÁZYPARK IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. PHOTO TAKEN AND PUBLISHED WITH CONSENT FROM THE PICTURED DOG OWNER. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	129
<b>FIGURE 30.</b> ANOTHER TYPE OF RUBBISH BIN WITH AN ASH PIPE IN THE DOG ZONE IN ALLERHEILIGENPARK IN THE 20 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF VIENNA. THE RUBBISH BIN APPEARS TO BE A POPULAR “MARKING SPOT” FOR DOGS. IN THE BACKGROUND, A BIG HOLE LEFT FROM DIGGING CAN BE SEEN IN THE GRAVEL SURFACE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 14 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	130
<b>FIGURE 31.</b> DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA. THE AREA AROUND A DRINKING FOUNTAIN IS DESIGNED SO THAT WATER DOES NOT STAY LYING. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	131
<b>FIGURE 32.</b> NUMBER OF DOGS THAT ARE KEPT IN DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO THE POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT (2021), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 55, 62)	139
<b>FIGURE 33.</b> TOTAL AREA OF DOG SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL AREA OF THE DISTRICTS (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022, MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 15)	141
<b>FIGURE 34.</b> AVAILABILITY OF DOG SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO DOG POPULATION (2021), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022, MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 55)	143
<b>FIGURE 35.</b> TOTAL AREA OF DOG SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO TOTAL AREA OF PARK SITES AND LAWNS IN THE DISTRICTS (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022, MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 15, 52)	146
<b>FIGURE 36.</b> LOCATION OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA IN THE CITY (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION.	151
<b>FIGURE 37.</b> MAP OF ALL DOG ZONES WITHIN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION.	152
<b>FIGURE 38.</b> ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT IN VIENNA WITHIN A RADIUS OF 250 METRES (THREE MINUTES WALKING TIME) (2022). RADIUS OF 500 METRES (SIX MINUTES WALKING TIME) FOR DOG ZONE AT PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. OWN REPRESENTATION.	155
<b>FIGURE 39.</b> ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT IN VIENNA WITHIN A RADIUS OF 500 METRES (SIX MINUTES WALKING TIME) (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION.	157
<b>FIGURE 40.</b> ANSWER-STATISTICS TO THE SURVEY, ANSWERS PER DAY. ORANGE: SURVEY COMPLETED. GREY: SURVEY ABORTED. SCREENSHOT FROM SOSCISURVEY 2022, USED WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM SOSCISURVEY.	158
<b>FIGURE 41.</b> ANSWERS IN GERMAN (DEUTSCH) AND ENGLISH (ENGLISCH). ORANGE: SURVEY	

COMPLETED. GREY: SURVEY ABORTED. BLUE: SURVEY DATA INCLUDED IN DOWNLOAD.  
 SCREENSHOT FROM SOSCISURVEY 2022, USED WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM SOSCISURVEY.

	160
<b>FIGURE 42.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “WALKING MY DOG ON THE LEASH IN THE CITY.” (N = 203)	165
<b>FIGURE 43.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “WALKING MY DOG OFF THE LEASH IN THE CITY.” (N = 203)	165
<b>FIGURE 44.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “LETTING MY DOG RUN OFF THE LEASH IN MY OWN GARDEN OR COURTYARD.” (N = 203)	166
<b>FIGURE 45.</b> COMBINATION OF CATEGORIES “WALKING MY DOG OFF THE LEASH IN THE CITY”, “VISIT PARKS WITH MY DOG OFF THE LEASH”, “VISIT A DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA”, “VISIT A SMALLER DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA” AND “LETTING MY DOG RUN OFF THE LEASH IN MY OWN GARDEN OR COURTYARD.” ONLY THE HIGHEST RESPONSE OF THESE ITEMS COUNTED PER PARTICIPANT. (N = 203)	166
<b>FIGURE 46.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “VISIT A DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA” AND “VISIT A SMALLER DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA.” ONLY THE HIGHEST RESPONSE TO THESE ITEMS COUNTED PER PARTICIPANT. (N = 203)	167
<b>FIGURE 47.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO LIVE IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “VISIT A SMALLER DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA.” (N = 172)	168
<b>FIGURE 48.</b> NUMBER OF SELECTED DOG ZONES BY PARTICIPANTS WHO VISIT DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT TO: “WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA DO YOU VISIT AT LEAST TWICE IN A YEAR?” (N = 171)	168
<b>FIGURE 49.</b> SELECTED DOG ZONES BY PARTICIPANTS WHO VISIT DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT TO: “WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA DO YOU VISIT AT LEAST TWICE IN A YEAR?” THE PERCENTAGES EXCEED 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE SELECTIONS WERE POSSIBLE. (N = 171)	169
<b>FIGURE 50.</b> RESPONSES TO: “WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOG ZONES DO YOU VISIT MOST FREQUENTLY?” (N = 171)	170
<b>FIGURE 51.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW FAR IS THE WALK FROM YOUR HOME TO THE DOG ZONE YOU VISIT MOST FREQUENTLY?” (N = 171)	171
<b>FIGURE 52.</b> RESPONSES TO: “WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON YOU VISIT THIS DOG ZONE THE MOST?” (N = 171)	171
<b>FIGURE 53.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW LONG DO YOU USUALLY STAY IN THE DOG ZONE THAT YOU VISIT MOST?” (N = 171)	172
<b>FIGURE 54.</b> RESPONSES TO: “WHEN DO YOU USUALLY VISIT THE DOG ZONE YOU VISIT MOST OFTEN BETWEEN MONDAY AND FRIDAY” AND “[...] ON THE WEEKEND?” THE PERCENTAGES EXCEED 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE SELECTIONS WERE POSSIBLE. (N = 171)	173
<b>FIGURE 55.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT BIGGER DOG ZONES OR DOG PARKS (FOR EXAMPLE IN PRATER) OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA?” (N = 203)	174
<b>FIGURE 56.</b> OVERALL SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND “FINAL SCORE” OF ALL DOG ZONES THAT WERE EVALUATED. (N = 171)	175

<b>FIGURE 57.</b> OVERALL SCORING OF GOALS OF ALL DOG ZONES THAT WERE EVALUATED. (N = 171)	177
<b>FIGURE 58.</b> OVERALL EVALUATION OF ALL DOG ZONES THAT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS PRIMARILY VISIT IN MARGARETEN. (N = 171)	179
<b>FIGURE 59.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT VISIT DOG ZONES IN MARGARETEN TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “VISIT A SMALLER DOG ZONE WITH MY DOG OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA.” (N = 32)	180
<b>FIGURE 60.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT VISIT DOG ZONES IN MARGARETEN TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT BIGGER DOG ZONES OR DOG PARKS (FOR EXAMPLE IN PRATER) OUTSIDE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA?” (N = 32)	180
<b>FIGURE 61.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT VISIT DOG ZONES IN MARGARETEN TO: “WHY DO YOU NOT VISIT ANY DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF VIENNA?” THE PERCENTAGES EXCEED 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE SELECTIONS WERE POSSIBLE. (N = 32)	182
<b>FIGURE 62.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DO NOT VISIT DOG ZONES IN MARGARETEN TO: “PLEASE CHOOSE A MAXIMUM OF THREE, BUT AT LEAST ONE REASON WHY YOU DO NOT VISIT DOG ZONES IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT.” (N = 32)	182
<b>FIGURE 63.</b> HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THAT THEY VISIT PARKS WITH THEIR DOGS. (N = 203)	184
<b>FIGURE 64.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “VISIT PARKS WITH MY DOG ON THE LEASH.” (N = 203)	185
<b>FIGURE 65.</b> RESPONSES TO: “HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG?” – “VISIT PARKS WITH MY DOG OFF THE LEASH.” (N = 203)	185
<b>FIGURE 66.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO VISIT PARKS WITH THEIR DOGS TO THE STATEMENT: “I TRY TO TAKE MY DOG TO PARKS WHEN THERE ARE FEW OR NO OTHER PEOPLE AROUND.” (N = 187)	186
<b>FIGURE 67.</b> RESPONSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO VISIT PARKS WITH THEIR DOGS TO THE STATEMENT: “I THINK THAT BRINGING A DOG INTO A PARK CAN LEAD TO ARGUMENTS OR CONFLICTS WITH OTHER PARK VISITORS.” (N = 187)	186
<b>FIGURE 68.</b> MAP OF SEGMENTED DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	188
<b>FIGURE 69.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE AREA OF THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	189
<b>FIGURE 70.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE AREA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	189
<b>FIGURE 71.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE AREA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	190
<b>FIGURE 72.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE TOWARDS THE GATE BETWEEN THE TWO SEGMENTS. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	190
<b>FIGURE 73.</b> VIEW 5: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE NORTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE TOWARDS THE NORTHERN GATE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	191
<b>FIGURE 74.</b> VIEW 6: VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE AREA OF THE NORTHERN SEGMENT OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	191

<b>FIGURE 75.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. ( <i>N</i> = 26)	192
<b>FIGURE 76.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. ( <i>N</i> = 26)	194
<b>FIGURE 77.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE. ( <i>N</i> = 26)	195
<b>FIGURE 78.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	196
<b>FIGURE 79.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE WHOLE RECTANGULAR DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	197
<b>FIGURE 80.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	197
<b>FIGURE 81.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	198
<b>FIGURE 82.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW OF THE OTHER ENTRANCE TO THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	198
<b>FIGURE 83.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. ( <i>N</i> = 31)	199
<b>FIGURE 84.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. ( <i>N</i> = 31)	201
<b>FIGURE 85.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK. ( <i>N</i> = 31)	202
<b>FIGURE 86.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	203
<b>FIGURE 87.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE WHOLE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	204
<b>FIGURE 88.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	204
<b>FIGURE 89.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	205
<b>FIGURE 90.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW FROM INSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JULY 15 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	205
<b>FIGURE 91.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. ( <i>N</i> = 41)	206
<b>FIGURE 92.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. ( <i>N</i> = 41)	208
<b>FIGURE 93.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM. ( <i>N</i> = 41)	209
<b>FIGURE 94.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	210
<b>FIGURE 95.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE WHOLE I-SHAPED DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	211
<b>FIGURE 96.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW OF ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	211
<b>FIGURE 97.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW OF THE SEATING AREA IN THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	212
<b>FIGURE 98.</b> VIEW 4: THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK HAS RECEIVED A PRIVACY SCREEN FOIL SINCE THE OTHER PHOTOS, BUT THE OLDER PHOTOS ARE PRESENTED BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE A BETTER VIEW OF THE DOG ZONE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	212
<b>FIGURE 99.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 23)	213
<b>FIGURE 100.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 23)	215
<b>FIGURE 101.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 23)	216

<b>FIGURE 102.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	217
<b>FIGURE 103.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	218
<b>FIGURE 104.</b> VIEW 2: BETTER VIEW OF THE MOSTLY BOWL-SHAPED STRUCTURE OF THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	218
<b>FIGURE 105.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW OF ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK IN MARCH. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MARCH 3 <sup>RD</sup> 2022)	219
<b>FIGURE 106.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW FROM THE SIDE OF THE PARK ON THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	219
<b>FIGURE 107.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (N = 15)	220
<b>FIGURE 108.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (N = 15)	222
<b>FIGURE 109.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK. (N = 15)	223
<b>FIGURE 110.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	224
<b>FIGURE 111.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW FROM OUTSIDE TOWARDS BOTH OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	225
<b>FIGURE 112.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW OF ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	225
<b>FIGURE 113.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW OF THE STRUCTURE FROM INSIDE THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	226
<b>FIGURE 114.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE DOG ZONE FROM THE "END POINT" OF THE TRIANGULAR SHAPED DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	226
<b>FIGURE 115.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (N = 25)	227
<b>FIGURE 116.</b> A VIEW AT ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK – THE PARK ITSELF. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	229
<b>FIGURE 117.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (N = 25)	229
<b>FIGURE 118.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK. (N = 25)	230
<b>FIGURE 119.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	231
<b>FIGURE 120.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE WHOLE RECTANGULAR DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	232
<b>FIGURE 121.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW OF BOTH OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK. THE SECOND ENTRANCE IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE DOG ZONE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	232
<b>FIGURE 122.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW OF THE STRUCTURE FROM INSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	233
<b>FIGURE 123.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW OF THE STRUCTURE FROM OUTSIDE OF THE DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	233
<b>FIGURE 124.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	235
<b>FIGURE 125.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 13 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	236
<b>FIGURE 126.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW OF THE "ENTRANCE" (STEPS) TO THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK. THE DOG ZONE IS NOT PROPERLY FENCED IN. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON	

MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	236
<b>FIGURE 127.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW FROM THE CORNER OF THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK, WITH A PIECE OF MISSING FENCING. THE FENCE HAS BEEN FIXED SINCE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	237
<b>FIGURE 128.</b> VIEW 4: VIEW OF THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK. THE DOG ZONE IS SLIGHTLY ELEVATED FROM THE SIDEWALK, BUT THERE IS NO FENCE TO IT. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	238
<b>FIGURE 129.</b> MAP OF DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. (OWN ILLUSTRATION)	240
<b>FIGURE 130.</b> VIEW 1: VIEW OF ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	241
<b>FIGURE 131.</b> VIEW 2: VIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 14 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	241
<b>FIGURE 132.</b> VIEW 3: VIEW OF THE OTHER ENTRANCE TO THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON APRIL 12 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	242
<b>FIGURE 133.</b> SCORING OF GOALS OF THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 8)	243
<b>FIGURE 134.</b> SCORING OF THE FOUR CRITERIONS AND FINAL SCORE OF THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 8)	244
<b>FIGURE 135.</b> SURVEY EVALUATION OF TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK. ( <i>N</i> = 8)	245
<b>FIGURE 136.</b> PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM: 11:48 A.M. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> 2022)	246
<b>FIGURE 137.</b> PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM: 3:40 P.M. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> 2022)	246
<b>FIGURE 138.</b> UNIQUE TARGET USER GROUP "VISITORS" DURING THE SIX INDICATED TIME FRAMES IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM AND ITS DOG ZONE ON A WEEKDAY (MAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> 2022).	248
<b>FIGURE 139.</b> PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM: 11:21 A.M. AN OFF-LEASH DOG ON A LAWN IN THE PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> 2022)	249
<b>FIGURE 140.</b> PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM: 7:35 P.M. A CHILD PLAYS WITH A DOG IN THE PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> 2022)	249
<b>FIGURE 141.</b> UNIQUE TARGET USER GROUP "VISITORS" DURING THE SIX INDICATED TIME FRAMES IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM AND ITS DOG ZONE ON A DAY DURING THE WEEKEND (MAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> 2022).	251
<b>FIGURE 142.</b> RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK: 6:06 A.M. THE DOG ZONE IS BEING UNLOCKED. THE WATER IS FROM THE AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION OF THE LAWN BEHIND THE DOG ZONE. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 3 <sup>RD</sup> 2022)	252
<b>FIGURE 143.</b> RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK: 8:52 A.M. A DOG OWNER AND TWO DOGS ON A LAWN IN THE PARK. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON JUNE 3 <sup>RD</sup> 2022)	252
<b>FIGURE 144.</b> UNIQUE TARGET USER GROUP "VISITORS" DURING THE SIX INDICATED TIME FRAMES IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK AND ITS DOG ZONE ON A WEEKDAY (JUNE 3 <sup>RD</sup> 2022).	254
<b>FIGURE 145.</b> RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK: 3:59 P.M. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> 2022)	255
<b>FIGURE 146.</b> RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK: 9:00 P.M. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> 2022)	255
<b>FIGURE 147.</b> UNIQUE TARGET USER GROUP "VISITORS" DURING THE SIX INDICATED TIME FRAMES IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK AND ITS DOG ZONE ON A DAY DURING THE WEEKEND (MAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> 2022).	257
<b>FIGURE 148.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE.	260
<b>FIGURE 149.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK.	262

