

## Dog Park Rules & Regulations

- Dog owners are solely liable for injuries or damages caused by their dogs.
- Dogs must have a current license/registration tag in the applicable jurisdiction.
- Dogs must be leashed before entering the park and prior to leaving the park.
- Dogs must be off leash while inside the park. Choke collars or prong collars are not permitted in the park.
- Dog owners must be in the park and within view and voice contact of their dogs at all times.
- Dogs must be accompanied by owner or handler at all times. Leaving dogs in the park unattended is prohibited. Unattended dogs will be removed by Animal Control.
- Dog waste must be cleaned up and disposed of by dog owners or risk a fine.
- Aggressive dogs are prohibited from the park. Any dog showing aggressive behavior must leave the park immediately without debate. City of Jacksonville Beach Animal Control, Police, and Park staff are authorized to designate dogs as “aggressive” and to direct their removal from the Dog Park.
- Animals that exhibit a history of aggressive behavior will not be permitted to enter the park.
- Owners whose dogs are shown to be aggressive may have their membership revoked.
- Dogs declared a “dangerous dog” (per City ordinance) are not permitted.
- If dogs are playing too rough, displaying excessive dominant behavior, (i.e., humping, pinning dogs down, etc.) or intimidating other dogs, owners should relocate their dogs to a different area of the park. If dominant behavior persists, owners are required to remove their dogs from the park.
- All dogs must be spayed or neutered in order to enter the park.
- Sick dogs are not permitted in the park.
- All dogs must have current vaccinations and wear a current rabies tag. Required vaccinations include Rabies, Distemper, Parvo, and Bordetella.
- No dogs under four (4) months of age are permitted in the park.
- The weight limit for the small dog park is 30 lbs. Dogs less than 30 lbs. are only permitted in the small dog area.
- Large dogs are not permitted in the small dog park. Dogs 30 lbs. and over are only permitted in the large dog area.
- No animals other than dogs are permitted in the park.
- No food (people or animal), treats, alcoholic beverages, smoking, glass containers, strollers, baby carriers, bicycles, and children’s toys are permitted in the park.
- Dogs must wear a collar and ID tags at all times.
- Children under 12 must have close adult supervision at all times.
- No more than three (3) beings\* per handler allowed (\*dogs and/or small children).
- Dogs owners must fill any holes dug by their dogs.
- Be cautious with dog toys; some dogs do not like to share.
- Dogs that bark excessively should be removed from the park.
- The park is open seven (7) days a week from 5 AM until 10PM. The park may be closed for maintenance on Thursdays from 9AM until 2 PM.

**NO ATTENDANT ON DUTY.**

Paws Park users do at their own risk. The City of Jacksonville Beach will not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in this park.

## 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 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.

### 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.

### Dog Conflicts

#### 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.

# WELCOME TO



## Päws Park At Wingate Park

South Penman Rd.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Open 7 Days 5am-10am

Members Off Leash Dog Park  
Large Dog Area (Dogs over 30lbs.)  
Small Dog Area (Dogs under 30lbs.)

SPONSORED BY:

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