

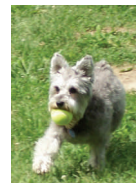


Heritage Lake Dog Park

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When to visit the park:

- Many dogs will be experiencing the off-leash environment for the first time.
- First time users should consider coming at off-peak times for their initial visit.
(Peak times are usually weekdays after work-dusk and all day Saturday & Sunday)
- If you are not sure how your dog will react, come when it's not crowded.
- It may take your dog time to feel comfortable.
- Don't hesitate to ask others at the park for help and advise



Entering the park:

- Keep your dog leashed at all times while outside the fenced dog park area.
- Remove your dog's leash as soon as you enter the park. Mixing on-leash & off can cause stress in the leashed dog.
- Do not enter the holding area if there is already someone in there.
- **Quickly move away from the entrance area as you enter.**
 - This helps disperse the group of dogs that will be the come over to welcome your dog to the park.
 - Move forward, away from the fence so that your dog will not feel cornered or threatened.
 - This will lessen the stress caused when several off-leash dogs come running over to greet the new arrival.
- Owners/handlers in the park should secure their dogs so that your dog can come into the park without a struggle.

Appropriate Human Behavior:

- Obey all posted park rules, even if you disagree with them.
- **SCOOP THE POOP!** Always clean up after your dog.
 - If you see a dog go and their owner doesn't, politely tell them.
- Always keep your eye on your dog(s) and supervise play at all times.
- **Dogs showing any signs of aggression must be leashed & immediately removed from the park.**
- Children (6 years or older) need to be closely supervised at all times. This is a playground for dogs, not children!
 - Teach them proper dog behavior; they shouldn't be allowed to run around or approach dogs they don't know.
- Don't bring puppies that aren't fully immunized into the park, they are at a higher risk for contracting diseases.
- Fill any holes your dog may dig or make appropriate repairs to disturbed areas.
- Use caution when using toys. Some dogs may become possessive.
- Choke, prong, or spiked collars can result in injury to it's wearer/other dogs, and should be removed before entering.
- Never bring a female dog that is in heat. Although there are no rules that forbid unfixed male dogs, it is frowned upon by most users.
- Be aware that dogs have different play styles, temperaments & physical abilities.
 - Always respect the wishes of the handler and honor other patrons' requests regarding their dogs
- If someone complains about your dog's behavior, be prepared to consider his perspective before defending your dog.
 - Apologize if your dog has been inappropriate, & be willing to leave the park if your dog is being too rough.
- If your dog inflicts injury on another, you must give your name & phone # to the other owner before leaving.
 - Owners are legally & financially responsible for their dog(s) behavior.



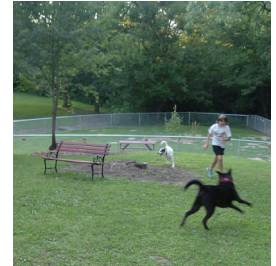


Appropriate Dog Behavior:

- Dog park dogs should be friendly & outgoing, without being overbearing, obnoxious, or bullying.
- Your dog should be reasonably confident & social. Those who are fearful/aggressive are not appropriate for dog parks.
- Your dog should be responsive to basic cues—"come, sit, leave it, off", so you can get control of him/her if necessary.
- Barking should be kept to a reasonable level. Occasional barks of joy are acceptable, non-stop barking is not.
- Only healthy dogs should visit dog parks & puppies that are fully immunized.

Education yourself on canine behavior/communication:

- If you've never been to a dog park, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with canine play before visiting with your dog.
- Take some time and observe the different canine play behavior.
 - Some dogs like to herd other dogs, and may bark & nip at them.
 - Some dogs are daintier with bowing & chasing but not much physical contact.
 - There are dogs that like a rough & tumble with growling, grabbing, wrestling & tackling.
- The most important thing to know is what behavior is normal for your dog.
- Understand canine communication. Don't overreact to "normal" dog park behavior.
- Dogs have various ways by which they communicate their dominance to other dogs.
 - This may include a stiff-legged posture with the head held up & back; raising the hackles on the back; raising the tail; mounting; or laying head across another dog's shoulders or back
- How do you know if your dog is playing too rough or is bothering another dog?
 - Watch how the other dog is reacting to your dog. It's important to be sensitive to the other dog and if they are not playing at the same level they are both comfortable with, you need to intervene.
- If your dog seems to be pestering or annoying another dog, divert his/her attention immediately.



Prevent an Accident Before It Happens:

The best way to prevent a fight is not to allow it to happen in the 1st place. Know your dog, understand canine communication, monitor situations, & be prepared to intervene *before* a fight occurs.

Do not bring dogs with known aggressive tendencies to the park. You are risking harm & creating a potential liability for yourself. It is not fair to other well behaved park goers.

If a dog fight occurs, owners are responsible for immediately breaking it up. If one owner gets control of their dog but the other doesn't, this creates a dangerous situation for the 1st dog/owner.

The safest way to break up a fight is to pull the dogs apart from behind. Grab either the tail or the hind legs. Do not grab the collar or put your hands anywhere near the dogs head. Both owners should grab their dogs and pull them away from each other at the same time. The aggressor must be leashed & removed from the park immediately. The sight of a fight breaking out sometimes incites other dogs to get involved, so others should hold their dogs.

Special steps must be taken if a dog is behaving defensively or running to its owner for protection. Be careful not to pick the dog up unless it is the only recourse and the dog truly is in danger. A panicked pet picked up by its owner may bite accidentally.



Obedience training is not just a virtue, it is a must for any dog using the dog park. Rather than tossing your dog into an unfamiliar group to 'work it out,' enroll in a training class to get help if you are concerned about its social behavior.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS

Bring a cellular phone. Just in case an accident happens or if you decide to stay longer & need to phone home.

Bring towels for cleanup & to cover seats; dogs can get very dirty!

Bring a camera; you'll be sorry if you don't when you see all the cute things your dog does.

Wear sturdy, flat shoes to help you keep your balance. Bring a spare pair for the drive home for those times when your shoes get muddy or wet.

Don't wear white clothes!

Expect to share toys or more likely lose them.

Don't bring a freshly groomed dog because it won't come home that way. Dogs will be dogs!

Good communication & politeness with other park goers will make your visit an enjoyable one. essential.

THE DOG PARK BELONGS TO ALL OF US! PLEASE HELP US KEEP IT SAFE & CLEAN!