<b>FIGURE 150.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM.	266
<b>FIGURE 151.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK.	268
<b>FIGURE 152.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK.	271
<b>FIGURE 153.</b> IT IS RECOMMENDED TO LIFT THE DOG BAN IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK BY DECLARING IT AS A DOG EXERCISE AREA. (OWN PHOTO, TAKEN ON MAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 2022)	273
<b>FIGURE 154.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN STEFAN-WEBER-PARK.	275
<b>FIGURE 155.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK.	277
<b>FIGURE 156.</b> SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK.	279

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**List of tables:**

<b>TABLE 1.</b> PART OF THE AUTHOR’S THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE INCLUSIVITY OF SPACES, BUILDING ON THE CONCEPT OF THE INCLUSIVITY OF A SPACE BY BREITFUSS ET AL. (2006: 115) AS WELL AS OTHER THEORISTS AND RESEARCHERS. ....	14
<b>TABLE 2.</b> OVERVIEW OF WHICH SURVEY ITEMS OPERATIONALISE WHICH GOALS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DOG ZONE. ....	37
<b>TABLE 3.</b> MULTIPLIERS FOR SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL SURVEY ITEMS. ....	40
<b>TABLE 4.</b> EXAMPLE FOR CALCULATING SCORING OF A SURVEY ITEM WITH A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WHEN AGREED TO. ....	40
<b>TABLE 5.</b> PROPOSED WEIGHTED MODEL FOR RATING THE “SUCCESS” OF A DOG ZONE. ....	42
<b>TABLE 6.</b> LABELLING OF SCORES. ....	44
<b>TABLE 7.</b> REGISTERED DOGS IN VIENNA, 2011-2021. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA A N.D.; MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 55) ....	60
<b>TABLE 8.</b> NUMBER OF INSTALLED DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS IN THE CITY AND USE OF DOG WASTE BAGS IN VIENNA (FOR SOURCES, REFER TO TABLE 8 IN THE “REFERENCE LIST”). ....	89
<b>TABLE 9.</b> PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A NEW DOG SITE IN VIENNA (CF. INTERVIEW LUKAS 2022). ....	108
<b>TABLE 10.</b> ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TERRAIN TYPES THAT ARE USED IN NEWLY PLANNED DOG SITES IN VIENNA. ....	121
<b>TABLE 11.</b> LIST OF STANDARD EQUIPMENT, DESIGN ELEMENTS AND FURNISHING THAT IS USED AND NOT USED WHEN PLANNING NEW DOG SITES IN VIENNA. ....	128
<b>TABLE 12.</b> LIST OF ALL DOG ZONES AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS IN VIENNA. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022) ....	133
<b>TABLE 13.</b> DETAILED LOOK AT NUMBER OF DOGS THAT ARE KEPT IN DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO THE POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT (2021), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 55, 62) ....	140
<b>TABLE 14.</b> DETAILED LOOK AT THE TOTAL AREA OF DOG SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL AREA OF THE DISTRICTS (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022, MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 15) ....	142
<b>TABLE 15.</b> DETAILED LOOK AT HOW MUCH USER PRESSURE CAN BE EXPECTED ON DOG SITES IN THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS (2021). (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022) ....	145

<b>TABLE 16.</b> DETAILED LOOK AT TOTAL AREA OF DOG SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF VIENNA IN RELATION TO TOTAL AREA OF PARK SITES AND LAWNS IN THE DISTRICTS (2022), OWN REPRESENTATION. (CF. CITY OF VIENNA 2022, MA 23 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND STATISTICS 2021: 15, 52)	148
<b>TABLE 17.</b> DOG WALKING HABITS IN THE CITY OF ALL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS (N = 203).	164
<b>TABLE 18.</b> PARKS IN MARGARETEN.	183
<b>TABLE 19.</b> SCORING OF ALL GOALS OF ALL DOG ZONES WHICH WERE RATED WITH THE SURVEY. (N = 171).	187
<b>TABLE 20.</b> SCORING OF ALL CRITERIONS OF ALL DOG ZONES WHICH WERE RATED WITH THE SURVEY. (N = 171)	187
<b>TABLE 21.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE MITTELZONE.	192
<b>TABLE 22.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN RUDOLF-SALLINGER-PARK.	199
<b>TABLE 23.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN PARKANLAGE AM HUNDSTURM.	206
<b>TABLE 24.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN EINSIEDLERPARK.	213
<b>TABLE 25.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN LEOPOLD-RISTER-PARK.	220
<b>TABLE 26.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-ARNOLD-PARK.	227
<b>TABLE 27.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN STEFAN- WEBER-PARK.	234
<b>TABLE 28.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE DOG ZONE IN ERNST-LICHTBLAU-PARK.	239
<b>TABLE 29.</b> DETAILS ABOUT THE TEMPORARY DOG ZONE IN BACHERPARK.	242

#### Sources of Table 8:

data years 2004-2007: cf. MA 48 2008: 38
data year 2008: cf. MA 48 2009: 40
data year 2009: cf. MA 48 2010: 63
data year 2010: cf. MA 48 2011: 71
data year 2011: cf. MA 48 2012: 84
data year 2012: cf. MA 48 2013: 72
data year 2013: cf. MA 48 2014: 56
data year 2014: cf. MA 48 2015: 34
data year 2015: cf. MA 48 2016: 8
data year 2016: cf. MA 48 2017: 12
data year 2017: cf. MA 48 2018: 28
data year 2018: cf. MA 48 2019: 26
data year 2019: cf. MA 48 2020: 30
data year 2020: cf. MA 48 2021: 12
data year 2021: cf. MA 48 2022: 60



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## Appendix

### Appendix 1: Glossary of translations and abbreviations used in the thesis

#### Glossary of official and unofficial translations used in this thesis (German - English):

- Allgemeines Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz = General Administrative Procedure Act (official translation)
- Ausschuss der Bezirksvertretung = District Council Committee (official translation)
- Ballspielkäfig = fenced in ball court (unofficial translation)
- Bauordnung = Building Code (official translation)
- Begegnungszone = traffic calmed zone (unofficial translation)
- Bezirksvertretung = District Council (official translation)
- Bezirksvorsteher, Bezirksvorsteherin = District Chairperson (official translation)
- Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz = Federal Constitutional Law (official translation)
- Bundesbehindertengesetz = Federal Disability Act (official translation)
- Bundesgesetzblatt, BGBl. = Federal Law Gazette (official translation)
- Bundesland = province (official translation)
- Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen = Federal Ministry of Health and Women (official translation)
- Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz = Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (official translation)
- Bundesrecht = federal law (official translation)
- Gemeinderat = City Council (official translation)
- Gemeinderecht = municipal law (official translation)
- Grünanlagenverordnung = Green Space Ordinance (unofficial translation)
- Grünland-EPK = green space – recreational space – parks (unofficial translation)
- Grünland-SPK = green space – protected park area (unofficial translation)
- Hundeabgabegesetz = Viennese Dog Tax Act (unofficial translation)
- Hundeauslaufplatz = dog exercise area (official translation)
- Hundeverbot = dog ban (unofficial translation)
- Hundezone = dog zone (official translation)
- Lagerwiese = sunbathing lawn (official translation)
- Landesgesetzblatt, LGBl. = State Law Gazette (official translation)
- Landesrecht = state law (official translation)

Landtag = Provincial Parliament (official translation)

MA 18 Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung = MA 18 Urban Development and Planning (official translation)

MA 20 Energieplanung = MA 20 Energy Planning (official translation)

MA 21 Stadtteilplanung und Flächennutzung = MA 21 District Planning and Land Use (official translation)

MA 23 Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Statistik = MA 23 Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics (official translation)

MA 28 Straßenverwaltung und Straßenbau = MA 28 Road Management and Construction (official translation)

MA 42 Stadtgärten = MA 42 Parks and Gardens (official translation)

MA 45 Wiener Gewässer = MA 45 Water Management (official translation)

MA 48 Abfallwirtschaft, Straßenreinigung und Fuhrpark = MA 48 Waste Management, Street Cleaning and Vehicle Fleet (official translation)

MA 49 Klima, Forst- und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb der Stadt Wien = MA 49 Climate, Forestry and Agriculture (official translation)

Magistratsabteilung = Municipal Department (official translation)

Presse-Service Rathauskorrespondenz der Stadt Wien = City of Vienna Press Service (unofficial translation)

Reinhalteverordnung = Vienna Cleanliness Act (official translation)

Sachkundenachweis = certificate of competence (unofficial translation)

Sichtschutzfolie = privacy screen foil (unofficial translation)

Spielplatzverordnung = Playground Ordinance (unofficial translation)

Stadt Wien = City of Vienna (as an administrative unit) (official translation)

Stadt Wien - Wiener Wohnen = City of Vienna - Housing in Vienna (official translation)

Stadtrechnungshof = City of Vienna Court of Audit (official translation)

Straßenverkehrsordnung = Austrian Road Traffic Act (official translation)

Tierschutzombudsperson = animal protection ombudsperson (official translation)

Tierschutzkommission = Animal Protection Commission (official translation)

Wiener Hunde-Sachkundenachweis-Verordnung = Vienna Dog-Certificate-of-Competence Ordinance (unofficial translation)

Wassergebundene Decke = gravel surface (unofficial translation)

Wiener Hundeführerschein = Vienna Dog Licence (official translation)

Wiener Jagdgesetz = Vienna Hunting Act (unofficial translation)

Wiener Tierhaltegesetz = Vienna Animal Husbandry Act (unofficial translation)

Wiener Tierschutz- und Tierhaltegesetz = Viennese Animal Protection and Animal Husbandry Act (unofficial translation)

Wiener Umweltschutzamt = Vienna Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection (official translation)

Wiener Tierschutzombudsstelle = Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection (official translation)

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Zweite Tierhalteverordnung = Second Animal Husbandry Ordinance (unofficial translation)

Österreichische Bundesgärten = Austrian Federal Gardens (official translation)

A translation is considered official when it is used in official English language material by the City of Vienna, the Republic of Austria or the referenced actor itself.

**Source for official translations regarding the organisation of the City of Vienna:**

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/politics/translation/> (state of 23.04.2022)

**Source for official legal translations:**

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/defaultEn.aspx> (state of 23.04.2022)

**Other official translation sources:**

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/environment/waterbodies/old-danube/recreation.html> (source for: dog zone, dog exercise area) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/environment/waterbodies/old-danube/recreation.html> (source for: sunbathing lawn) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/environment/animal-protection/dog-licence.html> (source for: Vienna Dog Licence) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.wien.gv.at/umwelt/ma48/service/publikationen/pdf/infoblatt-wastewatcher-en.pdf> (source for: Vienna Cleanliness Act) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/environment/ombuds-office/nature-conservation.html> (source for: Building Code) (state of 23.04.2022)

[https://www.bmk.gv.at/dam/jcr:f23f2d55-8e92-452e-a323-f455f12efec2/legal-regulatory-framework\\_20210423.pdf](https://www.bmk.gv.at/dam/jcr:f23f2d55-8e92-452e-a323-f455f12efec2/legal-regulatory-framework_20210423.pdf) (source for: Austrian Road Traffic Act) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.belvedere.at/en/alpine-garden> (source for: Austrian Federal Gardens) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.tieranwalt.at/de/Information-in-English.htm> (source for: Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection) (state of 23.04.2022)

<https://www.wien.gv.at/english/environment/ombuds-office/> (source for: Vienna Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection) (state of 23.04.2022)

Please note that Vienna-related organisations such as the different Municipal Departments (MA), the “City of Vienna Press Service” and the “City of Vienna Court of Audit” have been translated in all references and the reference list for the sake of a better readability in English.

**Abbreviations and symbols:**

APA = Austria Presse Agentur (German) = Austrian Press Agency

AVG = Allgemeines Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz (German) = General Administrative Procedure Act (official translation)

avg. = average (used in Tables)

cf. = cōnfer (Latin) = compare (indicates a source for preceding information)

DEA = dog exercise area (used in Table 12)

DOI = Digital Object Identifier

DZ = dog zone (used in Table 12)

e.g. = exempli gratia (Latin) = for example

et al. = et alia (Latin) = and other authors (used in references: in main text in the case of three or more authors, in reference list in the case of six or more authors)

etc. = et cetera (Latin) = and so forth

f. = and the following page

ff. = and the following pages

ibid. = ibidem (Latin) = the same source as cited previously

ISBN = International Standard Book Number

km<sup>2</sup> = square kilometre

m = metre

M = mean

m<sup>2</sup> = square metre

MA = Magistratsabteilung (German) = Municipal Department

Mdn = median

N/A = (data) not available

n.d. = no date (used in references when a web document cannot be dated to a specific year)

p = p-value

SD = standard deviation

t = t-statistic

vol. = volume

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## **Appendix 2: Links to relevant legislation in the “Legal Information System of the Republic of Austria” (RIS):**

Animal Protection Act (English & German):

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/ErV/ERV\\_2004\\_1\\_118/ERV\\_2004\\_1\\_118.pdf](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/ErV/ERV_2004_1_118/ERV_2004_1_118.pdf)

Vienna Cleanliness Act (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000205>

Federal Constitutional Law (English & German):

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/ErV/ERV\\_1930\\_1/ERV\\_1930\\_1.pdf](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/ErV/ERV_1930_1/ERV_1930_1.pdf)

Green Space Ordinance (German):

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Gemeinderecht/GEMRE\\_WI\\_90101\\_L470\\_000\\_2008/GEMRE\\_WI\\_90101\\_L470\\_000\\_2008.html](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Gemeinderecht/GEMRE_WI_90101_L470_000_2008/GEMRE_WI_90101_L470_000_2008.html)

Playground Ordinance (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000018>

Road Traffic Act (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011336>

Vienna Animal Husbandry Act (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000404>

Vienna Dog-Certificate-of-Competence Ordinance (German):

[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Gemeinderecht/GEMRE\\_WI\\_90101\\_L200\\_010\\_2019/GEMRE\\_WI\\_90101\\_L200\\_010\\_2019.html](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Gemeinderecht/GEMRE_WI_90101_L200_010_2019/GEMRE_WI_90101_L200_010_2019.html)

Viennese Dog Tax Act (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000125>

Vienna Hunting Act (German):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrW&Gesetzesnummer=20000437>

## Appendix 3: Transcript of interview with Roman Tretthahn from Fair-Play and Parkbetreuung, 25.03.2022, location Einsiedlerpark

Translated from German into English.

*Interviewer: "Can you tell me about dog zones here in Margareten?"*

Tretthahn: "About the Klieberpark, about the dog zone, which unfortunately no longer exists: There we have frequently had, even now, dog owners who use the park anyway. We're often in contact with them. Why they don't want to go to the Waldmüllerpark for example, is basically - or at least that's what they told us - it's further away. There are also older people who basically use their dogs a little for mobility and a dog zone somewhere closer would be important. The Waldmüllerpark is simply too far away. It is also said to be too dark there in the evening and another problem is that there is basically only one large dog zone there. Because there are both big dogs and small dogs, there are sometimes conflicts. We also hear that from other dog zones, that it is problematic if it is not divided into two, so that one part is for the smaller dogs and a part is for the bigger ones, that's some feedback that we've heard."

