



K9 Central  
2836 Holt Road  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7

Mayor Foster & Members of Council  
Municipality of Clarington  
40 Temperance Street  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6

March 22, 2024

Re: Resolution #GG- 013-24 – Request to Amend Kennel By-law 2013-25 and Noise Bylaw 2007-71

Dear Mayor Foster and Members of Council,

We wanted to reach out to you after viewing the delegation made to the General Government Committee on March 4, 2024 that which resulted in Resolution #GG-013-24, which directed staff to investigate amending the Kennel By-law 2013-25 and Noise Bylaw 2007-71.

While the delegate did not name our kennel, enough specific information was provided to identify the kennel that she was speaking about as K9 Central. It was upsetting to us as owners to hear untrue allegations made about our facility in a public meeting and we are deeply concerned about the potential next steps that council and staff may take as a result of this delegation.

First, we would like to provide clarification on some misinformation that was presented to the committee:

- K9 Central does not have any kennels located on or close to the lot lines. All of our kennels are centrally located in the middle of our property.

- K9 Central does not have any illegal buildings. All of the buildings on our property were built to the Ontario Building Code standards and all had the proper permits through the Municipality of Clarington.
- There is a hydro corridor on the south side of our property. There are no structures built on the hydro corridor. We have been in communication and have permission from hydro to use portions of this property.
- The kennel buildings are insulated and have 3/4-inch treated plywood interior to reduce noise.

K9 Central is a family owned and operated business that has been providing invaluable services to the residents of Clarington and beyond since 2002. Prior to our family taking over the business, it is our understanding that this property was used as a dog kennel since the mid-1970s.

Our family has worked very hard to make K9 Central a premier facility that dog owners throughout Clarington, Durham Region and beyond can trust with their beloved pets. Our facility offers a variety of services, including grooming, training, daycare and boarding. We also host a variety of educational seminars and workshops, as well as drop-in services such as “Puppy Socials” designed to help our pet parents ensure their dogs are well socialized and good K9 citizens.

We provide services that are very much needed by pet owners in Clarington, including our daycare and boarding services. Clients are able to drop their dogs off at K9 Central in the morning before heading off to work, secure in the knowledge that their dogs will be well taken care of, have opportunities to exercise and play, and socializing with their furry and human friends. Dog owners rely on us to provide this care so that they can work a full day without worrying about their pet(s). Whether our clients are going on vacation, dealing with a medical emergency or a home renovation, they know they can rely on K9 Central for our boarding services.

Dogs can be a handful, and the team at K9 Central provides a variety of training and socializing opportunities for pet parents to help them along their journey. Shelters are currently overrun with dogs that are “too big” or that people “just don’t have time for.” We work with our clients every day to come up with solutions that can keep dogs and their families together.

Pet parents can start off right with our puppy classes and continue on, learning with their dogs, basic manners, loose leash walking, recalls and more. Pet parents also have the

option of combining training with fun and learn some of the dog sports we have available, including agility, dock diving, flyball and rally. These sports provide mental and physical stimulation for dogs and nurture an incredible bond between a dog and its owner.

We love the Municipality of Clarington, and we have chosen to not only run our business here, but also to raise our family here as well. We frequently interact with and give back to the community in a variety of ways. You may have seen some of our dogs perform at one of the Downtown Bowmanville festivals with the Woofjocks, or maybe you came to check out the fair we hosted in support of Homeward Bound Rescue. All of our agility, disc dog and dock diving events are aligned with non-profit organizations to assist them in raising additional funds.

We have great relationships with the vast majority of our neighbours. We have worked hard to minimize the impact that our business has on our neighbours, and completed projects such as implementing the “Quiet Dog Daycare” program, adding audible security cameras in strategic places around the property to identify barking dogs quicker, and we regularly review the footage to assist us in developing preventative measures. Additionally, we have begun construction on 100’ length x 8’ tall wooden fencing on our property line, along with rubber and black-out privacy screens on our chain link fences.

Our daughters have grown up in this business and are now accomplished handlers themselves. Our eldest daughter, Shayne, is K9 Central’s Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training & Behaviour Manager, and has worked one-on-one with many dogs and their parents to develop happy, healthy dogs that are now welcome members of the community. In 2011, Shayne, along with canine behaviourist Joan Weston aided in developing Durham College’s Animal Care Behaviour program.

Jordan, our youngest daughter, was born and raised in Clarington and proudly represents K9 Central and our community at Regional, National and International canine agility competitions. Prior to the age of 18, Jordan was named to the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 AAC & WAO Canadian National Team, representing Clarington and Canada at the international level, competing across Europe and the U.S. Jordan and her dogs have won Regional and National championships along with International gold, silver and bronze medals.

Our business also provides jobs to local residents, including full-time, part-time and summer student opportunities. We have many students that come back every year to spend the summer with us. All of our employees receive the proper training and learn so

much while they are here, from the proper handling and care of the dogs in our care, to training and socialization techniques that they will take with them throughout their lives.

We want council to know that this isn't just our business. This is our livelihood. We live and breathe this work and we never take a day off. Changing the Kennel and Noise bylaws could negatively impact not only our business, but all of the dog owners who rely on us regularly to help take care of their dogs. We respectfully ask that council not approve any bylaw amendments that will be detrimental to existing businesses in Clarington.

We would like to extend an invitation to each member of council to meet with us to discuss this matter further. We would love the opportunity to speak with you, to show you our facilities, and to work with you to achieve a positive resolution on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Brian O'Connor*

Brian O'Connor  
Owner, K9 Central

*Morgan Jarvis*

Morgan Jarvis O'Connor  
Owner, K9 Central