

Talk in the Park

If you missed it, DOGS had a few “talks in the park” to help you, your dog and the park better serve our common goal of responsible pet ownership!

Here is a run down of what we talked about.

Leaving dogs alone

Coming to the park and playing with other dogs is probably one of the best forms or exercise your dog can get. However, when surrounded by dogs they don't know and circumstances that could always lead to injury or some new learned behavior; your dog needs you. As an owner / parent of your dog you should be there to circumvent any new behaviors, have your dogs back in case he or she gets picked on and also interfere if your dog is doing the “picking on.”

Breaking up a dog fight

I will never suggest that anyone get in the middle of a dog fight or what may look like a fight but I can give you a few secrets to break it up or stop some thing that could lead to a fight

First NEVER go for your dog or ANY dogs' collar – dogs bite mostly around the neck and you diving in for a collar grab will be seen as the same thing. It will increase your chances of getting bit and put you right in the middle of the fight

Instead go for the hind end...grab the legs of the stronger, bigger or aggressor dog and pull back. If you cannot tell and you just want to break it up; start with noise HEY!!!! Usually works...if not then grab some skin between the last rib and the hip and squeeze or poke. This will make your dog release its grip and turn to look at you. Be sure you don't set your dog up for a sneak attack and consider grabbing the offensive dog instead!

Un-Neutered dogs

Its not a sin not to neuter your dog so don't worry about it but do know that if your dog is NOT neutered (male or female) there attitude and the way they deal with conflict is different. Plain and simple!

Even though your dog might be fine you cannot account for the behavior of another dog towards your dog. Its not always your fault but you are asking a lot if you as a female in season or coming in or out of season (heat) to deal with ALL the dogs in the park...and expect her not to fight, get stressed or have a bad experience.

You are also asking a lot to as every other dog to put up with your un-neutered males "preferences" attitude or opinion when they should not have to.

So consider carefully what you are asking of your dog and those around you – Be smart!

Dog Park rules explained

The dog park has rules for your safety and the safety of your dog. The rules are pretty universal for all parks across the state and NE and are clearly posted at the park for you!

Pooper Scooper Law requires you to clean up after your dog
Poop is obviously gross in abundance but there are other reasons to scoop it. Worms that migrate to your dog's digestive tract - once in humans - migrate to OTHER, very dangerous places. One place is the ocular nerve where they can cause blindness. Worm infestation causes dysentery, rectal prolapse, vomiting and diarrhea and did you know worm eggs can lay dormant and waiting for a host for up to 3 years (even after a harsh winter).

For Safety Reasons Entry into the Fenced area is restricted by the city to persons Age 12 and older.

Children under 12 are far less likely to come out OK if knocked over by a running dog, less able to defend them selves when jumped on and are at real risk if there is a dog fight. You wouldn't watch football from the 50 yard line (in the middle) and hope it goes well! So, keep kids safe by keeping them outside the fence.

You are responsible for your dog and their actions

You can ONLY be responsible for you own dog. It's not a crime for dogs to not like other dogs, to not be neutered or to not enjoy the park. It's your job to figure out what kind of dog you have and don't expect the play in the park to fix it. If your dog is a constant problem – get help – if your dog is great but only has trouble at the park on Thursday when that “other dog” is here...don't go on Thursday. It's hard enough for every person to like everyone they meet and the same expectation should not be put on your dog.

Socializing (in the behavior world) is defined as seeing and experiencing LIFE – not just dogs. The park is not a training facility and should not be used to help an under socialized dog overcome fear or “deal” with its own attitude! (If your child is afraid of clowns you don't throw it in a room full of clowns and say DEAL with it! It's not fair, and someone WILL get bit or suffer unrecoverable emotional trauma!

Dogs must have current licenses and vaccination tags

Rabies is a very real threat and vaccinating for it every 1 – 3 years is the law and the right thing to do – to keep you and your kids safe.

It absolutely can be safer to take your dog's collar off during play but don't come without it – take it off when you get there so all can see that your dog is clearly licensed and vaccinated!

Dogs must be spayed or neutered

Again you can only be responsible for your own dog but rest assured that if your dog IS not neutered (Male or Female) it will be perceived differently by the dogs in the park and the stress level of all the dogs will increase. Intact males are simply more competitive and if there is even a hint of a female coming into season there will be trouble. Females must be more defensive coming in and out of a heat cycle and they are more likely to tell the boys “get lost.” And, that could mean a bite!

Don't set your dog up to fail - dogs are dogs first and they are only as good as the training you've provided!

Pinch / Prong, Choke and decorative spiked collars must be removed

These collars make it easy for nails, feet and teeth to get caught. Dogs do most of their wrestling with open mouth grabs to the neck area and a tooth can easily lodge in the link of these collars.

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