VICTORIA, BC — Dallas Road Pathway is a popular spot for walkers and joggers, tourists, and dog owners exercising their pets. Considered part of Beacon Hill Park, the Dallas Road Pathway between Douglas Street and Clover Point is the only area of the park where dogs are permitted to be off-leash. To balance the needs of all users of the pathway and park, the City of Victoria is starting additional Animal Control Bylaw presence during summer evenings and weekends to educate dog owners and ensure they have close supervision of their dogs and carry a leash at all times.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:
City Bylaw and Parks staff, and Ian Fraser from the Victoria Animal Control Services, will be available for interviews on the proactive education and enforcement of the off-leash regulations. Victoria Animal Control Services is contracted to enforce the City’s Animal Control Bylaw.

What: Dogs Off-Leash Enforcement at Dallas Road Pathway and in Beacon Hill Park
When: Monday, June 18, 2012, from 11 a.m. to Noon
Where: Dallas Road Pathway, across from Beacon Hill

Within Beacon Hill Park, dogs must be kept on-leash at all times and are not allowed in the Heronry at Good Acre Lake, at the Children’s Petting Zoo, and at playgrounds in the park. Signs are posted reminding users of the off-leash rules, along with dispensers of biodegradable doggie bags and trash bins.

Off-leash regulations are in place to prevent dogs from running uncontrolled along the pathway, bumping into people causing injury; and to protect wildlife in the park from being chased, such as peacocks, squirrels and deer that make Beacon Hill Park their home.

Dog owners who don’t have proper control of their pet or who do not follow the dogs off-leash rules, can face a fine ranging from $100-$300. Increased patrols are currently underway and will continue until the end of September, during the time when the area is most popular. All dogs are required to be licensed, and with the exception of designated off-leash areas and private property, all dogs must be on a leash in the City of Victoria.

The City’s Paws in Parks program provides off-leash access in 12 Victoria parks, each with specific areas and times for dogs to exercise off-leash, provided they are under their owner’s control. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/dogs

For More Information:
Katie Josephson, Director of Corporate Communications
Office: 250.361.0210   Cellular: 250.217.8343