*Interviewer: "There's a divided dog zone on the Gürtel."*

Tretthahn: "On the Gürtel there is a divided one. Otherwise, the Leopold-Rister-Park one is not divided, here [Einsiedlerpark] it's not divided. We don't have a dog zone at Hundsturm, and we don't have a dog zone in Bruno-Kreisky Park."

*Interviewer: "Yes, yes, there is one at Hundsturm."*

Tretthahn: "Oh yes, exactly, that very narrow one."

*Interviewer: "Yes, it's even smaller than here."*

Tretthahn: "Even smaller than here, yes, that's right. Yes, right. But Bruno-Kreisky Park doesn't have one. Bacherpark..."

*Interviewer: "Bacherpark had one but it's closed now because of the subway construction."*

Tretthahn: "Exactly! We hope that there will be one again for the dog owners in the area. Scheupark doesn't have one, Leopold-Rister-Park has one."

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Klieberpark doesn't have one anymore. Willi-Frank Park doesn't have one. What we have also suggested once to the district is the Ernst-Arnold Park. That's the one next to the Wienzeile. It's already used by many dog owners anyway, so we suggested that it should be designated as a dog zone."

*Interviewer: "As far as I know, there is one there now."*

Tretthahn: "Yes, but it's very, very small, it's in the direction of Rüdigerhof. There is a small dog zone there. But our suggestion would have been, since almost nobody else uses it anyway... That they could fence it off and make a big dog zone out of it. That was a suggestion by us."

*Interviewer: "You suggested that to the district."*

Tretthahn: "Mhm, exactly, yes. Um, yes... any questions?"

*Interviewer: "Yes, how is it here? Since people still take their dogs into the park with them - as you can see right here and now. Are there problems in the parks or is that actually accepted anyway?"*

Tretthahn: "On the whole there are no problems with it. Yes, it is basically accepted. There are few complaints at all, at least ones that reach us, especially regarding small dogs like here right now. There's a different story - it happened about 15-20 years ago, when there were youngsters with fighting dog breeds, when some trees and swings were bitten by the dogs. That was an issue back then."

*Interviewer: "How did that get resolved?"*

Tretthahn: "In the end, we tried to talk to the young people, to the young adults, as a preventive measure. What more or less worked in the end... I think it was penalized by the police, of course."

*Interviewer: "So there were two approaches: on one hand you talked to them and then, since it didn't work, the police got involved."*

Tretthahn: "Of course the police got active at the same time as us... as I said, there was potential for danger, and some damage to trees and swings, they damaged nest swings."

*Interviewer: "What does it look like in the various parks? Is it actually the case in all parks that dogs are still taken in there, especially small dogs? Or is it more concentrated in certain parks? "*

Tretthahn: "Well, of course, we notice that at Klieberpark, because the dog zone is gone and there's more green space now and the small dogs, etc. ... But

overall, just last month someone asked us about it in the Klieberpark, and we said that yes, we did see the dog, but we didn't want to confront the lady about how it's actually forbidden to take the dog there according to the Green Space Ordinance, that dogs are not allowed on the lawn, unless it's a dog zone. So we left her unconflicted, because we know that the lady cannot use the Waldmüllerpark because of her mobility, because she simply cannot walk that far. Yes, we are keeping an eye on the Klieberpark and tried... or at least try to get the district to rethink, that maybe there should be a dog zone there again."

*Interviewer: "Did you talk to the MA 42 about it, the department for city gardens?"*

Tretthahn: "We have only reported about this to the district for now."

*Interviewer: "I mean, such topics, in principle."*

Tretthahn: "In principle, we are also in contact with MA 42. That is, with certain things, but specifically about the dog zones, we mainly talk about with the district. But it would be smarter to ask such questions to Ilona. Since Ilona is our boss, we report these things to Ilona and Ilona then manages further contacts with the district and the individual municipal departments."

*Interviewer: "You just said that dogs are forbidden in the green areas. But it's actually park-specific, so in principle only compulsory leash use can apply in parks. But not here, in almost all or all parks. Well, in principle, by law or by the rules, in parks there is a leash-requirement. Also in the city area, there is the choice of a leash- or muzzle-requirement."*

Tretthahn: "Except for mass transportation, yes."

*Interviewer: "Yes, I mean on the streets now, and then in parks there is a leash-requirement. Unless there is a dog ban in the park, as there is in all parks in Margareten, I think - or at least in 90 percent of the parks. At least I don't know of a park where there is no dog ban in Margareten. So why was it solved like this in Margareten, that there is actually a complete dog ban instead of a leash-requirement? I know that it's not your decision."*

Tretthahn: "It's a political story. You'd have to ask the politicians why they solved it that way."

*Interviewer: "Do you think that this is a district political decision, or a decision by the MA 42? I'll talk to them in the future anyway."*

Tretthahn: "That's Vienna, Viennese politics. I'm not sure about district politics, maybe it's in the whole of Vienna. But I really don't know."



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*Interviewer: "Well, there are parks where there is just a leash-requirement, in principle."*

Tretthahn: "Well then it will probably be the decision of the district. Why, I have no idea."

*Interviewer: "I'm just interested, for my thesis, why the decision was made like that."*

Tretthahn: "We are mainly lobbyists for children and young people. All I can say is that we are not even allowed to play ball on this lawn here either. That is also prohibited by the Green Space Ordinance. But we do it anyway. So, that's just how it is!"

*Interviewer: "Right, I'm interested in the lived reality. Because on one hand there are these rules and then there's what is really done. And I think that you know roughly what's happening here."*

Tretthahn: "As I said, the small dogs... there has never really been a problem with the small dogs. There is one dog here that causes a bit of a problem because it is not kept on a leash and the owners sometimes don't keep an eye on it. There have been one or two tricky situations that we have noticed. But this dog is not in the dog zone at all, he's just outside and then barks at other dogs. But in principle we know the owners and we can then usually intervene to de-escalate."

*Interviewer: "I think the adults who are here know you, don't they? They know who to talk to if they have a problem, in that sense."*

Tretthahn: "Yes, absolutely. That does happen, should there be a problem. But as I said, to be honest, dogs have hardly been an issue in recent years."

*Interviewer: "Yes, that's what interests me most."*

Tretthahn: "Almost no complaints, as far as that is concerned."

*Interviewer: "In no parks, nothing stands out there?"*

Tretthahn: "At least not with us, well, for a while, that's five or six years ago, in Leopold-Rister-Park there was a thing, the dog zone was redesigned there. There were a few people who complained about it, that too little had been done for the dogs and the fountain was also not good because other dogs..."

*Interviewer: "Sorry, the drinking fountain in the dog zone?"*

Tretthahn: "Exactly, in the dog zone there is a drinking fountain with a bowl at the bottom, I think. And there were complaints that other dogs mark or urinate in it and others then get sick because of it. But I think that's where the MA 42 intervened and did something, they ran an information campaign... and then I think the issue was discussed with the Ombudsperson for Animal Protection, etc. But that was five or six years ago, that's a long time ago. Hartmann Park, if we go through it, we don't visit it as "Parkbetreuung" ["park support"], but we do visit as "Fair-Play". There is also a dog zone there, but it is also relatively small and we also know that the dog owners usually also use the green area in front of the dog zone. On the other hand, from my point of view, nobody plays there anyway, so it doesn't bother anyone anyway. But theoretically it wouldn't be allowed, of course."

*Interviewer: "Thank you for the interview."*

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## Appendix 4: Summary of information gain from interview with Bettina Lukas on 10.05.2022

The interview was 127 minutes long and was conducted in German in Leopold-Rister-Park and an audio recording of the interview exists. This is a summary of the information gain from the interview in English.

### Participants:

- Bettina Lukas: employee of MA 42 Parks and Gardens, employee responsible for dog zones in Vienna
- Marco Mirzaiyan-Tafty: Interviewer

### 1. History of dog zones.

Why are there dog zones in Vienna, how did the first dog zone in Vienna come about? What purpose are they supposed to serve?

- After the “Viennese Animal Protection and Animal Husbandry Act” was passed in 1987, there were basically no spaces in the city in which dogs were allowed to move off-leash. With an amendment to the act in 1991, the concept of dog sites was introduced. The city of Vienna wanted to create spaces where dogs can officially move off-leash, meet and play with each other, and also keep dogs away from people in parks who might feel bothered by dogs. Keeping dogs away from children’s playgrounds in parks was also a concern. Apart from that, the entries to the dog sites should preferentially be on the outside of the parks so that it is possible to enter the dog site without entering the park. Therefore, dog zones are mostly in edge areas of parks, and not in the middle zone.
- In the beginning the “planning” of dog sites was quite uncomplicated: It was just decided that specific places were dog sites, but these did not even need to be fenced in. No detailed plans were made for dog sites, just the site itself was marked on the city map. In 2006, the current standards for dog sites were set. For example, it was decided that newly established dog zones – but not dog exercise areas – always have to be fenced in. However, already existing dog zones without fences did not have to be fenced in retroactively, whether this was done to specific dog zones depended on the District and the available budget.
- In recent years, the city started making more detailed plans for new dog sites.

## 2. Planning basis for dog sites.

Is the establishment of dog sites based on specific planning principles or planning documents? Is there a "master plan" or similar planning documents that dog sites are based on? What are the requirements of the City of Vienna for dog zones?

- There is the "Wiener Parkleitbild 2021" which defines minimum requirements for dog zones, such as the minimum size for new dog zones which is 500 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The design is decided depending on the local conditions, as in the size and shape of the dog zone as well as the available budget.
- There is no city-wide master plan for dog sites, and no other planning documents except for the "Parkleitbild 2021" dictate where or how dog zones should be planned by MA 42. The Vienna Animal Husbandry Act does, however, set requirements for planning dog zones. Lukas cannot say if other Municipal Departments which manage dog zones (MA 45, MA 49) have master plans or planning documents for dog zones.

## 3. Costs of dog sites, specifically dog zones.

Who pays for dog sites in Vienna? What are the costs for a dog zone in Vienna (construction, maintenance)? To what extent is this an issue or a limitation in the planning of dog zones?

- The Districts pay for dog sites from their district budgets.
- Some Districts have their own banking account for dog sites, but most do not. The Fifth District does not currently have its own dog site account.
- Districts grant the MA 42 a certain budget for ongoing maintenance of parks and dog sites. Small fixes are paid from the budget for ongoing maintenance.
- The cost for the ongoing maintenance of a dog site normally is low and not really a concern for a District when setting up a dog site.
- If any big changes were to be made to a dog site or a new dog site was to be established, the MA 42 would need to be granted an extra budget by the District.
- The frequency of the cleaning of dog zones is tied to the usage of the specific dog zone, which is also influenced by the seasons. Typically, in the "winter season" (from about November to March), a dog zone might be cleaned about three times a week by workers of MA 42 and in the "summer season" (from about April to October), a dog zone might be cleaned about five times per week.

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- Answering the question how much establishing a dog zone costs right now is hard, because the prices for materials have risen a lot recently. But to give two examples from 2021: in one dog zone, the price per square metre was 80 euros, in the other one the price was 120 euros per square metre.
  - The price depends on what elements are requested for the dog zone. If automatic irrigation for the lawn or a drinking fountain are requested by the District, that alone would make the dog zone cost about 30 percent more than without these features.
  - A drinking fountain itself costs about 12.000 euros and installing the piping for a fountain in a dog zone can also cost a lot of money, about as much as the fountain itself – it depends on how far away the closest pipes are. The high cost of installing a drinking fountain is the reason why some dog zones do not have one.
  - Applying a turf costs around 25-30 euros (gross) per square metre, including the cost of application by an external company.
  - Installing fencing for a dog zone (1 metre high) costs about 9 euros (gross) per metre, including the cost of application by an external company.
  - Applying a “privacy screen foil” at the fence of a dog zone costs about 35 euros (gross) per metre, including the cost of application by an external company.

#### **4. Process for opening a new dog site.**

From the idea of a new dog site to the opening of it, what is the process like? Which actors are involved? Who can initiate the planning of a new dog site?

- The first initiative can come from different actors:
  - ⇒ District Councils,
  - ⇒ the general population, associations, organisations,
  - ⇒ MA 42 itself, when they notice that there is a need from feedback.
- Regardless of who takes the first initiative, the idea is always taken to the District Council.
- The District Council has to decide that they are interested in establishing a new dog site.
- If the District Council decides that they want a new dog site in a certain area, they contact the MA 42 to evaluate the idea.
- The MA 42 evaluates if the idea is possible and realistic and gets back to the District Council with an estimate of how much establishing the dog site would cost.

- If it is possible to establish the dog site, the District Council must decide if they can and are willing to pay the price for the new dog site.
- If the District Council decides that the proposal by the MA 42 is affordable, the MA 42 starts making a detailed plan for the new dog site.
- While planning a new dog site, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection is contacted by MA 42 and it can offer input for the plan. The potential feedback by the Ombuds Office mostly concerns design elements, additional things that should be considered.
- After finishing the detailed plan, the plan is carried out.
- Once the dog site has been set up, it must be officially decreed: In order to do this, there is a “local hearing” (“Ortsverhandlung”) and a “file note” (“Aktenvermerk”) is made.
- Present in the local hearing are:
  - ⇒ District Council
  - ⇒ MA 42
  - ⇒ Land owner (usually MA 42 or another Municipal Department, e.g. MA 28, MA 45 or MA 49)
  - ⇒ Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection
  - ⇒ Police Headquarters
- The local hearing is mostly a formality to confirm that everything has been done correctly, since the details have already been discussed between the actors in advance.
- After the local hearing a file note is made and the dog site is officially decreed.
- The dog site is decreed in the moment when the official “dog zone” or “dog exercise area” sign has been put up at the site.
- There are also three dog zones (one at Heldenplatz and two in Augarten) which are managed by the Austrian Federal Gardens (“Österreichische Bundesgärten”), 14 dog sites (two in Wienerberg, Neilreichgasse, Leberweg, Spitalwiese, Tiefauwiese, Himmelstraße, Teresa-Tauscher-Park, Mühlgrund, Reinholdgasse, Thonetgasse, Anton-Krieger-Gasse, Draschegründe, Kellerberg) which are managed by MA 49, five dog sites (Donauinsel Nord, Parkanlage Mühlenschüttelgasse, Kaisermühlendamm, Neue Donau Süd, Herbert-Mayr-Park) managed by MA 45 and one dog zone (Wagramer Straße/Lieblgasse) managed by Wiener Wohnen instead of MA 42.

## 5. Design and furnishing of dog zones.

How is the design of a dog zones decided? What are the planning principles or guidelines for design? To what extent is the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection involved? What approaches/attempts/developments have there been since the first dog zone? Have there been any special wishes by

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some Districts regarding dog zones?

