



## ANIMAL CARE SANCTUARY

Dog Park Rules - Failure to abide by the park rules may result in loss of privileges.

1. Hours: 4:00 PM - Dusk
2. Dogs must be current on all vaccinations. Proof of current rabies, distemper, and bordatella (kennel cough) vaccinations and license is required upon request of an Animal Care Sanctuary staff member.
3. Puppies under the age of four months and dogs in heat are not allowed.
4. Dogs must have a current dog license. Dogs should also wear an owner identification tag at all times.
5. Bring your own water during the colder months, as the water will most likely be shut off during the Winter season.
6. No smoking on the Sanctuary grounds.
7. Food, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, strollers, bicycles, and children's toys are prohibited.
8. Excessive barking is not permitted. Owners must control or remove their dogs.
9. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the dog park.
10. For the safety of your dog(s) and other park visitors, choke, prong (pinch) and spike collars are strictly prohibited. If you use these types of collars, remove them before entering park.
11. No children under the age of 16 are permitted unless accompanied by an adult. For the safety of your children, we do not recommend bringing small children and infants in the dog park.
12. Aggressive dogs are not allowed on the premises. Dogs must be removed at the first sign of aggression.
13. All dogs must be spayed or neutered to enter the park.
14. Dog owners must be in the park and within view of their dogs at all times.
15. All off-leash dogs must be under the voice control of their owners. If you cannot control your dog off leash, keep your dog leashed at all times.

16. Dog owners must keep their leash in hand at all times.

18. Owner must clean up dog feces. Seal waste in the provided plastic bags before disposing in designated receptacles.

19. Please do not allow your dog to dig. Fill any holes your dog digs.

In addition to the official dog park rules, here are some other things you should consider to help make your and your dog's visit to the park a success:

First time users should consider coming at off-peak times for their initial visit. Ask questions of those people inside the fence about how to ease your dog's initial stress of entering for the first time. At times, the park can be quite crowded. If you are not sure how your dog will react to the current conditions, don't put pressure on your dog by forcing it into what it thinks is a threatening situation. Instead, come back at another time when it is less crowded.

If entering or leaving the off-leash area, do not enter the double-gated transition area if there is already someone in that area. This will eliminate the possibility of both gates being open at the same time.

Place your dog off leash in the transition area before entering the unleashed area. Some dogs can feel threatened if they are leashed in the presence of unleashed dogs.

Quickly move away from the entrance as you enter. That will help disperse the group of dogs that will come over to welcome your dog to the park. Move away from the fence so that your dog will not feel cornered or threatened. This will lessen the problems caused when several off-leash dogs, already in the park, come running over to greet the new arrival, perhaps overwhelming the arriving dog.

One of our primary goals is to socialize our dogs to have good manners. We should practice what we preach. Always be considerate of others, and YOUR dog park will be an enjoyable, healthy, educational experience for handlers and dogs.

If any dog becomes aggressive or disruptive, the responsible handler will remove the dog from the fenced area until socialization measure can be undertaken.

**ALWAYS SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP!!!** This is the complaint heard most often. Bags are provided. Please use them.

Keep your dog leashed at all times while outside the fenced dog park area. Even if your pet is under perfect voice control, many non-dog people have fears.

Please clean up YOUR park! Trash and anything else on the ground may end up in a dog's mouth. Before you drop something on the ground, ask yourself, "Would I want my dog to eat this?" We must all work to keep our park clean.

All dog handlers must provide proof of current vaccination. Your dog must have a collar or harness that include an ID tag and a County Dog License. If your dog does not have proof of vaccinations and license, you may be asked to leave the park.

Remember that choke, prong, and spiked collars are not allowed inside the off-leash area. Each of these types of collars can result in injury to its wearer, another dog, or a person, depending on the situation. If a choke collar gets hung on something while running, its wearer can become choked. Some dogs, while playing, like to softly bite the back of another dog's neck. Dogs wearing prong collars receive a much stronger bite during this type of play, while dogs wearing spiked collars can inflict injury.

Be a responsible dog handler. If your pet has a contagious condition, please stay away from the dog park until a vet has said that there is no danger to other dogs. The “Golden Rule” applies here! You may wish to consult with your veterinarian to get advice on other vaccinations. Don’t forget heart worm protection!

Each handler is legally responsible for his or her dog, and Animal Care Sanctuary will assume no responsibility for any injuries to humans or animals; therefore, each handler is responsible for supervision of his or her animal. All handlers must remain in the park with their dog(s) at all times.

No children under the age of 16 will be allowed unless closely supervised at all times. While it is not recommended, children are welcome; however, child’s play is not. This is a playground for dogs, not children. Be sure to teach your child how to behave properly in a dog park environment. Playful, unsupervised children and playful, unleashed dogs mixed together could result in injury. Please understand that this area is provided for dogs to interact with other dogs and that your child could be considered an interruption to dog play. If you choose to bring your child within the park, you should SUPERVISE THEM VERY CLOSELY!!! Teach your child proper dog park behavior. Children should not run around, scream, pick up and wave sticks, or approach animals they do not know.

Many dogs will be experiencing the off-leash environment for the first time and many not be used to the experience. Please watch your dog closely. If your dog acts aggressively, place your dog on a leash immediately, and let the animal “cool down”. It takes time for a new dog to become comfortable with the fact that other dogs all share the neutral environment. Keep in mind that everyone at the park wants the same thing - socialized dogs that can have fun together. If you are not sure how your dog will react, try to come to the park when few other dogs are there to keep the intimidation level as low as possible. You may wish to keep your first visit to the dog park rather short to minimize the stress on your pup. Leaving early when your dog is having a good time will make it more likely that your dog will look forward to returning to the dog park.

No bare feet please! Some types of worms can enter your body through the soles of your feet. Always wear shoes to prevent this.

Keep your head on a swivel at all times, as there will likely be groups of dogs running around the park and having fun. People standing around are obstructions. A dog being chased may try to run its pursuer into a person in order to gain an advantage. Stay alert!

Do not bring human food to the dog park. Small dog treats are acceptable since that’s what one uses to train a dog; however, human food of long-lasting dog chews should not be brought into the off-leash area. Also, many dogs are on diets to keep their weight under control. A normally well-behaved dog can jump at or lunge for food, especially tasty human food, when hungry. Also, do not give any treats to a dog without first checking with the dog’s owner to see if that would be permissible. Some dogs have food allergies, and that treat might make a dog ill.

Animal Care Sanctuary wants to help make YOUR dog park a success. If you have questions, suggestions, or problems, please contact Animal Care Sanctuary.