

# DOG PARKS AND BEACH REGULATIONS & INFO

A visit to one of Greenville County Parks and Rec's off-leash dog parks is a special treat for everyone, not just your pups. With acres to run and play, taking your best friends along for fresh air and exercise is good for you and as easy as a walk in the park!

# **GENERAL DOG PARK RULES**

- YOU are completely responsible for all injuries and damage caused by your dog.
- Pick up your dog's waste! If your dog goes, you must immediately remove the excrement – NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Leash your dog until it is safely inside, and return to a leash upon exiting.
- Always keep an eye on your dog, and keep voice control to prevent any trouble.
- Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Leash your dog whenever you sense problems.
- Do not let dogs dig holes. If they do, fill them inimmediately.
- Keep food out of the enclosures. Dogs may become overly protective or aggressive in the presence of food.
- Access to the dog park may be restricted during special events. If so, notice will be posted.
- Immediately report any bite or attack to the Park Office.

## Please report any and all animal abuse/mistreatment to the authorities - it is NEVER ok!

## BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES FOR SHARED AND OFF-LEASH SPACES

- **Do** monitor your dog for inappropriate behavior. Handle any conflicts with kindness and good manners.
- **Don't** bring people food or dog treats into the dog park. Dogs may show undesirable behavior in the presence of food.
- **Did You Know**...You are supposed to leash and unleash your dog in the Double-gated entry/exit area? Mixing leashed and unleashed dogs can create a hostile situation.
- **Do** remember, this is a "dog" playground. Please closely watch your children. Dogs and children both frighten and excite easily and react differently which can create a dangerous atmosphere.
- **Don't** pick up or carry your dog or child as this sometimes causes excitement in other dogs that may jump up and nip at them.
- Did You Know...Leashed dogs may experience anxiety, fear or defensive posturing when approached by unleashed dogs? Please unleash your dog upon entering.
- **Do** keep the park clean by picking up an unclaimed "pile" and stop dogs from digging. And keep an eye on your dog so you know when to clean up his piles or holes.
- **Don't** let your dog poop in the water.
- **Did You Know**...You can keep water runoff clean by picking up poop and not using soap/shampoo to wash your dog at the park?
- **Do** play and interact with your pet while here. Exercise is good for humanstoo.
- **Don't** bring puppies or dogs to the dog park before they have had ALL their vaccinations.
- **Did You Know**...Young puppies should not go to dog parks because they don't understand canine body language and can unknowingly provoke undesirable and/or aggressive behavior in other dogs?



- **Do** be prepared for behavior you may not like that is natural and not necessarily aggressive. Examples include growling, barking, charging, humping, posturing, play biting, curling of lips and wrestling.
- Did You Know...Not all dogs like to socialize? If your dog is timid or aggressive, leave them home for their safety and enjoyment.
- **Do** keep your leash with you so you're prepared to enforce a "time out" and remove your pet from the park if they misbehave.
- **Don't** bring your pet's favorite toy if he or she doesn't like to share.
- **Did You Know**...Spaying or neutering your pet will not only decrease pet overpopulation but will also make your visit a more pleasant one?

**SAFETY TIPS (**Provided by Bark Busters Home dog Training):

- Observe: Consider visiting the park without your dog for the first time to familiarize yourself with the park and the dogs that play there.
- Start Out Slowly: On your first few visits to a dog park, choose a time that is less busy; peak, high traffictimes at parks are weekday evenings, weekends and holidays.
- Consider Size: Keep to areas appropriate for your dog's size; if you have a smaller dog, take your pet to the park designated for smaller dogs.
- Closely Supervise Your dog: Don't roam too far from your pooch. Don't get distracted talking to other pet owners. Make sure your dog's interactions are safe.
- Know When to Leave: Remove your dog from the park if they are being bullied or seem fearful, display
  aggressive behavior or threaten other dogs, or if they are panting heavily or seem tired. Keep your dog's
  welfare a top priority.
- Preventing Injury: Prevent injury to yourself and your dog and react appropriately. Be aware of signs of a
  possible fight before it happens. If your dog injures a person or dog, provide your name and number to the
  injured party and notify park staff. Bring the contact information of your emergency vet and your cell phone
  to the park in case you need it.
- Responsibility: Be a responsible pet owner overall. Use common sense clean up after your dog, make sure
  your dog stays enclosed inside the dog park, Don't let them intimidate others. It's up to you to make the
  difference in everyone's experience.
- Have Fun! Your Greenville County dog parks are a great way for you and your dog to relax and let yourself go. Don't forget to enjoy your visit.

## A leashed pet is not likely to:

- Stress songbirds & other wildlife
- Be harmed or killed by poisonous plants, venomous snakes, ticks, or vehicles
- Ruin the outing of another visitor, who may not recognize your pet as friendly or lovable