- The guidelines in “Wiener Parkleitbild 2021” were developed with the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection. These guidelines set the basis for designing dog sites.
- If there are already many trees in a dog zone, it limits how the dog zone can be designed, since the root area of the trees should not be disturbed. This means that trees especially influence the areas which can be paved in the dog zone.
- One special element, which you can find in some dog sites, is the “digging pit”. It is a box filled with bark mulch. It is meant for dogs that like digging, since it is easy to dig in bark mulch but hard to dig in the gravel surface which is common in dog zones. Dogs should also not dig in the gravel surface anyway, since holes are a hazard for dogs and humans alike, and the workers of MA 42 have to fill back up any holes which are left in dog sites. Unfortunately there are some dog sites that have a real problem with dogs that dig around everywhere and where the dog owners do not fill up the holes, either.
- One special problem has been identified with tables in dog zones. The idea of dog zones is that people go there and exercise with their dogs and are present with their dogs. However, in dog zones where there are tables there have been problems with people who stay at the dog zones for hours, which can block other people from entering the dog zone. The Ombuds Office decided that there is no real need for tables in dog zones anyway, and if tables also encourage drinking in dog zones, it would be better to not install any.
- If any new bushes or trees are planted in a dog site, these must be protected with a temporary chestnut-fence so that dogs cannot urinate on them, otherwise the bushes and trees would not survive. Young bushes are usually fenced in for about half a year up to a year, while young trees are usually fenced in for up to three years. Once the plants are old enough, they usually can survive in the “harsher conditions”.
- Any special elements that are used in dog sites must be low maintenance and in accordance with the standards that count for elements in public places. This limits any special elements that could theoretically be used in dog sites. Right now there is a special dog-tunnel in planning for a dog zone in the 22<sup>nd</sup> District. Any special equipment is first tested in one or two dog sites before being expanded to further sites in planning.
- Dog agility equipment is frequently requested by dog owners. However, it is not used, because the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection is strongly against such in dog sites. Agility equipment should only be used under supervision, the risk of injury

for untrained dogs is too high and it is also feared that dog sites would be used by professional trainers for agility courses, which would be in the way of regular dog site visitors.

- Regarding double-entry gates: there are a few of these in select dog zones in Vienna, for example in Allerheiligenpark in the 20<sup>th</sup> district. They only make sense in very big dog zones, otherwise they would just make small dog zones even smaller.
- Regarding the suggestion to use double-entry gates at Parkanlage Mittelzone because it is big and there is heavy traffic on the roads on both sides: the idea is viewed positively, and will be considered.
- Regarding the ventilation shaft of the underground car park which is in the dog zone in Parkanlage am Hundsturm: the ventilation shaft cannot be modified by MA 42 so that the edges are not sharp anymore because only the owner of the car park is allowed to modify the ventilation shaft. This change would have to be requested from the owner of the garage.
- Regarding sewer grates and the feedback that the feet of some smaller dogs can fall into these and the dogs can get hurt: it would be technically possible to use sewer grates with a finer mesh than currently, the problem with such sewer grates is that gravel gets stuck more easily in them and the grate is clogged more easily. If the problem is prevalent, though, it could be addressed.
- Regarding hygienic concerns in dog zones: the only measures that are taken out of hygienic concerns are in regards of the drinking fountains, so that water does not stay in them, as well as making sure that water does not stay lying in the dog zone itself. This might also be the reason why the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park was designed with a slight slope: so that water does not stay lying in one area, because otherwise germs can develop in puddles.
- Regarding other special developments in regards to dogs in Vienna: some “dog toilets” had been set up in some districts in the city, but these do not exist anymore.

## 6. Lawns and other terrains in dog zones.

Lots of dog owners wish for lawns in their dog zones: How is it decided if a dog zone gets a lawn? What types of terrain are used in dog zones?

- The three types of terrain which are used in dog zones are grass, gravel surface (“wassergebundene Decke”) and bark mulch (“Rindenmulch”). Additionally, the paths for human visitors are paved.
- Lawns in smaller dog zones in the city are a common request. In fact, lawns in dog zones is probably the thing that is requested the



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most by dog owners. However, it is hard to maintain a lawn in a small dog zone.

- Not only is there the problem that dog urine makes the ground sour, but especially when a lot of dogs repeatedly run around on a small lawn, the lawn also wears off physically.
- Because of this, if lawns are set up in smaller dog zones, the modern practice is to also set up automatic irrigation for the lawn. This system makes it much more likely for the lawn to survive. However, setting up this system is expensive.
- Still, an automatic irrigation is not a guarantee that a lawn would survive in a dog zone. The dog zone should still have a minimum size (that has not been defined) so that a lawn would have a chance of survival. If too many dogs run in a small space, the lawn would experience too much pressure to survive. However, it really depends on the place: if a small dog zone is not visited that much, a lawn can thrive in even such a small dog zone.
- The options for setting up a lawn are using turf or sowing the lawn from seeds.
- Regarding establishing a lawn in a dog zone with a grant from “Wiener Klimateam”: Nothing speaks against making a suggestion for a grant. It is just important that the dog zone is big enough for a lawn. Ultimately the MA 42 would have to evaluate if the dog zone is big enough so that a lawn can survive, otherwise it would be a waste of money.
- MA 42 and the city of Vienna are in an international dialogue with other cities. Ideas for terrain types for dog zones are also exchanged, but so far the MA 42 has not heard of a more suitable terrain type for small dog zones than the gravel surface.
- The advantages of a gravel surface are that it is softer than a paved surface, it does not get “dirty”, rain does not damage it and it is easy to remove dog waste from it. Disadvantages of a gravel surface are that if the weather is very dry, it can get very dusty, especially if dogs run around. Some dogs also hurt their paws on the gravel surface, the paws “rub off”.
- The advantage of grass is that it is the most suitable surface for dogs as it is very soft. The disadvantages of grass are that it is harder and more expensive to maintain and that it is a bit harder to spot and properly remove dog waste from it.
- The advantage of bark mulch is that dogs can dig in it. The main disadvantage of bark mulch is that it is hard to keep clean. It is hard to spot dog waste in it and a dog might also run into excrement that is “hiding” in bark mulch. Another disadvantage is that when dogs dig in it, sometimes bark mulch gets hurled out of the dog zone.

- Some dog zones have bark mulch as their main surface, but “digging pits” with bark mulch are a more optimal solution because of hygiene.
- Bark mulch is changed at least once a year in dog zones.

## 7. Size of dog zones.

Who decides on the sizes of the specific dog zones? How is the size ratio of dog zones to parks decided and assessed? Is a "buffer zone" to the parks planned?

- The size of a dog zone mostly depends on the local circumstances, on how much space there is available.
- The minimum requirement written in the “Parkleitbild 2021” is 500 m<sup>2</sup>. However, another minimum requirement of 300 m<sup>2</sup> is practised where 500 m<sup>2</sup> are not possible. Both of these numbers have been decided with the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection. Still, in very rare cases, if it is impossible to meet the 300 m<sup>2</sup> requirement and there is a strong wish to set up a dog zone, an even smaller dog zone can be planned.
- It might be that in the past “buffer zones” to parks – as in lawns and bushes between dog zones and parks – were planned, nowadays “buffer zones” are not required and usually not planned in order to use space efficiently. There are even dog zones that adjoin fenced in ball courts (“Ballspielkäfig”), in these cases a “privacy screen foil” is placed in the fence between the dog zone and fenced sport court.
- Instead of using buffer zones, “privacy screen foils” are used so that dogs cannot see the other side of the fence and do not get distracted and bark at other people (or dogs).
- Regarding the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: if there really is space to make it bigger and no technical details speak against it, then yes, it would be possible to make it bigger in theory, especially if there is a need to make it bigger. A second dog zone (section) would also be an option, because sometimes people wish for that, too. The change should not bother other park visitors, either.
- MA 42 could also suggest making a dog zone bigger, but in the end, these issues always need to be decided (and be paid for) by the local District Council.

## 8. Dogs in parks.

What is the idea behind the leash-requirement or dog ban in parks and green areas? Who decides on a dog ban (vs. leash-requirement) in parks and on what grounds? Does the MA 42 see a need for action if dog bans in parks are violated? Has the MA 42 considered or tested alternatives to the “current

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solution” (e.g. muzzle or leash-requirements in a park - i.e. as regulated in the street area).

- The leash-requirement is regulated in the Vienna Animal Husbandry Act. This means that there is no possibility to test or try any other solutions (like an alternative muzzle-requirement) in a park without first changing the law. Since it is the law, alternatives to the leash-requirement have never been discussed in the MA 42.
- Even if dogs can enter a park on a leash, they are never allowed to enter lawns according to law. So basically if you can visit a park with a dog, it is mostly for walking through the park with your dog or sitting down on a bench with your dog.
- The real problem are not really dogs that are on a leash and maybe enter a lawn for a metre under supervision, but dogs that run freely and that dirty areas where the dog owner does not notice it, and then children might step into the excrement, things like that.
- Bettina Lukas is responsible for decreeing dog bans for select parks.
- Placing a dog ban on a certain park is always initiated by the District Council, they start by contacting the MA 42.
- The reason why a dog ban is placed on a certain park is usually because too much dog waste is left lying in the park or because of complaints about dogs in the park.
- The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection also has party status in the ordinance procedure. This means that they can voice their opinion about a dog ban in the specific park. For example if there are already many dog bans in the area and no alternative places to visit with dogs, they might suggest establishing a dog zone to provide some options for dogs in the area.
- The MA 42 is well aware that many people do not abide to dog bans and leash-requirements in parks. At least some people use dog zones, so the potential for conflict in parks is reduced.
- The MA 42 itself does not have the resources to control and enforce the laws regarding dogs in parks.
- Just like the MA 48 has “WasteWatchers” who control littering in the public streets of Vienna, the MA 42 also has some own WasteWatchers who control littering in the parks managed by MA 42. However, in comparison to the MA 48, the MA 42 only has a small amount of WasteWatchers.
- The police can also sometimes penalize breaking these laws, but the police usually have more important issues to take care of.
- There have, however, been some “hotspot campaigns” together with the police and the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, where they have stayed at particularly problematic “hotspots” and

admonished all people who let their dogs run free in parks, or people who ignore dog bans.

- Bettina Lukas visited a park in Madrid where a lot of dogs were running freely and she did not notice any problems with dogs in the park, she was surprised how well it worked. She thinks that the problems in Vienna exist mostly because there are too many irresponsible dog owners. These are people who do not train and occupy their dogs properly and people who do not clean up after their dogs. If all dog owners were responsible, there would probably not be any problems with dogs in parks.
- There are also visible differences between the visitors of different dog sites (and parks) in Vienna. Some dog sites are visited by more responsible dog owners, while the visitors of certain dog sites (and parks) cause more problems.

## 9. Feedback about dog sites.

What kind of feedback does the MA 42 get regarding dog sites and dogs in parks from both dog owners and the general public?

- There are some “hotspots”, certain parks where there are a lot of complaints about dogs that run off-leash.
- Letting a dog run off-leash in a park can also lead to verbal conflicts between dog owners and other visitors.
- Park visitors do not complain about noise from dog zones, but some residents who live very close to dog zones sometimes complain about noise, about dogs barking.
- One solution to noise complaints is closing dog zones that are close to residential buildings for the night, so that it is at least quiet during the night. The opening and closing of dog zones is done by an external company that the MA 42 hires for the job.
- Dog owners do regularly give thanks that there are so many dog sites in the city and the feedback from dog owners is generally positive. Critique is mostly about small details.
- The stones in dog zones are sometimes criticised, because dogs occasionally run against them and get hurt. Therefore, stones are not placed in newly planned dog zones anymore. Now, standing or lying wooden elements are used instead.
- Negative feedback is mostly given about very small dog zones.

## 10. Evaluation of dog zones.

To what extent are existing dog zones evaluated by the city?

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- Bettina Lukas is currently evaluating all dog sites in the city that are managed by the MA 42. She checks what elements are present in the dog sites – like how many dog waste bag dispensers and rubbish bins are there, if there is a paved path through the dog site, how tall the fence is, if all relevant signs are present etc. She also writes down what could or should be renovated or improved, for example if an extra tree could be planted because there is little shade.
  - An evaluation of dog sites on this scale has not been done before in Vienna, at least not in the dog zones managed by MA 42.
  - However, there is a standard inspection at every dog zone once every month. These serve to check if everything is still functioning.

## Appendix 5: Summary of information gain from interview with Wolfgang Mitis on 18.05.2022

The interview was 58 minutes long and was conducted in German in the district office of SPÖ of the fifth district of Vienna and an audio recording of the interview exists. This is a summary of the information gain from the interview in English.

### Participants:

- Wolfgang Mitis: District Council member of the fifth district of Vienna and chairman of the District Council Committee for Environment
- Marco Mirzaiyan-Tafty: Interviewer

### 1. Developments around dog zones in Margareten.

How did today's dog zones in Margareten come about? What kind of feedback does the population voice regarding dog zones in Margareten?

- The dog zones in Margareten are the result of “historical developments”. Some of them do not fulfil the modern requirements, but back when they were established they did – some of them are missing appropriate fencing, for example.
- Every time a park is redesigned, if there is a dog zone in the park, it is also considered and potentially adapted, if necessary.
- The most recent development is the removal of the dog zone in Bacherpark, since the subway construction site is now where the dog zone used to be. The replacement dog zone in Bacherpark is obviously not optimal, but there was a wish from dog owners for an alternative and the current solution is the only solution that could be provided right now. It is considered a temporary dog zone. Once the subway construction has finished, it can be evaluated what kind of permanent dog zone can be established after that in Bacherpark.

### 2. Dog bans in Margareten.

Why is there a dog ban in almost all parks in Margareten?

- The dog bans were already set up before Mitis became active, so he cannot tell what the exact reasons were.
- Some conflicts with dogs are to be expected though, and it is not in the interest of the District Council to fence off all playgrounds, either.

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It is good when children can play in parks without the parents having to fear that the children are bitten by a dog.

### **3. Budget for dog zones in Margareten.**

What kind of budget does Margareten have for dog zones? Does the District have its own "dog zone banking account"?

- The District does not have a “dog zone banking account”.
- The District pays for the maintenance of parks, including dog zones which are a part of the parks.
- Dog zone related issues are paid from the “park budget” of the District.
- MA 42 tells the District Council that they need a certain amount of money for a year of maintenance and the District (Council) approves the sum and pays it to the MA 42. This makes the (local) operating budget of the MA 42 from which maintenance is paid for, and the maintenance of dog zones is also covered by this budget.
- If there are special, higher one-off expenses, the MA 42 has to make an extra application and the District (Council) has to approve it separately.

### **4. Evaluation of dog zones by the District.**

What and why did the District Council Committee for Environment (of Margareten) evaluate in 2021 regarding dog zones in the district? What were the results and what changes have taken place?

- In the District Council there were applications regarding dog zones from two parties. All parties agreed that the issue should be attended to and the applications were sent to the District Council Committee for Environment for further deliberation before making a decision.
- The Committee decided to take a look at the current situation of the dog zones in the district.
- The Committee did the inspection and a report about the results of what should be done about the dog zones in the district.
- The issues that were found were mostly small things, like missing “privacy screen foils” so dogs will not be distracted by people outside the dog zones, and it was decided to set up some additional benches in some dog zones. The “digging pit” was also removed in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park because of the request of dog owners who said that it is not being used – instead, new benches were added.
- After the report, the applications by the parties were withdrawn, because the issues were addressed. Withdrawing the applications was part of the formal process.

- All parties were satisfied with the results.

## 5. Future plans for dog zones.

Does the District Council have any plans regarding dog zones in the future?

- The dog zones were improved a little bit after the inspection in 2021, currently there are no running plans regarding dog zones in the District Council.
- Of course, there can be new plans in the future.

