

# DOG PARK ETIQUETTE: A GUIDE FOR PET PARENTS

## BEFORE YOU GO:

- **Vaccinate & Protect:** Ensure your dog is up to date on vaccines (Rabies, DHPP, Bordetella) and on flea/tick preventatives.
- **Healthy & Non-Aggressive Only:** Sick, injured, or aggressive dogs should stay home.
- **Know Your Dog's Personality:** Parks aren't for every dog! If your pup is anxious, overwhelmed, or has a history of aggression, consider other forms of exercise and enrichment.
- **Pack the Essentials:** Bring poop bags, water, and any needed supplies.

## INSIDE THE PARK:

1. **Supervise Constantly:** Stay alert and keep an eye on your dog at all times.
2. **Pick Up After Your Pet:** Always clean up waste promptly, it's courteous and helps prevent the spread of disease.
3. **Watch the Gate:** Enter and exit quickly to avoid escapes. Only unleash your dog once safely inside the double-gated entry.
4. **Use the Correct Area:** Follow posted rules about designated areas for small or large dogs, if available.

### 5. **Monitor Play Behavior:**

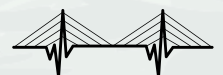
Healthy play looks like:

Play bows  
Chasing (taking turns)  
Pauses / taking breaks  
Loose, wiggly body language

Red flags include:

Stiff body posture  
Prolonged staring  
Snarling, snapping or mounting  
Stiff and upright tail

6. **Leave Toys & Treats at Home:** These can trigger possessiveness or fights between dogs.



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## PLEASE DON'T:

- Bring puppies under 4 months (they're too vulnerable).
- Bring dogs in heat.
- Let your dog bully or overwhelm others.
- Allow digging without filling holes afterward.
- Bring more dogs than you can safely manage.

## PLEASE BE KIND TO OTHER HUMANS:

- Ask before petting someone else's dog.
- Don't offer food or treats to dogs that aren't yours.
- Respect other pet parents' boundaries and comfort levels.

## WHEN IN DOUBT, STEP OUT:

If your dog seems stressed or isn't playing nicely, it is okay to take a break or head home. You are your dog's best advocate and safety net.

Thank you for being a responsible and respectful dog park visitor!  
A safe and happy park starts with you.

