

# LET'S PLAY

A PAWSITIVE AND SAFE TRIP TO



Presented by:  
Canine Corners Dog Park  
&  
Pawsitive Paws Dog Training



Located Within Harry Griffen Regional Park  
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## Know and Follow the Rules:

- Dogs must remain on leash until inside the fence
- Dogs must be over 12 weeks old
- Dogs must have visible license tags
- Dogs must have current vaccinations and no communicable illness
- Handler must remain inside fence with dog at all times
- Handlers must clean up after their dogs
- Handlers must prohibit digging and fill any holes
- Handlers must monitor and control their dogs at all times
- No more than 3 dogs per handler
- No dogs in heat.  
(Spaying/neutering of dogs is recommended)
- Aggressive behavior by dogs or handlers is prohibited
- Smoking, food and treats are prohibited
- Children under age 10 must be within arm's reach of guardian at all times

# HOW TO KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE AND HAPPY AT THE DOG PARK

## Be Sure Your Dog Is Ready:

Before visiting the dog park, be sure your dog is:

- At least 12 weeks old and has completed his/her vaccination series
- Healthy and up to date on his/her vaccinations
- Friendly with other dogs and people
- Not a resource guarder with toys
- Not shy or timid around other dogs
- Well trained to come when called
- Not in heat or pregnant

\*It is recommended that dogs are neutered since unneutered dogs may be subjected to aggression.



## Consider These Safety Tips:

- Always keep a close eye on your dog. Sitting down and visiting, talking on the phone, reading or texting makes it difficult to be aware of your dog's behavior.
- Never leave your dog on leash while in the off-leash area. A dog on leash can feel threatened when surrounded by other dogs that are off leash, which can lead to unnecessary conflict.
- Do not carry your dog into the off leash area.
- Remove any halters, metal choke chains or link collars. During play, dogs can get tangled, causing panic and/or injury.
- If you have a small dog, please consider using the small dog pen instead of the main pen. Some big dogs do not know how to appropriately play or interact safely with smaller dogs.
- Avoid bringing young children — With all the dogs running and playing, children could easily be knocked down and hurt. A child who is running or screaming attracts attention, increases arousal and makes themselves an object for dogs to chase.

## Keep a Close Eye on Your Dog & Interrupt Inappropriate Behavior:

The best way to prevent conflicts is to keep a very close eye on your dog at all times and to interrupt the following inappropriate behaviors/interactions:

- Bullying
- Loose Packs - multiple dogs chasing or crowding/hovering over one dog
- Relentless chasing - not letting the other dog rest or get away
- Excessive barking
- High, stiff tails
- Stiffness and hard staring
- Mounting
- Charging
- Baring Teeth
- Cornering
- Long periods of rough play (rough play can quickly turn to aggression)
- Fence Fighting
- Snapping
- Biting

## Recognize Signs of Play:

- Role reversal
- Mouthing
- Play bows
- Relaxed, horizontal, wagging tails
- Starting and stopping play for periods of time
- Some dogs do some barking and growling during play - pay attention to body language



## Consider moving to a different area of the park or leaving the park:

- If your dog is stressed or afraid
  - ◊ Cowering
  - ◊ Hiding or trying to leave
  - ◊ Pinning ears back
  - ◊ Tucking tail
- If there is a dog that is bullying your dog or if your dog is being a bully
- If your dog is tired or stressed
- If your dog is over-excited or is playing too rough
- If your dog has a conflict with another dog

\*Sudden disagreements that involve a lot of noise and end quickly are normal. However, if disagreements between the same dogs continue, it is best to leave the park or go to another section of the park.

## What to do if a dog fight happens:

- If you hear a conflict between other dogs, immediately get your dog and move away from the area.
- Screaming increases arousal in dogs, so be sure to use a calm, but firm, voice to stop a disagreement or a fight.
- DO NOT use your hands to separate the dogs. Avoid grabbing their collars (dogs that are fighting will often bite at anything that is near their face). Instead, use water or a loud noise, such as banging two garbage lids together, to startle and interrupt the fight.
- If the dogs need to be physically separated, grab the back legs of your dog and "wheel-barrow" him/her away from the other dogs.
- Once the dogs are separated, immediately remove them from the park. It takes several hours for dogs to calm down after a fight.