## 6. Past plans for Ernst-Arnold-Park.

Were there any plans regarding the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park?

- There was an application to improve the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park by the District Council that all parties agreed to. The application was sent to the appropriate Municipal Department (MA 42) and they evaluated what would have to be done in order to carry out the idea.
- The answer by the MA 42 was not satisfactory to the District Council: improving the dog zone in the park would have been too expensive for the District Council. A part of the area is also heritage protected (“denkmalgeschützt”), which makes it harder to make changes to it.
- The District Council decided that they would not make any changes to the dog zone in Ernst-Arnold-Park.

## 7. Considerations for Klieberpark.

In Klieberpark, the dog zone was removed during the redesign. What kind of feedback has been voiced by the public regarding this? Have there been considerations in the District Council to set up a dog zone again in Klieberpark?

- Klieberpark was redesigned in 2017; there was a participation process by Parkbetreuung Margareten. Mitis himself was not directly part of the process back in the day. People who used to use the dog zone in Klieberpark were asked to use the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park instead.
- Apparently a dog zone in Klieberpark was not considered as high as a priority back then when comparing it to other uses, like the community garden that was set up. Maybe the dog zone would have been so small that it would not have met the modern standards for a dog zone.

## 8. Enlarging dog zones in Margareten.



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What does Mitis think would be the position of the District Council or the District Council Committee for Environment on the idea of enlarging the dog zones in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (276 m<sup>2</sup>) and in Parkanlage am Hundsturm (214 m<sup>2</sup>)?

- Mitis can only give his personal opinion because these ideas have not been discussed in the District Council or District Council Committee for Environment.
- These ideas are new, and Mitis cannot tell what the District Council would think about the ideas.
- Generally, Mitis himself and several other people in the District Council do want to keep some “unused” lawns in the parks. As in, not every square metre has to be assigned a use.
- During their inspection, the Committee did not hear the wish from dog owners that dog zones should be enlarged.
- It is good that the thesis will study the use pressure on dog zones, because such a study has never been done before.
- If a dog zone is enlarged, it would have to be done in a way that other user groups will understand and accept it and not in a way that other user groups get angry about it.

### **9. Submission for Wiener Klimateam.**

How does Mitis feel about the idea of submitting the expansion and greening of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park to the “Wiener Klimateam” for a grant?

- Any good ideas should be submitted.
- The District Council does not decide which ideas get a grant. The decision is made by a citizen jury that will be randomly drawn.
- Members of the District Council will probably be involved in the Co-Creation Phase so that the ideas from Klimateam do not collide with projects that already exist in the District (Council).
- The District Council has also talked about establishing lawns in dog zones with the MA 42, but the MA 42 explained to the District Council that grass would not survive in small dog zones.

### **10. Any other topics.**

Is there anything else Mitis wants to say about dog zones in Margareten?

- Mitis is thankful that dog zones are relatively well used in the district.
- People should not stay in dog zones for hours, so that other dogs can also enter.

- The opinions about design elements between dog zones seem to vary and it is hard to determine what is a good design, for example in some dog zones people really like the boulders, while in some dog zones people complain about them.
- The situation has improved a lot over the years, especially regarding dog owners picking up their dog's waste.
- Dog zones are a part of the parks in the Municipal Department (MA 42) and they are treated as such. The District Council mostly deals with dog zones when it is determined that there is a problem somewhere.
- Mitis is looking forward to seeing the results of this study, since dog zones have never been studied to this extent, especially in Margareten.

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## Appendix 6: Summary of information gain from telephone interview with Simone Gräber on 24.05.2022

The telephone interview was 74 minutes long and was conducted in German and an audio recording of the interview exists. This is a summary of the information gain from the interview in English.

### Participants:

- Simone Gräber: employee of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, employee responsible for dog zones in Vienna
- Marco Mirzaiyan-Tafty: Interviewer

### 1. Purpose of dog zones, proper behaviour in a dog zone.

What is the purpose of dog zones? What needs of dogs should dog zones satisfy? What should dogs and humans do in a dog zone?

- Dogs are “running animals”, they have a need to move/exercise. Dog zones are especially supposed to be “meeting areas” for free-form conspecific interactions as well as interactions between dogs and humans, and give dogs the opportunity to move off-leash. In dog zones dogs should also be able to fulfil their need for exploration, like sniff around, explore the dog zone and be able to think about which dogs have been there etc.
- Often there are too many dogs in a dog zone that is too small for them, which is obviously not ideal. This kind of situation stresses the dogs, especially if the dogs do not know each other well. Of course this also depends on the temperament of the specific dogs.
- Ideally, a visit in a dog zone should not be longer than half an hour – half an hour should always be sufficient.
- Especially if there are many dogs in a dog zone, the visit should not be longer so that the dog does not experience a “sensory overload” because so much is happening.
- Ideally, people should always pay attention to their dog while in the dog zone and even more ideally, they should keep their dogs occupied, they should interact with their dogs.
- People should be able to recognize “mobbing situations” between dogs and be able to intervene in these.
- People who visit a dog zone should have already trained calling back the dog to them so that this can be done when someone wants to enter a dog zone.

- Of course, people should always pick up and dispose of the waste of their dogs.
- When someone new wants to enter a dog zone, they should ideally always ask all present dog owners if it is okay for them and their dog to enter the dog zone. Ideally, all present dog owners should call their dogs away from the fence and hold on to their dogs (or leash them) while the new person and their dog enters the dog zone. In this way the present dogs will not harass the dog that enters the dog zone and the present dogs also cannot escape the dog zone while the gate is open.
- Ideally, people should also consider if their dog really wants to get to know any strange dogs which are in a dog zone or if it would be better that the dog would only meet dogs which it already is friendly with in the dog zone.

## 2. Improper behaviour in a dog zone.

What should humans and dogs not do in a dog zone? Do some dog owners misunderstand the purpose of dog zones?

- Many dog owners seem to think of dog zones as a “dog toilet”, but that is not what they are supposed to be.
- Some dog owners also act with too little consideration towards other dog owners and stay in the dog zone for too long, blocking other people from using the dog zone.
- Some dog owners also seem to think that dog zones are an easy solution for letting their dogs “run rampage” while they don’t pay attention, like while being on their phones.
- People should either fill up the holes which their dogs dig, or they should not let the dogs dig in the first place. Holes in the ground can lead to injuries with both dogs and humans.
- Some people think that they can “drain the energy” of their dogs in a dog zone by playing with the dogs, but playing equipment such as balls should only be used when there is only one dog in the dog zone because it can lead to conflicts of resource between the dogs.

## 3. Size of dog zones.

Why is the minimum recommended size for a dog zone in the “Park Guidelines 2021” set at 500 m<sup>2</sup> and why is the other recommendation (not recorded in writing), as per Bettina Lukas, 300 m<sup>2</sup>? How did these numbers come about?

- The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection has an advisory position on the topic of dog zones, which the MA 42 is (usually) responsible for.

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- The minimum sizes are so that dogs still have a chance to set some distance between each other when necessary.
  - What is also important is that there is a gate on both sides of a dog zone so that a dog (or dogs) cannot block the only entrance or exit and so that mobbing situations cannot develop in the only entrance area. With two gates, the exiting dog never needs to pass the aggressor in order to exit. The dog zone should be big enough so that there is some space between the two gates.
  - There is no scientific reason why exactly these numbers were chosen, they are recommendations so that planners understand that dog zones should not be planned at a scale that is too small whenever there is a possibility to plan a more ideal dog zone.
  - Still, from the point of view of the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, every dog site is a welcome development, even if it is small.

#### **4. Parasites and pathogens in dog zones.**

Are parasites or other pathogens a relevant topic in Vienna's dog zones?

- Parasites and pathogens are a relevant topic in dog zones in Vienna.
- There are dog zone “hotspots” where there have been regular reports that healthy dogs enter these dog zones and these dogs have diarrhea when they leave these dog zones.
- The dynamic is similar to kindergartens, where diseases also regularly spread between children.
- There is, however, no official data concerning this issue.
- It should be clear that if a lot of dogs share a small space with each other, the bioburden would be high. The bigger the dog site is, the more the germs will spread and the bioburden will be lower.
- People with sick dogs (such as dogs with diarrhea) should not enter dog zones, but some dog owners with sick dogs still enter dog zones, which makes it easier to spread diseases between the dog population.
- Some dogs have a strong immune system while other dogs have a weaker immune system, so it also depends on the individual dog if the bioburden of a dog zone is an issue or not.
- In the end only dog owners can take up the responsibility and not enter dog zones while their dogs are sick. It is also the responsibility of dog owners to protect their dogs from parasites such as from fleas, and not let infected dogs run around in dog sites.
- Parasites and pathogens in dog sites are, however, not a topic that is discussed in the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection.

- These topics are also normally not brought to the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection, this interview was the first time that this issue was raised with Simone Gräber.

### **5. Problems with small dog zones.**

What problems arise in small dog zones? What do small dog zones "do" with a dog and with the interactions between dogs?

- Problems in dog zones arise because the dog owners do not pay enough attention to their dogs.
- Conflicts between dogs occur much more easily in a small space, since it is "filled up" more quickly and there is no space for the dogs to evade each other.
- However, if one dog really wants to bully or "hunt" another dog, it can do so regardless of the size of the dog zone. In such a heavy conflict one party would always have to leave the dog zone.

### **6. Enlarging small dog zones.**

What does the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection say about dog zones that do not meet modern minimum recommendations for the size of a dog zone? For example, if a dog zone is 214 m<sup>2</sup>, should this dog zone be enlarged if possible? Should the goal of enlarging an existing dog zone be at least 500m<sup>2</sup> if there is a realistic possibility to do so?

- Gräber does not want to set any minimum sizes in stone, but still, especially when new dog zones are established, it is definitely encouraged by the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection to make the dog zone meet the standards that have been set, if realistically possible.
- Enlargements of dog zones are of course welcomed by the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection whenever they are realistically possible.
- The Ombuds Office has, however, the experience that enlargements are harder to make than planning a new dog zone in general, because so many different actors want to get involved, including parents who would also like any extra spaces to be designed so that their children can use the space instead of dogs and dog owners.
- Gräber has also learned that while sometimes on the surface it seems possible to enlarge a dog zone, there are some technical limitations that are not obvious, such as existing trees making it impossible to properly fence off an area for the dog zone because of their deep roots.

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## 7. Surfaces in dog zones.

What are the pros and cons of different types of surfaces used in dog zones?

- The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection does encourage a paved path through a dog zone, but the whole dog zone should not be paved.
- The surface should not be slippery.
- Using gridded surfaces is discouraged (as there are a few such dog zones in Vienna). If used, these grids have to be maintained very heavily (filled up) so that dogs do not hurt their paws in the grids. The pro of grids is that it prevents the surface from becoming muddy.
- A lawn is optimal, but if the dog zone is too small and used too much, a lawn would not survive. Also when it rains, a lawn would become muddy if overused. Similarly, a gravel surface can become muddy.
- Problems with the surfaces arise because dog owners do not use dog zones responsibly. If people would not let their dogs rampage and run around wildly in dog zones, the surfaces (including lawns) would stay in good condition.
- Gräber considers bark mulch to be a very good solution. Bark mulch is very soft, dogs can dig in it and Gräber considers it appealing. A con of bark mulch is that after it has been freshly set up, the dogs might get covered in “brown dust”, which some dog owners complain about.
- Gräber also thinks that it is good when a dog zone has several different surfaces since they give different kinds of haptic feedback to the dogs. A good example could be a dog zone with a paved path going through it, with a lawn and with a “digging pit” filled with bark mulch.

## 8. Equipment of a dog zone.

How should a dog zone be equipped - and what should absolutely not be in a dog zone and why (e.g. agility equipment)? What "special elements" are there in some dog zones and dog exercise areas (e.g. tunnels for dogs)? Is there a difference between how a small and a large dog zone should be equipped?

- Tables should not be used when planning new dog zones because they encourage people to stay for a longer time, to make a picnic, and they discourage occupying the dogs – which is what dog owners are supposed to do in dog zones.
- The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection is very much against agility equipment in dog zones because it is often used incorrectly by dog owners and the risk of injury for dogs is too great.

If someone wants to practice agility with their dog, they should do so under the supervision of a dog trainer in an appropriate facility.

- Instead of agility equipment, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection recommends “natural obstacles” such as boulders and different kinds of tree trunks.
- These natural obstacles are supposed to invite the dog owners to occupy their dogs: a long, lying tree trunk for example can be used to make the dog walk and balance on the tree trunk. Cut tree trunks that are placed next to each can be used for the dog to jump from one trunk to the other.
- Elements should not be placed too close to the fences because some dogs can jump over the fence using these.
- Gräber personally likes the boulder elements, but she knows that some dog owners complain that their dogs have gotten hurt while playing wildly and running into a boulder. However, Gräber says that a dog should never be running around so wildly in a dog zone that it does not notice a boulder and runs into it as such a dog would be a danger to all other visitors. Gräber says that if such an accident were to happen, the dog owner has not been paying sufficient attention to their dog, as they should de-escalate such behaviour – it is not what dog zones exist for.
- In at least one dog zone there is a raised bed filled with bark mulch as a variation of the “digging pit”.
- There is a dog zone which is getting a “tunnel” for dogs; the concept will be tested there. The Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection was asked if it would be good if the tunnel branched out into two tunnels and the answer is no, it should not, and it should not be too long either. What if a dog felt scared inside the tunnel? How is the dog owner supposed to get it out? And if the tunnel branched and two dogs would run into it from two different entries, they could run into each other and get hurt.
- What Gräber wants to show with this example is that people should not place obstacles inside a dog zone just because they think that it would be funny – any obstacles have to be evaluated to make sure that they do not create unnecessary dangerous situations with “normal” use.
- Answering the questions of obstacles in a different way – what would a dog like to do in a dog zone? A dog wants to move freely, interact with other dogs, sniff around and explore. A dog does not want to jump over agility obstacles or get hunted by other dogs through tunnels etc.
- Basically, anything that makes dogs move too fast in a dog zone is too dangerous and should not be there.



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- Double-entry gates can definitely make sense in some bigger dog zones, but they do not make any sense in smaller dog zones because they would take up too much space. A double-entry gate can never replace a second gate on the other side of the dog zone, though.
  - Again: ideally, if someone wants to enter a dog zone, they would ask the present dog owners if it is alright to enter. If the present dog owners say yes, they would call their dogs to them and hold onto them or leash them. Then, the new person enters and unleashes their dog. Gräber wants to illustrate that if people actually did these things “correctly”, there would not be a need for double-entry gates.
  - Even if Gräber could tell me what equipment or design elements she would personally like to see in a dog zone, she always has to think about how irresponsible dog owners can misuse these, creating new problems.
  - The MA 42 always has to find a balance between the wishes of dog owners – a part of which undoubtedly will mistreat whatever is made available to them – and the feasibility of the wishes, whether it is about land use or smaller details like existing trees blocking a project... while considering the reality of how something is really used. What is wished for, how will it actually be used, and is this problematic? Asking these questions ultimately limits what kind of planning can currently be done regarding dog zones.

