
Dog Park Etiquette

- Dog parks are meant to be fun for everyone. It's important to supervise your dog at all times.
- Spread out! Utilize the whole park. Too many people and dogs congregating in one area can create problems.
- For the safety of people and dogs, entry points should be kept clear except when entering and exiting.
- Each dog has her own play style. Know your dog's limits—pay attention and assess the situation.
- Remember, some breeds are more vocal than others, and that's okay. Again, knowing your dog's play style and intentions is very important.
- If your dog is behaving inappropriately or you are unable to control her, leave the park for a short time-out, or pack up and go home.
- Humping can quickly lead to conflict.
- If you bring children to the dog park, they should be closely supervised at all times.

“In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.”

Edward Hoagland



Appropriate vs. Inappropriate Play

- Appropriate play is quick back and forth play between two dogs. Each dog gets a turn at being “top dog.”
- Inappropriate play or “bully” play is one dog always being “top dog”. Pinning, pushing, humping and not letting other dogs have a turn being “top dog.”

Children, Teens & Dogs

Instruct your child or teen on how to behave when interacting with a dog. What seems like normal child or teen behavior to us can appear threatening to some dogs. For their own safety, children need to be quiet and calm when approaching a dog and while playing around dogs. Do not allow children to run toward or chase, scream or yell at, hit, pinch, pull, poke, hug or choke a dog, or stare down a dog.

For more information on how to educate children about safe, appropriate behavior when interacting with dogs, visit the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education at www.nahee.org.

Guidelines for K9 Parents

- Educate yourself about dog behavior, breed tendencies and your dog's personality. Seek assistance from a trainer if necessary.
- Spay and neuter your dog!
- Always pick up after your dog!
- A happy, well-behaved dog is one that is well exercised, fed and socialized.
- Be mindful of your dog's behavior and her surroundings to ensure her safety and the safety of others, and to encourage positive social interaction.
- Be respectful of other people's wishes concerning your dog. Not everyone understands your dog's intentions.
- Keep licenses and vaccinations current.
- Keep current information on your dog's collar and micro-chip your dog.

To find out more about the importance of spaying, neutering, micro-chipping, and basic dog care, visit the Humane Society of the United States at www.hsus.org.



Sacramento Dog Owners Group

is committed to increasing opportunities for off-leash recreation for people and their dogs in Sacramento County, especially in open space and along our rivers, while promoting safe, respectful and responsible dog ownership.



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**We've put this
information
together because
we love dogs.**

We believe that dog ownership greatly enhances our lives and that off-leash areas provide us with a vital connection to nature, to others, and to the dogs we love. We believe off-leash recreation is a legitimate form of fun and exercise and should be encouraged for healthier, happier community members, both human and canine.