

Before you go to the dog park.....

Be realistic about your dog's suitability for dog park play. Dogs who are aggressive, fearful, or reactive are not appropriate for a dog park. This is not the place to work on fixing your dog's behavioral problems.

Your dog should be responsive to basic cues, such as "come", "sit", and "leave it", so you can get control of him if necessary.

Choose a non-busy time for the first few visits. Week nights and weekends tend to be the busiest.

Before entering the park, familiarize yourself with the posted rules. Observe how other dogs are interacting; if you feel at all uncomfortable, leave.

The first visit to the park can be stressful for both you and your dog, so keep it short and fun! Gradually work towards longer visits.

The Dog Park is NOT Recommended as a Place for Small Children

The dog park is for dogs. It is not a place to bring children to "get over" their fear of dogs, and it is not a petting zoo. Not all dogs are child friendly! Children are easily run over and knocked down by running dogs. Some herding breeds may nip at kids in an attempt to round them up. By running, flailing their arms or screaming, children unintentionally behave in ways that may disturb, annoy, or arouse a dog. Direct eye contact is confrontational and a challenge; a child may provoke a dog by intently staring at it. Remember, ALL dogs have the potential to bite!

Note to parents of infants: some dogs may jump up to investigate babies in front or back packs. While most are merely curious, some have strong prey instincts and may mistake the baby for a small injured animal.



South Euclid Municipal Complex
1349 South Green Road
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EMERGENCIES
Police (non-emergency)
Animal Warden

911
381-1234
381-0402

FRIENDS OF THE IDEAL DOG PARK OFF-LEASH



Dog Park Rules of Conduct and Etiquette

Promoting responsible dog ownership and healthy canine behavior

Canine Safety

Prevent Fights: learn to recognize the 4 "P" warning signs

Posture: A dog's body language communicates fear, hostility, or submission.

Packing: More than 4 or 5 dogs together can lead to trouble.

Possession: A ball, a treat, or even you; most dogs will protect what is theirs.

Provoking: If your dog is continuously annoying another dog, or provoking attention, it's time to leave the park.

Ways to Prevent Fights

Pay attention to your dog at all times.

Stay close to your dog to control or protect him.

Keep a collar on your dog so you can grab and secure him.

Leave the park. All dogs have bad days. Go for a leashed walk in Euclid Creek Reservation instead.

In the Event of a Fight

NEVER reach your hands into the mix. You may get bitten, even by your own dog.

Distract or divert attention with a blast of water or a loud whistle, then gain control of your dog and move him to a neutral area.

If your dog is not involved, keep him out of the fight.

KEEP CALM. Yelling only adds to the frenzy.

When warranted, exchange contact information with the other dog's owner.

Minor scuffles occur frequently. If the fight is serious and involves a bite to a person, **call 911**.

Legal Responsibility: Owners are solely liable for the injuries or damage caused by their dogs.

Entering the Park

DO NOT open the outside gate if the inside gate is open. Be patient and don't crowd the gate; one dog should enter at a time. Close the outside gate behind you.



Remove your dog's leash once inside the holding area, enter the park, close the inside gate behind you, and move your dog away from the entrance.

Do not enter the park with your dog on leash as this may put him at a disadvantage and could result in a scuffle.

Inside the Park

PAY ATTENTION TO AND REMAIN IN CONTROL OF YOUR DOG AT ALL TIMES.

Clean up your dog's waste. Bring a bag, a spare, and one to share.

Carry your leash with you. You may need to gain control over your dog in the event of an altercation.

Your dog must wear a collar with a rabies tag attached when inside the dog park. NO choke, spike, or prong collars, please!

No treats or human food allowed.

Leaving the Park

Do not open the inside gate if the outside gate is open. Leash up your dog inside the park, just before exiting. Enter the holding pen, close the inside gate behind you, then exit through the outside gate, closing it behind you.

Your dog must remain leashed while outside the dog park. (Cod. Ord. 505.19)

Expectations of Dog Owners

Obey all posted park rules, even if you disagree with them.

Supervise your dog's play. This is not the time to be chatting it up on your cell phone or have your head buried in a novel.

If a human or his dog is behaving inappropriately, assume they don't know any better and do your best to politely educate them. As a responsible dog park user, you have an obligation to help maintain the safety of the park. If you are uncomfortable doing so, seek out the help of another park user for support.

If someone complains about your dog's behavior, be prepared to consider his perspective. Apologize if your dog has been inappropriate, and be willing to leave the park if your dog is being too rough.

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PARK!

Understanding Canine Behavior

Be aware that dogs have different play styles. Some owners may be concerned by another dog's rambunctious style. Always respect another dog owner's wishes if they are not comfortable with how your dog interacts with theirs. Simply move to another area, or leash up and leave if your dog is acting aggressive.

Move around! Walking diffuses defensive behavior and keeps the off leash area a neutral territory. Sometimes when owners are stationary, dogs become protective of their space, increasing the likelihood of a scuffle.

Educate yourself about canine behavior through books, magazines, and websites; or attend one of the behavioral workshops that FIDO offers.