## 9. Structuring of dog zones.

An expert opinion (cf. Schöning 2007) recommends structuring dog zones in such a way that they cannot be completely surveyed at a glance (of a dog), so that different "zones" are created which dogs can use as "retreat spaces" to maintain their individual distance from other dogs. What does the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection think about this statement? Is such a structuring of dog zones practised, recommended or rejected? Is there a minimum size that is necessary for such a structuring, or could such a structuring perhaps even make sense in smaller dog zones specifically?

- Yes, structuring a dog zone so that dogs can better determine their individual distance to each other definitely makes sense. It makes sense in smaller dog zones, maybe even especially in small dog zones because it is easier for the dogs to build distance between each other in bigger dog zones when necessary.
- Of course a small dog zone should not be made even more cramped with bad structuring, so it is a balancing act.
- If there was a way of structuring a dog zone so that it helps slow down play between dogs that is too wild or fast, Gräber would find that a good goal in the structuring.

- Good structuring should not make it possible for a dog to be cornered.
- The dog zone in Hadikpark in the 14<sup>th</sup> district is a good example, it is a narrow but very long dog zone, and because of the length it feels like it is structured into many segments, it is impossible to see the whole dog zone from one point. Gräber thinks that it is a very good solution.

### 10. If there were no dog sites.

A life of a dog in the city without dog sites, outside only on a leash - is that "doable"? What does that do to a dog?

- From Gräber's point of view, if there were no dog sites in the city, one would have to carefully consider if they really would want to keep a dog in such a city. But even with the current situation in Vienna in the inner districts, one has to consider if life of a dog might not be too stressful? A big city can overwhelm a dog with all kinds of sensory experiences.
- If one was to keep a dog in a city without dog sites and would only be able to keep the dog on leash in the city, the person should be able to leave the city at least every two days so that the dog can run either on a long leash or off-leash in a low-stress environment.
- Even when there are small dog zones available in the city near to where one lives, dog owners should visit bigger dog exercise areas every once in a while. Dogs should get the opportunity to move more freely than what small dog zones allow.
- If a dog owner is not ready to do these things, Gräber considers such animal husbandry questionable in terms of animal protection.
- Gräber herself has a dog which she lets always move off-leash in Vienna, using a muzzle instead (since dogs on streets need to be leashed or muzzled). However, Gräber considers that kind of off-leash movement not enough if the dog does not get the opportunity to be occupied in other ways, so that the dog gets to fulfil all of its natural needs such as the need for exploration and contact with other dogs.

### 11. Developments around dogs in Vienna.

How did the topic of dogs develop in Vienna? What approaches and developments have there been? Does Gräber know about "dog toilets", which used to exist in different districts?

- Gräber does not know about dedicated "dog toilets" in the city. The boulder elements which do not only exist in dog zones do invite dogs

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to use them as “toilets”, though. There is such a boulder also close to where Gräber herself lives and her dog “uses” the boulder, too.

- The idea of “dog toilets” in the city does not sound bad to her, but she cannot say more about it, since she does not know about them.
- The fact that some people let their dogs urinate on building facades is terrible, as cleaning a facade is very expensive.
- Many different versions of drinking fountains have been tested in dog sites. The problems with many models have been that the drinking cups for dogs were dirtied with stones, mud etc. and many models had to be rejected because of this.
- Gräber has noticed that especially since the beginning of the pandemic, more people are getting dogs without really understanding what keeping a dog really requires of them. This leads to less considerate and inappropriate dog husbandry.
- Gräber thinks that many dog owners in Vienna do not provide their dog sufficient attention or occupation, if people want to get a dog in Vienna they should be ready to accept and make longer trips regularly to get their dogs to bigger green areas. Many dog owners should pay more attention to the needs of their dogs, not just their own needs that dogs fulfil.
- Not only because of these kinds of (inattentive) dog owners, the Sachkundenachweis für Neuhundehalter (“certificate of competence for dog keeping”) was introduced in 2019.
- Since 2020 there are about 1/3 more registered dogs than before.
- Gräber has no idea where the estimate that half of the dogs residing in Vienna are not registered comes from. She has not heard of this estimate and is very sceptical about there being so many unregistered dogs in Vienna. However, she cannot present a counter-estimate, because ultimately it is quite impossible to estimate how many unregistered dogs there are.
- Nowadays, the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection also visits elementary schools and teaches children what dogs need, like how much sleep a dog needs, how often dogs need to go outside and how to properly walk a dog. The children are also taught basic rules about behaviour around dogs such as that they should never wake up a sleeping dog and that they should not touch strange dogs.
- In principle, children should never have to interpret what a dog is thinking or planning to do – there are responsible parents, dog owners or other people who act in the environment of the child and dog.
- Even all elementary schoolers seem to know what a dog waste bag is, but there are still some dog owners who do not use these.

## 12. Further “dog-friendly” solutions for a city.

Apart from the dog zones and dog exercise areas - is there anything else that can be done to make the city of Vienna more "dog-friendly"? Is there anything else related to dogs in the city that is relevant to urban planning?

- Gräber thought a lot about this question, since she is a dog owner herself, but she could not think of anything. She thinks that the city of Vienna does a lot for dogs: there is a dog waste bag dispenser "around every corner", the city tries to establish more and more dog zones and even dog exercise areas wherever possible.
- Even the barrier-free design approach of the city benefits dogs, such as having an elevator in every subway station.
- Gräber thinks that Vienna is a very dog friendly city and that there is a lot on offer for dogs. Dogs are allowed to do a lot of things in Vienna and even the existing rules are not enforced particularly harshly.
- Additionally, the dog tax in Vienna does not even cover the costs which dog husbandry causes for the city.

### 13. Dogs in parks.

What does the Vienna Ombuds Office for Animal Protection say about dog bans? Why are dog bans so prevalent in Margareten?

- Margareten has especially many dog bans, which happened because of dog owners who did not clean after their dogs in parks.
- Still, if these dog owners now avoid parks because of dog bans, they often just go to other (green) areas, which just shifts the problem to other places.
- Establishing dog zones is at least a better alternative so these people know where they can go with their dogs, and in dog zones dog owners look after each other which also develops more of a conscience in dog owners to properly clean after their dogs, even in general outside of the dog zone. So the development of dog zones probably has also contributed to the fact that more dog owners clean after their dogs than before.

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## Appendix 7: Full survey for dog keepers in Margareten (English and German versions)

### English version:

#### Survey page 1

A1 Do you own a dog or dogs?

- Yes
- No

A2 In which district of Vienna do you live?

- *Margareten (fifth district)*
- *Other district*

Selecting “no” in question A1 immediately ended the survey.

#### Survey page 2

A3 How many dogs do you own?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more

A4 How would you describe the size of your dog?

- *Small dog*
- *Middle size dog*
- *Big dog*
- *I own both smaller and bigger dogs*

A5 How often do you do the following activities with your dog?

(Responses: never – less frequently – 1-2 times a week – 3-4 times a week – 5-6 times a week – daily)

- *Walking my dog on the leash in the city.*
- *Walking my dog off the leash in the city.*
- *Visit parks with my dog on the leash.*
- *Visit parks with my dog off the leash.*
- *Visit a dog zone with my dog in the fifth district of Vienna.*

- *Visit a smaller dog zone with my dog outside of the fifth district of Vienna.*
- *Letting my dog run off the leash in my own garden or courtyard.*

A6 How often do you visit bigger dog zones or dog parks (for example in Prater) outside of the fifth district of Vienna?

- *Weekly*
- *Monthly*
- *Less frequently*
- *Never*

### Survey page 3

B1 Which of the following dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna do you visit at least twice in a year? (Multiple responses possible.)

- *Einsiedlerpark*
- *Ernst-Arnold-Park (at Rechte Wienzeile)*
- *Ernst-Lichtblau-Park (“School Park” / “Schulpark”)*
- *Leopold-Rister-Park (“Highrise Park” / “Hochhauspark”)*
- *Park Am Hundsturm*
- *Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (“Hartmannpark”)*
- *Parkanlage Mittelzone (big dog zone at Margaretengürtel)*
- *Stefan-Weber-Park (smaller dog zone at Margaretengürtel)*
- *Bacherpark (small temporary dog zone during U5 subway construction)*

B2 Which of the following dog zones do you visit most frequently?

- *Einsiedlerpark*
- *Ernst-Arnold-Park (at Rechte Wienzeile)*
- *Ernst-Lichtblau-Park (“School Park” / “Schulpark”)*
- *Leopold-Rister-Park (“Highrise Park” / “Hochhauspark”)*
- *Park Am Hundsturm*
- *Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (“Hartmannpark”)*
- *Parkanlage Mittelzone (big dog zone at Margaretengürtel)*
- *Stefan-Weber-Park (smaller dog zone at Margaretengürtel)*
- *Bacherpark (small temporary dog zone during U5 subway construction)*

B3 How far is the walk from your home to the dog zone you visit most frequently?

- *Up to 5 minutes*
- *6 – 10 minutes*
- *11 – 15 minutes*

- 
- *16 – 20 minutes*
  - *More than 20 minutes*

B4 What is the most important reason you visit this dog zone the most?

- *it is the closest dog zone to my apartment*
- *I or my dog like the path to the dog zone (only select if it is not the closest dog zone to your apartment)*
- *the size of the dog zone*
- *the design and equipment of the dog zone (e.g. drinking fountain, table, floor covering, ...)*
- *familiar dog owners or dogs use the dog zone*
- *other reason*

B5 When do you usually visit the dog zone you visit most often between Monday and Friday? (Multiple responses possible.)

- *between 6 a.m. - 9 a.m.*
- *between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*
- *between 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.*
- *between 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
- *between 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.*
- *between 9 p.m. and midnight*
- *between midnight and 6 a.m.*
- *never*

B6 When do you usually visit the dog zone you visit most often on the weekend (Saturday or Sunday)? (Multiple responses possible.)

- *between 6 a.m. - 9 a.m.*
- *between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*
- *between 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.*
- *between 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.*
- *between 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.*
- *between 9 p.m. and midnight*
- *between midnight and 6 a.m.*
- *never*

B7 How long do you usually stay in the dog zone that you visit most?

- *Up to 10 minutes*
- *11 – 20 minutes*
- *21 – 40 minutes*
- *41 – 60 minutes*
- *1 – 2 hours*

- *Over 2 hours*

## Survey page 4

B8 When reading the following statements, think of the dog zone that you visit the most. Do you agree with the following statements?

(Responses: I disagree – I rather disagree – I rather agree – I agree)

- *I like visiting the dog zone.*
- *I find visiting the dog zone pleasant.*
- *I find visiting the dog zone stressful.*
- *I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for off-leash exercise.*
- *I think that the way I usually take my dog to the dog zone does adequately satisfy my dog's need for play and interaction with other dogs.*
- *I always clean up my dog's excrement in the dog zone.*
- *If I found a stranger's dog's excrement in the dog zone and that dog wasn't around anymore, I would clean up the excrement.*
- *For me, the dog zone is "my dog zone" or "our dog zone" with the other visitors.*
- *The dog zone is like a kind of "living room" in the open air for me.*
- *Sometimes I don't go into the dog zone because I feel it wouldn't be safe for my dog or for me.*
- *I think that a visit to the dog zone always feels very safe for my dog and me.*
- *I think the dog zone is sufficiently clean.*
- *I think the dog zone is so dirty that I dislike using it.*
- *I am satisfied with the size of the dog zone.*
- *I think the dog zone is too small.*
- *I am satisfied with the design and equipment of the dog zone.*
- *I think the dog zone should be improved in terms of design and equipment.*
- *I think the dog zone fulfils its function well.*
- *I know some of the other visitors in the dog zone and sometimes talk to other dog owners.*

## Survey page 5

C1 How long is the walk from your home to the nearest dog zone?

- *Up to 5 minutes*
- *6 – 10 minutes*
- *11 – 15 minutes*
- *16 – 20 minutes*



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- *More than 20 minutes*

C2 Why do you not visit any dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna? (Multiple responses possible.)

- *SIZE: The dog zones in the area are too small*
- *DESIGN: Dog zones are too poorly designed*
- *EQUIPMENT: Dog zones don't have suitable equipment or equipment that I expect*
- *CLEANLINESS: In my opinion, dog zones are too dirty*
- *QUALITY OF STAY: Visiting dog zones is too uncomfortable for me*
- *UNSUITABILITY: Dog zones in my area are not suitable for covering my dog's need for exercise*
- *SAFETY: I feel that visiting dog zones may be unsafe for my dog or me*
- *SAFETY/CONFLICT: I am concerned about my dog's interactions with other dogs in dog parks*
- *POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT: Other people don't like seeing my dog in the dog zone (e.g. because it's a listed dog)*
- *VISITORS: The people in dog zones are too unpleasant or foreign to me*
- *DISTANCE: The walk from my apartment to the dog zones is too long*
- *NO NEED: My dog doesn't need dog zones because I let him run free outside of dog zones*
- *NO NEED: My dog doesn't need dog zones because he can interact and play with enough other dogs outside of dog zones*
- *Other reasons: (write-in)*

C3 Please choose a maximum of three, but at least one reason why you do not visit dog zones in the fifth district.

- *SIZE: The dog zones in the area are too small*
- *DESIGN: Dog zones are too poorly designed*
- *EQUIPMENT: Dog zones don't have suitable equipment or equipment that I expect*
- *CLEANLINESS: In my opinion, dog zones are too dirty*
- *QUALITY OF STAY: Visiting dog zones is too uncomfortable for me*
- *UNSUITABILITY: Dog zones in my area are not suitable for covering my dog's need for exercise*
- *SAFETY: I feel that visiting dog zones may be unsafe for my dog or me*
- *SAFETY/CONFLICT: I am concerned about my dog's interactions with other dogs in dog parks*
- *POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT: Other people don't like seeing my dog in the dog zone (e.g. because it's a listed dog)*
- *VISITORS: The people in dog zones are too unpleasant or foreign to me*

- *DISTANCE: The walk from my apartment to the dog zones is too long*
- *NO NEED: My dog doesn't need dog zones because I let him run free outside of dog zones*
- *NO NEED: My dog doesn't need dog zones because he can interact and play with enough other dogs outside of dog zones*
- *Other reasons*

## Survey page 6

D1 Do you agree with the following statements?

(Responses: I disagree – I rather disagree – I rather agree – I agree)

- *I think that other park visitors wouldn't care at all if I was in a park with my dog.*
- *I think that if I went to a park with my dog, I might get into an argument or conflict with other park visitors.*

## Survey page 7

E1 For the following statements, think of the parks that you usually visit with your dog. Do you agree with the following statements?

(Responses: I disagree – I rather disagree – I rather agree – I agree)

- *I think that other park visitors don't care at all, when I'm visiting a park with my dog.*
- *In my experience, bringing a dog into a park can lead to arguments or conflicts with other park visitors.*
- *I try to take my dog to parks when there are few or no other people around.*
- *My dog and other park visitors can share the park with each other without problems.*
- *All dogs and other park visitors can share the park with each other without problems.*

## Survey page 8

F1 Can you please provide some information about yourself so that we can evaluate who the survey has reached?

- *Female*
- *Male*
- *Other*

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F2 How old are you?

- *Younger than 20 years*
- *20 to 29 years*
- *30 to 39 years*
- *40 to 49 years*
- *50 to 59 years*
- *60 years or older*

F3 How well does your household get by on its income?

- *VERY WELL: There is enough money for basically anything, there is money left over for savings or larger investments*
- *SATISFACTORY: The money is enough for everyday life without any problems, unexpected expenses would not be a problem either*
- *DIFFICULT: Money is tight, unexpected expenses would be a problem*

F4 What applies to you?

