



RULES FOR PHOENIX DOG PARK

Approved and Adopted by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District



1. Owners must clean up after their dogs. Plastic bags and trash cans are available at the dog park. Please use them properly. (NOTE: Please donate small plastic bags when you can.)

2. Dogs with a known history of dangerous behavior are prohibited. Owners are legally responsible for the activities of their dogs. Leash and remove dogs showing aggressiveness towards people or other dogs.

Dogs will wrestle, chase, bark, snarl and even snap at each other as part of their normal socialization. However, owners should interfere and stop the interaction if it appears to be escalating into a fight. *At all times, be aware that you (and your dog) use this park at your own risk.*

Other owners have the right to ask you to remove your dog if he/she seems to be causing conflict, especially after repeated incidents. There is also the option of closing the gate in the center fence so that your dog may play separately.

3. No children under the age of 5 allowed; children between the ages of 5 and 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

The presence of children under age 12 is discouraged under any circumstances, for their own safety and health.

- Children are more susceptible to germs and bacteria, and dog parks are just naturally un-hygienic!
- Even friendly dogs can play rough, and small children can be harmed or frightened by a dog that really is just playing, or by a group of dogs that simply don't care if they bump into one another, or into people.
- Dogs behave differently in a "pack" than they do as individuals. A dog that is quiet and friendly as in individual may play very differently at the dog park.
- Not all dogs are child-friendly: a running child may be seen by some dogs as a threat, or may trigger the instinct to chase the child just as prey would be chased.
- Herding dogs, acting purely on instinct, may nip at a child and that will HURT if they make contact.

Children that run, shout, wave their arms about, jump up and down or otherwise agitate the dogs may be asked to leave. There are many places where children may play and run, but very few places where we can take our dogs to do the same: children are guests at the dog park, but the dogs take priority.

4. If you bring the family into the dog park, you must have at least one adult (18 or older) to supervise the child(ren) and at least one to supervise the dog(s): experience has taught us that one person cannot adequately do both.

5. Do not leave your dog unattended. Owners need to monitor their dogs' actions at all times. You are legally responsible for their behavior. While in the dog park, we want you to have a good time visiting, but your dog(s) must be your first priority. ***Do NOT leave your animal(s) in the dog park unattended while you go elsewhere in the Park.***



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6. Dogs should be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving. It is important for safety and legal reasons to obey leash laws whenever your dog is not in the boundaries of the dog park. And please be sure to close the gate behind you.

7. No more than three (3) dogs per adult. Experience has shown us that it's almost impossible to properly supervise more than three dogs at a time.

8. No alcoholic beverages are allowed within the dog park. (SCC 9.36.057, SCC 9.36.015)

9. Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated. Dogs must be wearing up-to-date rabies vaccination tags and county license tags. If you remove your dog's collar upon entering, please keep the collar and tags with you to prevent loss.

10. Female dogs in heat are prohibited. The presence of a dog in heat may promote fights among un-neutered males.

11. No food (such as hamburgers) or drinks in glass containers in the dog park. Fights may occur over food and dogs may get sick if they eat foods that are not part of their usual diet. And experience has shown us that if you are paying attention to food & drink, you're not paying full attention to your dog(s).

ADDITIONAL TIPS AND GUIDELINES:

Puppies should be older than four months. Puppies' immune systems aren't fully developed until after four months, so they can be at risk for disease, even if they have had all their vaccinations. For puppies less than 4 months of age, socialization with friends' or neighbors' dogs with known vaccination histories and temperament may be safer.

No smoking in the dog park please. A smoldering cigarette butt or cigar end can burn a paw; later in the season, there could also be danger of fire.

Please do not allow your dog to dig. Dogs and people may be injured if they step into a hole. Please try to distract your dog if he/she is digging, or pull the dog away, and please try to fill any holes that your dog may dig.

Please remove pinch (prong) and choke chains from dogs prior to entering. Choke chains can easily get tangled during play, with the potential of choking your dog. Prong collars can also be harmful, both to the dogs wearing them and to other animals, if there is rough play.

Do not bring your dog to the park if he is sick, has intestinal parasites, or external parasites such as fleas or ticks.

Be a good citizen. If you're standing close to a group of dogs and you sense there's a confrontation brewing, step in to break it up even if your dog is not involved. Help keep the dog park clean. Welcome new visitors. If the dogs make a "gang" at the gate when someone is trying to enter, step in to pull them away so the entering animal does not feel threatened ("fear aggression" is the biggest cause of dog fights, please help us avoid that).