



SACRAMENTO SPCA

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www.sspca.org

Other Helpful Suggestions

1. Females in heat and intact males can cause a lot of problems in the park. Please leave your female at home until her heat cycle is complete. Intact males are always more likely to be aggressive than males that are neutered. Please – spay or neuter your dog!
2. It is important to supervise your dog at all times. You may need to intervene if things become heated between your dog and another dog(s). When your dog is behaving appropriately it is always good to praise your dog for this behavior.
3. Dogs should ALWAYS be off leash while in the park. This can increase the likelihood of injuries, make the leashed dog feel uneasy (no escape), and could cause fights if the leash gets wrapped around one or more dogs.
4. Mounting other dogs is ^{usually} not a sexual behavior, but a ranking issue. The mounting dog may also display other pushy behaviors such as placing the head or feet on or over another dog's shoulder. If this behavior is allowed to continue it may escalate into fighting (either dog may initiate it).
5. Keep your dog (and others) safe at all times. This includes watching his/her behavior with other dogs, awareness of his/her interactions with people (particularly with children since they tend to hug, pull, tug, run and scream which may trigger a negative response from your dog) and to ensure that things in the environment (sticks, toys, other debris) will be removed immediately if they present a danger to your dog.
6. It would be best for all dog parks to have 3-4 entrances at each park to reduce the barrage of dogs coming at the new dog entering the park. Putting someone in charge of the gate (rotating with other people) to keep the other dogs back would be a great way to reduce the stress, anxiety and aggression from escalating at that location.
7. When approaching a dog you do not know avoid direct eye contact (as this is confrontational behavior), possibly turn your side facing the dog to become even less invasive, talk in a happy and pleasant voice, avoid hugging or patting the head roughly and making erratic movements or sudden noises.