

## **Motion to Ventnor Town Council, 12 August 2024**

Proposed by Cllr Bond

Council notes that:

- the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) that regulate dogs on island beaches have all expired, and that the IOWC has begun the process for replacing them;
- IOWC is currently asking for views about these PSPOs, and will be consulting the Town Council formally during the autumn;
- pet travel is one of the fastest growing travel sectors, with the island already having a positive reputation as being a great place to visit for dog owners;
- in 2020, Cornwall County Council reviewed its PSPOs with the intention of making the county a more dog-friendly visitor destination, following public consultation that received its largest ever response and 69% support. For most Cornish beaches, restrictions now apply for July and August only (Blue Flag beaches 15 May – 30 Sept), between 10am and 6pm, which allows beaches to be used by resident and visiting dog owners during the early morning and evening. Cornwall's revised PSPOs were maintained following further consultation in 2022.

Council therefore resolves to respond to the IOWC consultation to support:

- the principle of PSPOs for many island beaches during the summer holidays;
- a review of the PSPOs regulating dogs on beaches to learn from Cornwall's experience, with the intention of maximising the attractiveness of the island as a dog-friendly destination;
- a shorter period of restriction for most beaches, covering the peak holiday months of July & August only (extended for any Blue Flag beaches to 15 May – 30 September);
- restrictions that apply between 10am and 6pm, daily, only;
- consultation with towns and parishes on the arrangements for each beach, with flexibility to retain longer restrictions where these meet local requirements, in the spirit of localism.