- *At least one of my parents was born in Austria*
- *Both of my parents were born abroad*

Survey page 9

G1 Do you want to give any other feedback about dog zones in the fifth district of Vienna, or about this survey?

*(write-in)*

**German version:**

A1 Besitzen Sie einen Hund oder Hunde?

- *Ja*
- *Nein*

A2 In welchem Bezirk wohnen Sie?

- *Margareten (1050)*
- *Anderer Bezirk*

A3 Wie viele Hunde besitzen Sie?

- *1*
- *2*
- *3*
- *4 oder mehr*

A4 Wie würden Sie die Größe Ihres Hundes (oder Ihrer Hunde) bezeichnen?

- *kleiner hund*
- *mittelgroßer Hund*
- *großer Hund*
- *ich habe kleine und große Hunde*

A5 Wie oft machen Sie folgende Aktivitäten mit Ihrem Hund?

(Antwortmöglichkeiten: *nie – seltener – 1-2 mal pro Woche – 3-4 mal pro Woche – 5-6 mal pro Woche – täglich*)

- *Mit Hund an der Leine in der Stadt spazieren gehen.*
- *Mit Hund ohne Leine in der Stadt spazieren gehen.*
- *Mit Hund an der Leine Parks (öffentliche Grünanlagen) besuchen.*
- *Mit Hund ohne Leine Parks (öffentliche Grünanlagen) besuchen.*
- *Mit Hund Hundezone im fünften Bezirk besuchen.*
- *Mit Hund kleinere Hundezone außerhalb vom fünften Bezirk besuchen.*
- *Hund im eigenen Garten oder Hof freilaufen lassen.*

A6 Wie oft besuchen Sie größere Hundezonen oder Hunderauslaufplätze (z.B. Prater) außerhalb vom fünften Bezirk?

(Die größere *Hundezone am Margaretengürtel* ist im fünften Bezirk. Bitte *nicht* diese Hundezone bei der Frage beachten.)

- *wöchentlich*
- *monatlich*
- *seltener*
- *nie*

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B1 Welche der folgenden Hundezonen besuchen Sie mindestens zwei Mal im Jahr?

(Mehrere Antworten möglich.)

- *Einsiedlerpark*
- *Ernst-Arnold-Park (an der Rechten Wienzeile)*
- *Ernst-Lichtblau-Park ("Schulpark")*
- *Leopold-Rister-Park ("Hochhauspark")*
- *Park Am Hundsturm*
- *Rudolf-Sallinger-Park ("Hartmannpark")*
- *Parkanlage Mittelzone (große Hundezone am Gürtel)*
- *Stefan-Weber-Park (kleine Hundezone am Gürtel)*
- *Bacherpark (kleine Ersatzhundezone während U-Bahn Bau)*

B2 Welche der folgenden Hundezonen besuchen Sie am häufigsten?

- *Einsiedlerpark*
- *Ernst-Arnold-Park (an der Rechten Wienzeile)*
- *Ernst-Lichtblau-Park ("Schulpark")*
- *Leopold-Rister-Park ("Hochhauspark")*
- *Park Am Hundsturm*
- *Rudolf-Sallinger-Park ("Hartmannpark")*
- *Parkanlage Mittelzone (große Hundezone am Gürtel)*
- *Stefan-Weber-Park (kleine Hundezone am Gürtel)*
- *Bacherpark (kleine Ersatzhundezone während U-Bahn Bau)*

B3 Wie lang ist der Weg von Ihrem Zuhause zu der Hundezone, die Sie am häufigsten besuchen?

- *bis zu 5 Minuten*
- *6 – 10 Minuten*
- *11 – 15 Minuten*
- *16 – 20 Minuten*
- *länger als 20 Minuten*

B4 Was ist der wichtigste Grund, warum Sie genau diese Hundezone am häufigsten besuchen?

- *es ist die nächstgelegene Hundezone zu meiner Wohnung*
- *der Weg zur Hundezone gefällt mir oder dem Hund (nur wählen, wenn es sich nicht um die nächstgelegene Hundezone zur Wohnung handelt)*
- *die Größe der Hundezone*
- *die Gestaltung und Ausstattung der Hundezone (z.B. Wasserbrunnen, Tisch, Bodenbelag, ...)*
- *bekannte Hundebesitzer:innen oder Hunde nutzen die Hundezone*

- *anderer Grund*

B5 Zu welchen Uhrzeiten besuchen Sie normalerweise die Hundezone, die sie am häufigsten besuchen, *zwischen Montag und Freitag*?

(Mehrere Antworten möglich.)

- *zwischen 06 – 09 Uhr*
- *zwischen 09 – 12 Uhr*
- *zwischen 12 – 15 Uhr*
- *zwischen 15 – 18 Uhr*
- *zwischen 18 – 21 Uhr*
- *zwischen 21 – 24 Uhr*
- *zwischen 24 – 06 Uhr*
- *nie*

B6 Zu welchen Uhrzeiten besuchen Sie normalerweise die Hundezone, die sie am häufigsten besuchen, *am Wochenende* (Samstag bzw. Sonntag)?

(Mehrere Antworten möglich.)

- *zwischen 06 – 09 Uhr*
- *zwischen 09 – 12 Uhr*
- *zwischen 12 – 15 Uhr*
- *zwischen 15 – 18 Uhr*
- *zwischen 18 – 21 Uhr*
- *zwischen 21 – 24 Uhr*
- *zwischen 24 – 06 Uhr*
- *nie*

B7 Wie lange bleiben Sie *meistens* in der Hundezone, die Sie am *häufigsten* besuchen?

- *bis zu 10 Minuten*
- *11 – 20 Minuten*
- *21 – 40 Minuten*
- *41 – 60 Minuten*
- *1 – 2 Stunden*
- *Über 2 Stunden*

B8 Denken sie bei den folgenden Aussagen an die *Hundezone*, die sie am *häufigsten* besuchen. Stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?

(Antwortmöglichkeiten: *stimme nicht zu – stimme eher nicht zu – stimme eher zu – stimme zu*)

- *Ich besuche die Hundezone gerne.*
- *Ich finde den Besuch der Hundezone angenehm.*
- *Ich finde den Besuch der Hundezone stressig.*

- 
- *Ich denke, dass mein Hund dadurch, wie ich normalerweise mit ihm die Hundezone besuche, sein Bedürfnis nach Bewegung ohne Leine genügend erfüllt.*
  - *Ich denke, dass mein Hund dadurch, wie ich normalerweise mit ihm die Hundezone besuche, sein Bedürfnis nach Spiel und Interaktion mit anderen Hunden genügend erfüllt.*
  - *Ich räume immer den Kot von meinem Hund in der Hundezone weg.*
  - *Wenn ich Kot von fremden Hunden in der Hundezone entdecken würde, und diese fremden Hunde nicht da sind, würde ich den Kot wegräumen.*
  - *Die Hundezone ist für mich „meine Hundezone“ bzw. „unsere Hundezone“ mit den anderen Besucher:innen.*
  - *Die Hundezone ist wie eine Art Wohnzimmer in der frischen Luft für mich.*
  - *Manchmal gehe ich nicht in die Hundezone, weil ich das Gefühl habe, dass es für meinen Hund oder mich nicht sicher wäre.*
  - *Ich denke, dass ein Besuch in der Hundezone für meinen Hund und mich immer sehr sicher vom Gefühl her ist.*
  - *Ich finde, die Hundezone ist ausreichend sauber.*
  - *Ich finde die Hundezone so schmutzig, dass ich sie ungerne benutze.*
  - *Ich bin zufrieden mit der Größe der Hundezone.*
  - *Die Hundezone ist zu klein.*
  - *Ich bin zufrieden mit der Gestaltung und Ausstattung der Hundezone.*
  - *Man sollte die Hundezone von der Gestaltung und Ausstattung her verbessern.*
  - *Ich finde, die Hundezone erfüllt ihre Funktion gut.*
  - *Man kennt die Leute in der Hundezone, es kommt zu Gesprächen mit anderen Hundebesitzer:innen.*

C1 Wie lang ist der Weg von Ihrem Zuhause zu der nächsten Hundezone?

- *bis zu 5 Minuten*
- *6 – 10 Minuten*
- *11 – 15 Minuten*
- *16 – 20 Minuten*
- *länger als 20 Minuten*

C2 Warum besuchen Sie keine Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk?

(Mehrere Antworten möglich.)

- *GRÖSSE: Die Hundezonen in der Umgebung sind zu klein*
- *GESTALTUNG: Hundezonen sind zu schlecht gestaltet*

- *AUSSTATTUNG: Hundezonen haben keine geeignete oder von mir gewünschte Ausstattung*
- *SAUBERKEIT: Hundezonen sind meiner Meinung nach zu dreckig*
- *AUFENTHALTSQUALITÄT: Der Besuch von Hundezonen ist mir zu unangenehm*
- *UNTAUGLICHKEIT: Hundezonen in meiner Umgebung sind nicht geeignet, um das Bewegungsbedürfnis von meinem Hund abzudecken*
- *SICHERHEIT: Ich empfinde, dass der Besuch von Hundezonen für meinen Hund oder mich unsicher sein könnte*
- *SICHERHEIT/KONFLIKT: Ich mache mir Sorgen um die Interaktionen meines Hundes mit fremden Hunden in Hundezonen*
- *KONFLIKTPOTENZIAL: Mein Hund wird von anderen Leuten nicht gerne in der Hundezone gesehen (z.B. weil es ein Listenhund ist)*
- *BESUCHER: Die Leute in Hundezonen sind mir zu unangenehm oder fremd*
- *WEG: Der Weg von meiner Wohnung zu Hundezonen ist zu lang*
- *KEIN BEDARF: Mein Hund braucht Hundezonen nicht, weil ich ihn außerhalb von Hundezonen frei laufen lasse*
- *KEIN BEDARF: Mein Hund braucht Hundezonen nicht, weil er mit genügend anderen Hunden auch außerhalb von Hundezonen interagieren und spielen kann*
- *Andere Gründe: (write-in)*



C3 Wählen Sie bitte maximal drei, aber mindestens einen Grund, warum Sie Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk nicht besuchen.

(Bitte verschieben Sie die Kärtchen auf die geeigneten Stellen.)

1: Wichtigster Grund	2: Zweitwichtigster Grund	3: Drittwichtigster Grund	
GRÖSSE: Die Hundezonen in der Umgebung sind zu klein	GESTALTUNG: Hundezonen sind zu schlecht gestaltet	AUSSTATTUNG: Hundezonen haben keine geeignete oder von mir gewünschte Ausstattung	SAUBERKEIT: Hundezonen sind meiner Meinung nach zu dreckig
UNTAUGLICHKEIT: Hundezonen in meiner Umgebung sind nicht geeignet, um das Bewegungsbedürfnis von meinem Hund abzudecken	SICHERHEIT: Ich empfinde, dass der Besuch von Hundezonen für meinen Hund oder mich unsicher sein könnte	SICHERHEIT/KONFLIKT: Ich mache mir Sorgen um die Interaktionen meines Hundes mit fremden Hunden in Hundezonen	AUFENTHALTSQUALITÄT: Der Besuch von Hundezonen ist mir zu unangenehm
	BESUCHER: Die Leute in Hundezonen sind mir zu unangenehm oder fremd	WEG: Der Weg von meiner Wohnung zu Hundezonen ist zu lang	KEIN BEDARF: Mein Hund braucht Hundezonen nicht, weil ich ihn außerhalb von Hundezonen frei laufen lasse
KEIN BEDARF: Mein Hund braucht Hundezonen nicht, weil er mit genügend anderen Hunden auch außerhalb von Hundezonen interagieren und spielen kann	Andere Gründe		

D1 Stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?

(ACHTUNG: Auf dieser Seite geht es nicht um Hundezonen, sondern um Parks (öffentliche Grünanlagen).)

(Antwortmöglichkeiten: stimme nicht zu – stimme eher nicht zu – stimme eher zu – stimme zu)

- Ich denke, den anderen Parkbesucher:innen wäre es vollkommen egal, wenn ich mit meinem Hund in einem Park wäre.
- Ich denke, dass wenn ich mit meinem Hund in einen Park gehen würde, ich in einen Streit oder Konflikt mit anderen Parkbesucher:innen geraten könnte.

E1 Denken sie bei den folgenden Aussagen an die Parks, die sie normalerweise mit Ihrem Hund besuchen. Stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?

(ACHTUNG: Auf dieser Seite geht es nicht um Hundezonen, sondern um

Parks (öffentliche Grünanlagen.)

(Antwortmöglichkeiten: *stimme nicht zu – stimme eher nicht zu – stimme eher zu – stimme zu*)

- *Ich denke, den anderen Parkbesucher:innen ist es vollkommen egal, wenn ich mit meinem Hund im Park bin.*
- *Einen Hund in den Park zu bringen kann meiner Erfahrung nach zu Streit oder Konflikt mit anderen Parkbesucher:innen führen.*
- *Ich versuche mit meinem Hund Parks dann zu besuchen, wenn wenige oder keine anderen Leute da sind.*
- *Mein Hund und andere Parkbesucher:innen können den Park problemlos miteinander teilen.*
- *Alle Hunde und andere Parkbesucher:innen können den Park problemlos miteinander teilen.*

F1 Können Sie bitte noch einige Angaben über sich geben, damit bewertet werden kann, wen die Umfrage erreicht hat?

Bitte wählen Sie die zu Ihnen zutreffende Option:

- *weiblich*
- *männlich*
- *divers*

F2 Wie alt sind Sie?

- *jünger als 20 Jahre*
- *20 bis 29 Jahre*
- *30 bis 39 Jahre*
- *40 bis 49 Jahre*
- *50 bis 59 Jahre*
- *60 Jahre oder älter*

F3 Wie gut kommt Ihr Haushalt mit dem Einkommen aus?

- *SEHR GUT: Das Geld reicht eigentlich für alles, es bleibt Geld zum Sparen oder größere Investitionen übrig*
- *ZUFRIEDENSTELLEND: Das Geld reicht für den Alltag ohne Probleme, unerwartete Ausgaben wären auch kein Problem*
- *SCHWIERIG: Das Geld ist knapp, unerwartete Ausgaben wären ein Problem*

F4 Was trifft bei Ihnen zu?

- *Mindestens einer meiner Elternteile ist in Österreich geboren*
- *Beide meiner Eltern sind im Ausland geboren*

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G1 Wollen Sie noch sonstiges Feedback zu Hundezonen im fünften Bezirk, oder zu dieser Umfrage geben?

(Sie können dieses Feld leer lassen. Bitte klicken Sie aber noch auf „weiter“, um die Umfrage zu beenden.)

