

Canine Safety

Prevent Fights: 4 "P" Warning Signs

- **Posture:** A dog's body language communicates fear, hostility, or submission. Learn to read and respond to body language.
- **Packing:** More than 4 or 5 dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break up the problem by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.
- **Possession:** You, a ball, or a treat, most dogs will protect what is theirs. Remain aware and consider not bringing those items.
- **Provoking:** If your dog is continuously annoying another dog(s), or provoking attention, it's time to leave the park.

Ways to Prevent Fights:

- Pay attention to your dog at all times.
- Stay close to your dog to control or protect it.
- Keep a collar on to secure and/or grab it.
- Leave the park. Sometimes we all have bad days. Go for a leashed walk around the lake instead.

What Do You Do if a Fight Happens:

- Never reach your hands into the mix. You may get bitten, even by your own dog.
- Distract or divert their attention by a blast of water from a bottle, a loud whistle, or a pocket air horn.
- If your dog is not involved, keep him out of the fight.
- Control your dog and move it to a neutral area.
- Keep calm. Yelling only adds to the exciting frenzy.
- When warranted, exchange vaccination and contact information with the other dog's owner. Designate someone to get the information if you need to leave to attend to your dog.

If You or Your Dog is Injured in a Fight:

An injured dog may bite anyone. Fights may be violent and upsetting to everyone present.

- **Report the Incident:** Minor scuffles between dogs occur frequently, check vaccinations. If serious fights, clearly aggressive or dangerous behavior by a dog or a bite to a person occur **call 911**. You must have information about the offending person or dog, even if it is a license plate number.
- **Exchange Information:** All involved parties should provide name, address, phone numbers, and vaccination records to each other.
- **Attitude:** Injuries to pets and people can upset anyone. Emotions are automatic, try and remain calm and objective.
- **Legal Responsibility:** Owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs. This includes injury to another dog or person.

The Dog Park is Not a Place for Your Child.



Children unintentionally behave in ways that might disturb or annoy dogs.

The Dangers:

This park is for dogs. Not all dogs are child friendly! Never allow your child to approach or pet a strange dog without the owner's presence and approval.

Herding dogs may nip at children to corral them.

A running, flailing, squealing or screaming child may attract a dog's attention.

DIRECT EYE CONTACT IS A CHALLENGE. A child may unintentionally provoke a dog by intently staring at it.

Never let your child have toys or food in the Dog Park. A friendly dog may knock down a child to get a ball/cookie.

ALL dogs have the potential to bite.

Supervised children 12 years or older are allowed in the Dog Park.

Potential Health Risks:

Intestinal worms and other infections from touching grass where feces and urine are present. Wear shoes in the Dog Park.

Fleas, lice, or skin mites.

Contaminated tennis balls.

In the event of a perceived attack: Never run, hide your face, curl into a ball facing the ground if knocked down, be still and quiet as possible. Wait for help or for the dog to leave. Be quiet and still. Do not stand.

Town of Carrboro

Dog Park Rules of Conduct and Etiquette



Strengthening and promoting health, responsibility, and happiness for dogs and their owners.

Emergencies 911

Recreation & Parks 919-918-7364

Animal Control 919-942-7387

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE DOG PARK...

- Make your first visit to the dog park without your dog.
- Familiarize yourself with the area, how the dogs at the park interact, and the posted rules.
- Test your dog's socialization skills off leash with a friend's dog before taking him or her to the dog park.
- Introduce your dog to new dogs only when your dog is comfortable and behaving appropriately.
- Choose a non-busy time the first few visits. (weekday evenings, weekends, holidays are the busiest times at the park).
- Obedience classes and doggie daycare will help improve the socialization skills of older dogs.
- Puppy classes (for dogs 8-16 wks) are important for helping your dog obtain early socialization skills.
- The first visit to the park can be stressful for both you and your dog, so keep the visit short and happy. Gradually work towards longer visits.



Don't expect too much from your dog. Remember to go at his or her pace. Slow down if you need to, this visit should be fun!

Entering the Park

- **Do not open the outside gate if the inside gate is open.** Be patient, don't crowd the gate. One dog at a time.



Please remember to keep your leash with you at all times.

Remove your dog's leash inside the holding pen, enter the park, close the gate, and move your dog away from the entrance.

- **Do not enter the park with your dog on a leash.** Your dog may be at a disadvantage and the result may be an altercation.
- **If you need to muzzle your dog, your dog probably should not be in the Dog Park.**

At the Park

- **Pay attention and remain in control of your dog at ALL TIMES.**
- **Clean up your dog's waste.** Bags and receptacles are provided.
- **Carry your leash with you.** You may need to gain control over your dog, and the leash can be used as an impromptu muzzle.
- **Puppies under 6 months do not have fully developed immune systems, which puts them at risk of infection even when vaccinated.** Consider leaving puppies at home for their own protection.
- **Your dog must have a collar (NO chokes, spikes or prongs, please!) with a rabies tag and proper ID tag attached when in the Dog Park.**

Leaving the Park

- **Do not open the inside gate if the outside gate is open.** Attach your dog's leash inside the park, enter the holding pen, close the inner gate, then exit through the outer gate.

Expectations of Dog Owners:

Do not smoke or bring food into the Dog Park. Training treats should be used sparingly, always ask before treating an unknown dog.

Do not leave water bowls. They will not be cleaned and can breed bacteria.



Many dogs may play with objects together. Some may not want to share...

Please do not bring any toys which you or your dog are very attached. These items can provoke protective or aggressive conduct, or be destroyed in play.

Basic obedience training is a must for safety. You MUST be in control of your dog at all times.

Keep learning! Be a responsible pet owner. Keep vaccines and licenses up to date. Spay or neuter. Train your dog. Educate yourself on behavior through books, magazines, and websites.

Understanding Canine Behavior:

Be aware that dogs have different play styles. Educate yourself about dog behavior. Some owners may be concerned by another dog's rambunctious style. Always respect another dog owner's wishes if they are not comfortable with how the dogs react to each other. Simply move to another area for awhile or leash up and leave if your dog is acting in an aggressive manner or having a bad day.

Move around. Walking diffuses defensive behaviors and keeps the off-leash area a neutral territory. Sometimes when owners are stationary, dogs become protective of their space, making scuffles more probable.