

My name is Connie Ho, I'm here to speak about the Dover dog park. As an owner of a rescue dog, having time at the dog park means a lot to me and my dog Mimi! Not only for me to learn how to take care of her, also she gets to learn how to be around other dogs too! When I first got her she was afraid to people and she just start the bark when there was a dog in sight. But for the last nine months that we have been going to Dover dog park, she learned to be comfortable around other dogs that are around her size, and some bigger dogs that we see often. But after the dog park has been removed, we don't get to see other owners as much as before. We did go to the new dog park, but because we didn't know any of the dogs there.... We are back to square one! She was so afraid that she just ran through the little gap between the gate! Owners there let their dog loss even if they know that their dog is aggressive! But owners at Dover dog park, would help each other out! Remembering when we first went to the park, Mimi would only sit at corner by herself. Some owners would try to approach her with their small dogs, and try to make her be comfortable with other dogs. And if they knew their dog was a bit too friendly or aggressive, they would stop their dog from over doing it with her and not freak her out!

For myself, the Dover dog park meant more than just a dog park to me. It gave me a sense of belonging, not just my dog, even I looked forward to going to park and meeting up with other owners. We are not just dog owners that just bring our dogs out to just finish their business, we hang out, we talk about things that happened during the day, funny things that we came across, news, and etc....

Just like we were family! Having the dog park removed, is like breaking up the our 2nd family!

Something else that I would like to mention is when we starting the petition to save the dog park, we put papers at the dog park for people to sign their name and they were stolen twice! I thought Canada is a multi culture country, we would include any nationalities, or any cultures, but how come we don't have the freedom of having our dogs to run free?

Thank You and Have a nice day
Connie Ho