*(write-in)*

## **Appendix 8: Write-in commentary in survey by dog owners in Margareten, categorised with content-reducing analysis method (82 answers)**

1. more investments in dog zones desired
2. bigger size desired, separate areas for small and big dogs desired
3. better cleaning/maintenance desired
4. Margaretengürtel as positive example, problems with junkies in summer at Margaretengürtel
5. bigger size desired, grass (& greenery) desired, (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, better design desired, Margaretengürtel as positive example
6. Auer-Welsbach-Park as positive example [for a dog zone in the middle of a park instead of at the edge of a park]
7. grass (& greenery) desired, gravel surface criticized, better design desired
8. grass (& greenery) desired
9. gravel surface criticized [too hard], evasion options desired, separate areas for small and big dogs desired, Schweizergarten as positive example
10. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, bigger size desired, better design desired
11. night closure criticised, bigger size desired, grass (& greenery) desired, Margaretengürtel as positive example
12. participative redesign of dog zones desired
13. dog "hatred" in the design of inner districts criticised, opening of more spaces for dogs desired
14. bigger size desired, grass (& greenery) desired, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise, Waldmüllerpark as positive example
15. better cleaning/maintenance desired, bigger size desired
16. better cleaning/maintenance desired, (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten
17. better quality of stay desired, better design desired, (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten
18. better design desired, consulting dog trainers for redesign of dog zones desired
19. bigger size desired, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise, Waldmüllerpark as positive example
20. fear of junkies near the dog zone, drinking fountains desired

- 
21. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, better cleaning/maintenance desired, better design desired, bigger size desired, more investments in dog zones desired, opening of more spaces for dogs desired, appreciation for the survey
  22. better design desired, better structure desired, (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten
  23. better quality of stay desired, bigger size desired, better design desired, lowering of gate at Bacherpark desired [as it is placed too high and dogs can escape by crawling under it]
  24. grass (& greenery) desired, drinking fountains desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired
  25. better cleaning/maintenance desired
  26. understanding for small dog zones in Margareten, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise
  27. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, better design desired, special equipment for dogs desired
  28. grass (& greenery) desired
  29. bigger size desired
  30. opening of more spaces for dogs desired
  31. drinking fountains desired, special equipment for dogs desired
  32. drinking fountains desired, double entry gate desired
  33. grass (& greenery) desired, bigger size desired, drinking fountains desired
  34. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise, appreciation for the survey
  35. grass (& greenery) desired, opening of more spaces for dogs desired, relaxing of leash- and muzzle-requirements desired, appreciation for the survey
  36. grass (& greenery) desired, drinking fountains desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired, appreciation for the survey
  37. gravel surface criticized, grass (& greenery) desired, bigger size desired
  38. gravel surface criticized, smell criticised, grass (& greenery) desired
  39. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, better design desired, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise
  40. grass (& greenery) desired
  41. bigger size desired
  42. night closure criticised, grass (& greenery) desired, gravel surface criticized, more seating desired

43. more dog zones desired, bigger size desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired, more green desired, smell criticised, requirement for listed dogs to be muzzled in dog zone desired
44. alcoholics using dog zones criticised, drinking fountains desired
45. (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, bigger size desired, evasion options desired, Schweizergarten as positive example
46. more green desired, bigger size desired, special equipment for dogs desired, better design desired, gates/fencing criticized (dogs can escape)
47. separate areas for small and big dogs desired
48. grass (& greenery) desired, bigger size desired, use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise, dog “hatred” in the design of inner districts criticised
49. use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise
50. evasion options desired, fair lengths of stay desired
51. bigger size desired, more cleaning desired, night closure criticised
52. better cleaning/maintenance desired, bigger size desired, opening of more spaces for dogs desired, dog “hatred” in the design of inner districts criticised
53. two separate gates in every dog zone desired, double entry gate desired, fair lengths of stay desired, better design desired, evasion options desired, special equipment for dogs desired, seating and tables in dog zones criticized, opening of more spaces for dogs desired
54. more investments in dog zones desired, opening of more spaces for dogs desired, badly behaved visitors of dog zones criticized, dog “hatred” in the design of inner districts criticised, bigger zones desired, better quality of stay desired, better design desired
55. special equipment for dogs desired
56. bigger size desired, grass (& greenery) desired, smell criticised, better cleaning/maintenance desired, better design desired
57. participative redesign of dog zones desired, better design desired, appreciation for the survey
58. night closure criticised, better cleaning/maintenance desired
59. drinking fountains desired, Hadikpark as positive example
60. overall satisfaction with the situation indicated
61. better cleaning/maintenance desired, gravel surface criticized, better design desired
62. smell criticised, gravel surface criticized, better design desired
63. bigger size desired
64. drinking fountains desired, better design desired
65. better design desired, grass (& greenery) desired

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66. appreciation for the survey, better design desired
  67. bigger size desired, gravel surface criticized, better design desired, better quality of stay desired, grass (& greenery) desired, drinking fountains desired, (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten
  68. drinking fountains desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired
  69. drinking fountains desired, gravel surface criticized, gates/fencing criticized (dogs can escape), better design desired
  70. appreciation for the survey, better design desired, opening of more spaces for dogs desired
  71. bigger size desired, gravel surface criticized, grass (& greenery) desired, better design desired
  72. bigger size desired, more dog zones desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired, badly behaved visitors of dog zones criticized
  73. drinking fountains desired, better cleaning/maintenance desired
  74. bigger size desired, grass (& greenery) desired, gravel surface criticized, better design desired
  75. better cleaning/maintenance desired, gravel surface criticized
  76. gates/fencing criticized (dogs can escape), (harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten, more seating desired
  77. grass (& greenery) desired
  78. separate areas for small and big dogs desired
  79. dog owners who let their dogs run off-leash in parks criticized
  80. Waldmüllerpark as positive example
  81. lack of dog waste bag dispensers and rubbish bins in Ernst-Arnold-Park criticized
  82. bigger size desired, better design desired, grass (& greenery) desired, better structure desired

issue	times mentioned
bigger size desired	26
better design desired	26
grass (& greenery) desired	22
better cleaning/maintenance desired	16
drinking fountains desired	13
gravel surface criticized	12
(harsh) critique of dog zones in Margareten	12
opening of more spaces for dogs desired	8
use of other spaces to fulfil need for dog exercise	7
appreciation for the survey	7
special equipment for dogs desired	5
evasion options desired	4
better quality of stay desired	4
separate areas for small and big dogs desired	4
night closure criticised	4
dog "hatred" in the design of inner districts criticised	4
smell criticised	4
gates/fencing criticized (dogs can escape)	3
more investments in dog zones desired	3
fair lengths of stay desired	2
double entry gate desired	2
participative redesign of dog zones desired	2
more dog zones desired	2
better structure desired	2
more seating desired	2
badly behaved visitors of dog zones criticized	2
seating and tables in dog zones criticized	1
two separate gates in every dog zone desired	1
alcoholics using dog zones criticised	1
overall satisfaction with the situation indicated	1
relaxing of leash- and muzzle-requirements desired	1
requirement for listed dogs to be muzzled in dog zone desired	1
dog owners who let their dogs run off-leash in parks criticized	1



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positive examples mentioned	times mentioned
Margaretengürtel as positive example	3
Waldmüllerpark as positive example	3
Schweizergarten as positive example	2
Auer-Welsbach-Park as positive example	1
Hadikpark as positive example	1

Special issues mentioned:

- problems with junkies in summer at Margaretengürtel
- consulting dog trainers for redesign of dog zones desired
- lowering of gate at Bacherpark desired (as it is placed too high and dogs can escape by crawling under it)
- higher fence at Ernst-Arnold-Park desired (as dogs can jump over it)
- dogs can jump over the fence using a bench in Hundsturmpark that is placed too close to the fence
- the fence towards the subway in Ernst-Arnold-Park is very dangerous for small dogs, as they can run through and fall into the pit, the gates also do not close properly
- lack of dog waste bag dispensers and rubbish bins in Ernst-Arnold-Park criticized (the park itself, not the dog zone)

## Appendix 9: Application for funding for the expansion and greening of the dog zone in Rudolf-Sallinger-Park at Wiener Kilmateam

The following application was submitted in the idea submission phase of the public grant program of Wiener Kilmateam. The application was sent using the website (<https://mitgestalten.wien.gv.at/de-DE/projects/5er-kilmateam>) of 5er Kilmateam (Wiener Kilmateam) on the June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### "Schlüsselpunkte, kurz & knapp:

1. Rasen und Büsche in der Hundezone im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park anpflanzen.
2. Vergrößerung der Hundezone, ohne andere Nutzer:innengruppen zu benachteiligen.
3. Automatische Bewässerung für den 690m<sup>2</sup> großen Rasen außerhalb der Hundezone schaffen.

In Rahmen einer Studie zu Hundezonen in Margareten (Mirzaiyan-Tafty 2022, noch nicht veröffentlicht) wurden im April-Juni 2022 mit einer repräsentativen Umfrage 201 Hundehalter:innen im Bezirk erreicht. Die häufigsten Wünsche sind größere Hundezonen sowie eine Begrünung der Hundezonen, vor allem auch ein Rasenbelag.

Diese Wünsche sind in den meisten Parkanlagen **unrealistisch**, weil eine Erweiterung der Hundezonen platztechnisch nicht möglich ist bzw. andere Nutzer:innengruppen durch eine Vergrößerung der Hundezone benachteiligt würden.

Eine deutliche **Ausnahme** ist aber der Rudolf-Sallinger-Park: Die drei vorhandenen, großzügigen Rasenflächen des Parks werden hauptsächlich von Hundehalter:innen benutzt. Diese Aussage wird eindeutig gestützt von empirischen, ganztägigen (06-22 Uhr) nicht-teilnehmenden Beobachtungen (Mai/Juni 2022), die sowohl unter der Woche als auch am Wochenende gemacht wurden.

Die Hundezone im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park ist mit einer wassergebundenen Decke ausgestattet, deren Auswirkung auf das Mikroklima zwar besser als eine versiegelte Fläche, jedoch schlechter als ein Rasen ist. Eine wassergebundene Decke staubt (sehr), wenn das Wetter trocken ist, während ein **Rasen nicht nur Staub und Kohlendioxid bindet, sondern auch Sauerstoff produziert**,

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**die Luftfeuchtigkeit erhöht und die Temperaturschwankungen mindert.**  
(vgl. Ehmayer 2011: 56)

Nicht nur werden kleine Hundezonen von vielen Hundehalter:innen grundsätzlich gemieden, eine Hundezone mit wassergebundener Decke wird von vielen Hundehalter:innen an trockenen Sommertagen als besonders unzumutbar gesehen, was Hundehalter:innen (und Hunde) weiter in Flächen treibt, **die sie eigentlich nicht betreten sollten**. Das heißt, dass eine größere Hundezone mit höherer Aufenthaltsqualität, die von den Hundehalter:innen gerne genutzt wird, **allen Einwohner:innen im Grätzl zugute kommt**, weil damit Hunde während dem "Äußerln" möglichst von anderen Flächen ferngehalten werden.

Um einen Rasen in einer Hundezone herstellen zu können, muss die Hundezone groß genug sein, dass der Rasen den **Nutzungsdruck** durch die Hunde standhalten kann. Die bestehende Hundezone im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park (276m<sup>2</sup>) ist zwar zu klein für einen Rasen, wenn die Hundezone jedoch um die Fläche, die direkt hinter der Hundezone vorhanden ist, vergrößert wird - und diese wird ohnehin schon hauptsächlich von Hundehalter:innen genutzt - wäre die Hundezone jedoch groß genug für einen Rasen. Die vergrößerte Hundezone wäre laut einer Messung im Stadtplan Wien 700m<sup>2</sup>, was deutlich größer wäre, als die Hundezone im Stefan-Weber-Park (463m<sup>2</sup>), die mit einem Rasen ausgestattet ist. Außerdem würde die vergrößerte Hundezone den Richtlinien aus dem "Parkleitbild 2021" der Stadt Wien entsprechen, die aus tierschutzrelevanten Gründen 500m<sup>2</sup> als Mindestgröße für eine Hundezone empfiehlt.

**Auch aus tierschutzrelevanten Gründen ist eine "klimafitte" Hundezone sinnvoll.** Die Klimateams Wien sehen die "soziale Gerechtigkeit" als Kriterium für Einreichungen. Hunde können bei der Planung ihrer Freiräume nicht mitreden und können genauso unter Hitze leiden wie auch alle Menschen. Eine kühlere Hundezone, die mit mehr Naturelementen ausgestattet ist, ist im Sinne aller Hunde. In dem Sinne wäre auch eine Installation eines Trinkbrunnens innerhalb der vergrößerten Hundezone denkbar.

Nach der Vergrößerung der Hundezone von 276m<sup>2</sup> auf 700m<sup>2</sup> würden **immer noch zwei Rasenflächen von je 690m<sup>2</sup> und 660m<sup>2</sup>** (insgesamt 1350m<sup>2</sup>) für sonstige Nutzungen (Picknick, Spiel, ...) zur Verfügung stehen. Das heißt, dass andere Parkbesucher:innen, die einen Anspruch auf die Nutzung von Wiesen stellen wollen, durch die Vergrößerung der Hundezone nicht beeinträchtigt werden. Die 660m<sup>2</sup> große Rasenfläche mit Hügel und Blumenbeet ist ohnehin attraktiver für z.B. ein Picknick, und die 690m<sup>2</sup> große Fläche bietet reichlich Schatten an heißen Sommertagen. Die 690m<sup>2</sup> große Wiese sollte außerdem im Zuge der Neugestaltung mit einer automatischen Bewässerung ausgestattet werden - so, wie auf der 660m<sup>2</sup> großen Wiese bereits vorhanden. Somit würde

der Rasen auch in diesem Teil besser halten und für Parkbesucher:innen noch attraktiver sein.

Die vergrößerte Hundezone sollte nicht nur komplett mit einem Rasen ausgestattet werden, sondern **auch mit zahlreichen Büschen strukturiert werden, was weiters einen Beitrag zu einem besseren Mikroklima leistet.** Eine Strukturierung der Hundezone dient auch den Hunden, da diesen bei Konflikten visuelle Rückzugsräume geboten werden. Durch eine gute Strukturierung mit Vegetation wird die Hundezone für mehr gleichzeitige Nutzer:innen annehmbar, eine kleine, unstrukturierte Hundezone hingegen führt häufig zur Vermeidung der Hundezone wegen Konfliktpotenzial auf kleiner, offener Fläche.

Die bestehende automatische Bewässerung für die Rasenfläche hinter der Hundezone sollte auch erweitert werden, damit sie auch die neue Rasenfläche in der Hundezone bewässert und dessen Überlebenschancen unter dem Nutzungsdruck deutlich steigert.

Die Umfrage hat ergeben, dass 81% der Befragten, die hauptsächlich die Hundezone im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park nutzen (n=31), die Hundezone als "zu klein" empfinden. Außerdem finden 87% der Befragten, dass die Hundezone im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park von der Ausstattung und Gestaltung her verbessert werden sollte.

#### **Durch die Neugestaltung würde die Hundezone:**

1. Für ein besseres Mikroklima im Rudolf-Sallinger-Park sorgen.
2. Die Wünsche der Hundehalter:innen direkt adressieren und für eine höhere Aufenthaltsqualität in der Hundezone sorgen.
3. Die Akzeptanz der Hundezone durch Hundehalter:innen verbessern, was mehr Hunde von Flächen fernhalten würde, die sie nicht betreten sollten. Somit profitieren nicht nur die Hundehalter:innen von der Neugestaltung, sondern das ganze Grätzl.
4. Andere Parkbesucher:innen nicht negativ, sondern eventuell sogar positiv (besseres Mikroklima) beeinträchtigen.

Das Bild zeigt den Bestand. Bei weiteren Fragen stehe ich gerne zur Verfügung.

Referenz:

Ehmayer (2011): Leitfaden zum nachhaltigen Urbanen Platz, im Auftrag der MA 22 Wiener Umweltschutzabteilung"