

WHAT IS A DOG PARK?

A dog park is a fenced public area where dogs can legally run off-leash and play with other dogs under the supervision of their owners. In other words, a dog park is a playground for dog owners and their dogs!

TIPS FOR YOUR VISIT TO THE DOG PARK

Your First Visit

- Make your first visit without your dog. Familiarize yourself with the rules and how the dog park works.
- The first few times you take your dog to a dog park, choose a time that is not busy. Weekday evenings are peak times. Weekends and holidays tend to be busy all day long.
- The first visit can be a little stressful for both you and your dog, so keep it short and happy. Gradually work your way to longer visits.

How to Enter the Park

- Do not open the outside gate if the inside gate is open. Be patient. One dog at a time.
- Remove your dog's leash inside the double-gated entry area. When you enter the park, close the gate and move your dog away from the entrance.
- Do not leave a leash on your dog in the park. This may actually cause an altercation as your dog may feel restricted in its ability to protect itself. Also, dogs feel more protective of their owner when they are leashed.

While in the Park

- **Know the dog park rules and follow them.** The rules are important for the enjoyment and safety of all visitors in the park.
- Stay in control and in sight of your dog at all times.
- Keep the park clean! Owners must clean up after their dogs. There are plastic bags and trash receptacles provided.

- Carry your dog's leash with you in the dog park. A leash is a sure way of gaining control over your dog if needed.
- Your dog must wear a collar, but choke collars or prong collars are not allowed in the park. These collars are for training only and can actually cause injury to your dog or another dog when dogs are playing.
- Do not bring food or dog treats into the dog park. Food can be a source of conflict between dogs.
- Do not bring any toys to which you or your dog may be particularly attached. These items may provoke possessive or aggressive behavior or may be destroyed through rough play.

Children in the Park

- **Keep children under 12 years of age at your side and in your control at all times.**
- This is a dog park. Not all dogs are child-friendly. Never allow your child to approach or pet a strange dog without the owner's presence and approval.
- A running, squealing or screaming child may incite dogs to behave aggressively.
- Children should stay away from playing dogs. Playing dogs may unintentionally knock down a small child.
- Direct eye contact is confrontational to dogs. An interested child staring into a dog's face may provoke a dog unintentionally.
- Do not let children bring toys or food to the park. A friendly dog might knock down your child to get a toy or food.

Dog Conflicts

Prevention: Learn the 4P Warning Signs

- **Posture:** A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. Learn to read and respond to your own dog's body language.
- **Packing:** More than 4 or 5 dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break it up

before it starts by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.

- **Possession:** Whether it's you, a ball or a treat, most dogs will protect what is theirs. Remain aware and don't bring toys or treats to the park.
- **Provoking:** If your dog is continuously annoying another dog or dogs, or provoking attention, it's time to leave the park.

What You Can Do To Prevent a Fight:

- **Pay attention to your dog** and be aware of where he is and what he is doing at all times.
- **Stay close** enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.
- **Keep a collar on your dog** at all times to have something to grab if needed.
- **Keep walking.** Walking defuses defensive behaviors and helps keep the off-leash area neutral territory. Avoid the temptation to stand around and chat or sit in one place for very long. When folks congregate, many dogs may become protective of their people and their space, making scuffles more likely to occur.
- **Leave the park.** Some days it's just a bad mix. Go for a walk or come back later. You and your dog will be better off.

What You Can Do If a Fight Occurs:

- Never reach your hands into the middle of a dog fight. You may get bitten, possibly by your own dog.
- Distract the dogs and divert their attention. A blast of water from a water bottle or a loud whistle may work.
- If your dog is not in the fight, make sure he doesn't join in.
- If a fight occurs, control your dog and remove him to a neutral area.
- Maintain a cool head. Getting upset and yelling will only add to the frenzy.
- When necessary, exchange contact information with the other dog owners.

DOG PARK RULES

- Dog owners are solely liable for injuries or damage caused by their dogs.
- Dogs must be leashed when entering and leaving this park and dog owners must have a leash in their possession at all times.
- Dogs must be off-leash while inside the park.
- Dog owners must be in the park and within view and voice contact of their dogs at all times. Unattended dogs will be removed by Animal Control.
- Dog waste must be cleaned up by dog owners.
- Aggressive dogs are prohibited from this park and dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior must be removed from the park immediately, without debate.
- No female dogs in heat permitted in the park.
- No choker chain or prong collars permitted on dogs inside the park.
- No dogs under four (4) months of age permitted in the park.
- No more than three beings* per handler allowed (*dogs and/or small children)
- No food, treats, alcoholic beverages, glass containers, strollers, bicycles or children's toys allowed in the park.
- No children under 12 without close adult supervision.
- No animals other than dogs are permitted in the park.
- All dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wear tags.
- Dog owners must immediately fill any holes dug by their dog.
- Park gates must be closed and latched at all times.

NO ATTENDANT ON DUTY.
USERS OF THIS PARK
DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK.

The City of Jacksonville Beach shall not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in this park.



PAWS PARK **At Wingate Park**

Location: Wingate Park on South Penman Rd. in Jacksonville Beach, FL.

Description: FREE TO PUBLIC. Off-leash dog park with large dog area, small dog area, watering bowls, benches, shade shelters, educational bulletin board. Handicapped accessible.

Beaches Dog Park Project is a volunteer group working with the City of Jacksonville Beach to establish and maintain safe and enjoyable off-leash dog parks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For dog park suggestions or to help with the dog park, contact Beaches Dog Park Project:

Phone: 513-9240
Email: beachesdogpark@aol.com

Parks and Recreation: 247-6236

Animal Control: 247-6167

ON THE WEB

www.pawsparkjaxbeach.com
www.jacksonvillebeach.org

MAKE A DONATION

Your tax-deductible donation will help buy items for the dog park. Donations can be sent to:

Beaches Dog Park Project
P.O. Box 51076
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240

WELCOME TO



Päws Park **At Wingate Park**

SPONSORED BY:

City of Jacksonville Beach

And

Beaches Dog Park Project