

DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

As dog parks increase in popularity, it is important to remember the following rules and recommendations to keep the experience enjoyable for everyone.

RULES



- Dog owners are legally and financially liable for injuries/damages caused by their dog(s). Wis. Stat. Ann. 174.02 (1).
- All dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated. Dogs are required to wear a visible, municipal license, and I.D. tag. Wis. Stat. Ann. 95.21 (2).
- A Daily or Annual Park Dog Permit is required. D.C. Ord.53.02 (2).
- Aggressive dogs are prohibited from the park. Any dog exhibiting aggressive behavior must be removed from the park immediately.
- Female dogs in season (heat) are not allowed in a dog park.
- Dog waste must be cleaned up and placed in the proper receptacle by the owner/handler. This is essential to the ongoing success of the dog park.
- The owner/handler must be in control of their dog(s) at all times. The dog must be within view and under voice control of the owner/handler.
- Dogs must be leashed with a six-foot static leash when entering and leaving off-leash areas. The owner/handler must have a leash in their possession at all times.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Limit food and treats brought into a dog park as it may attract other dogs.
- Throwing balls or other dog toys may lead to possession aggression.
- Make sure your dog is healthy. It is possible for your dog to pass on an infection or parasite to other dogs. Sharing water can also lead to disease transmission.
- Children should be supervised when in the dog park.
- Do not bring more dogs than you can effectively restrain. It is recommended that you bring no more than three dogs at one time.
- You are responsible for all actions of your dog. You must remain in the dog area with your dog at all times.
- A dog park is not the place to work on behavioral problems with your dog.
- Do not allow your dog to be in contact with wild animals.
- It is not acceptable to dump pet waste from offsite at the dog park.
- Dog bites/attacks should be reported to Dane County Animal Services 911 (Emergency) or (608) 267-1989 (Non-Emergency). For all other park related issues contact the Dane County Parks office at (608) 224-3730.

DOES YOUR DOG WANT TO BE HERE - YES!

Great, Stay Awhile! Appropriate dog play includes lots of short breaks for sniffs, drinks or laying down so they don't become over-stimulated.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Wiggly, loose bodies.

SURE THING!
Approaches from the side; relaxed faces and bodies.

LITTLE BREAK
Regular pauses in play, interaction without being obsessive or intense.

SHARING
Sharing resources.

KING/QUEEN OF THE PARK
Mounting other dogs or guarding resources like water, entrances, picnic tables, people or doggy friends.

OVER-STIMULATED PUP
Dog that is panting/stressed/nippy and ready for a break.

I LOVE CHASING THINGS THAT MOVE!
Obsessive and intense.

THIS ISN'T FUN ANYMORE
Tail tucked; ears back; hiding.

THIS IS GETTING A BIT ROUGH
Lots of teeth, facial tension; hackles up; rearing up on back legs; rolling other dogs.

DOES YOUR DOG WANT TO BE HERE - NO!

Time for a Break! If you're worried about your dog or the behavior of another dog, clip on your dog's leash and take them out of the dog park to give them a break. The Dane County Park System has many on-leash scenic hiking trails that you and your dog can explore.

COOPERATIVE DOG PARK PROGRAM

