

Dog Park Etiquette and How to Report Incidents



Ground rules

Not every dog will be suited to a dog park. There is no screening process, thus the onus is on dog owners make an accurate judgement as to whether their dog will be at ease and not create safety issues for others, in this environment.

Ensure your dog is vaccinated, has up to date preventative care (such as worming and flea control) and are in good health before visiting a dog park. This is to avoid transferring disease or infection via play, sharing toys or communal water bowls.

Ensure female dogs are not on heat (ready to breed).

Ensure your dog has a collar and tag and that it is leashed to and from the off-leash park

Do's

- ✓ Only bring your dog into the park if you are confident your dog can interact with other dogs without becoming fearful or aggressive.
- ✓ Ensure your dog has good recall – that it will come to you when called every time.
- ✓ Respect others' wishes and don't allow rough play and keep your dogs separated when asked.
- ✓ Understand dogs body language and know the warning signs if yours or another dog has become anxious and reactive. Signs of an anxiety or discomfort can include, lip-licking, yawning, pinned back ears, walking low to the ground, a tense body position and a low or tucked tail.
- ✓ Leave the park if your dog is showing signs of aggression. They include growling, snapping, snarling, baring teeth or lunging. It's critical to deescalate these situations as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Supervise your dog at all times to prevent any unruly behaviour towards other dogs or people.
- ✓ Clean up after your dog and always carry a waste bag – bins are provided.
- ✓ Consider desexing your dog to decrease the likelihood of antisocial behaviour at the park.
- ✓ Teach your dog manners such as sit when greeting humans to avoid jumping up behaviour.

Don'ts

- ✗ Bring toys, food or treats into the park as this may cause fighting over resources
- ✗ Bring your dog if it is unwell or is over excited, not sufficiently socialised or has aggression/ behavioural issues.
- ✗ Bring puppies under 12 weeks (preferably 16 weeks) of age into the park
- ✗ Get distracted by mobile phones or talking to other park users

Reporting incidents

Council investigates all dog attacks that occur within our LGA. To report a dog attack or other incident please call Council ASAP on **9806 5050** at any time. Council officers can respond 24/7 if required.

On the spot fines exceed \$1320 with the maximum fine in court being \$11,000.