

Visiting the Dog Park: Helpful Hints

Advice for Entering the Park

- Do not open the outside gate if either inside gate is open.
- One family of dogs inside the neutral zone at a time.
- Remove dogs leash inside the neutral zone. Make sure the gate is closed after entering the park.
- Keep your leash into the park with you, in case you need to remove your dog in an emergency situation.

Dog Play

During play it is normal and appropriate for dogs to:

- bark
- growl
- wrestle
- chase
- mouth
- paw
- bow
- yelp

Inappropriate behavior and owners should intervene when:

- more than one dog picking on another
- bullying (charging, snarling, snapping, not letting dog get up or get away)
- chasing without rest
- cornering or crowding another dog

Dog Fights

- The easiest way to handle a dog fight is to prevent it.
- Owners should pay attention to their dogs. Be aware of where they are and what they are doing at all times.
- Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.
- Leave the park. Some days it's just a bad mix. Go for a walk or come back later.
- If your dog is consistently involved in altercations, please evaluate if the park is appropriate for your dog.

Breaking up a Fight

- Never, ever reach your hands into the middle of a dog fight.
- Advise all other owners to leash their dogs and move away from the fight.
- Maintain a cool head. Yelling and getting upset will only add to the frenzy.
- A safe way to break up a fight requires 2 people. Each person grabs the back feet of the dogs. With the legs up, both dogs are then pulled apart. Keep the dogs apart and start turning in a circle, this will force the dog to sidestep with its front feet.
- To ensure that the fight will not continue, owners should leash their dogs and leave the park.

Remember, you're not just walking the dog



Clean up after your pet

Did you know . . .

. . . that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after our pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

So what can you do? Simple.

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

Pick up after your pet...and help keep our water clean.

Support provided by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (313) 961-4266 and the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project



Find out more at www.semcog.org

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