

### Rationale behind the rules.

We want your dog's park to be an enjoyable experience for dog and dog parent. To let you know why we think a specific rule is important, we have tried to answer some of your questions ahead of time. If you have any other questions we don't have answered here, please feel free to email us at [dogparkissue@mncppc.org](mailto:dogparkissue@mncppc.org).

#### USERS SHALL OBEY ALL LAWS.

Well, this applies everywhere, but it applies inside the dog park too. There are additional laws that apply to dogs, including State, local and municipal laws. You are responsible for knowing all of the laws that apply to you and your dog and conducting yourself accordingly. If your dog is being a bad dog-citizen, there may be legal repercussions for him/her too.

A User is defined any person that makes use of the dog park.

A Handler is a User that has one or more dogs in their custody or control. For example, a parent brings a child to the dog park with the family dog. The child is a User. The parent is both a User and a Handler.

#### USERS ASSUME ALL RISK OF HARM.

You understand that in using the dog park, both you and your dog are going to be in a community setting. Not all dogs like other dogs, and sometimes things can happen that might put you or your dog in harm's way. In using the dog park, you are acknowledging that risk, appreciating that risk and voluntarily confronting that risk. The Commission is not responsible for any harm that comes to you or your dog. See, Md. Code, Natural Resources §§5-1101, *et seq.*

#### HANDLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DOG AT ALL TIMES.

As your property, your dog is your responsibility. If he or she is doing normal doggie things like digging holes or relieving themselves, you are responsible. If your dog is being a bad dog-citizen, you are responsible.

#### ALL DOGS MUST BE CURRENT ON ALL VACCINATIONS AS REQUIRED BY STATE OR LOCAL LAW; LICENSED WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT; AND HAVE AFFIXED TO THEIR COLLAR AN IDENTIFICATION TAG AND CURRENT RABIES TAG.

We need to be able to identify who your dog is, make sure he/she is properly licensed through your local government, and current on his/her rabies vaccination and DAP vaccination. You are responsible for making sure your pet is up to date on all of their vaccines. If you are visiting from out of State, we expect that you will comply with Maryland law and any local law regarding vaccinations. We also strongly recommend that your dog have current Bordetella and Flu Shots.

#### HANDLERS MUST IMMEDIATELY REMOVE THEIR DOG IF IT IS BARKING EXCESSIVELY.

If your dog barks excessively, not only may it negatively impact other user's experiences at the park, but it may also disturb other people that live and work near the park. If you fail to remove your dog from the park, then you may be asked to leave the park; see rule 16.

HANDLERS SHALL APPROPRIATELY REMOVE THEIR DOG'S FECES. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria and parasites and can make you or your pet sick. Pet waste also contributes to the pollution of our waterways. When it rains, pet waste can flow into storm drains. The storm drains empty into our waterways and can impact our drinking water and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

USERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRING/REPLACING ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY THEM OR THEIR DOG.

This helps us keep the dog park nice for everyone.

AGGRESSIVE DOGS OR DOGS IN HEAT ARE PROHIBITED.

Aggressive dogs ruin the fun for everyone. If your dog isn't a good dog- citizen, a dog park isn't the place to socialize him/her. Also, if your dog is in heat, the likelihood of fights breaking out is too high. Please be a responsible pet owner and keep your dog at home

ALL COMMERCIAL USE OF ANY M-NCPPC DOG PARK IS PROHIBITED, UNLESS GIVEN PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL BY THE PARK'S DIRECTOR.

We are a public park meant for the use and enjoyment of the public. If you want to have an event, please feel free to contact the Park's Director for your specific dog park location and ask to fill out a permit. Unfortunately, when businesses use the dog park for their purposes, the average citizen can't enjoy the dog park like they should.

HANDLERS MUST HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO A LEASH.

You will need immediate access to a leash in the event that something goes wrong. It is a way to keep you and your animal safe.

UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED, DOG PARK HOURS ARE DAWN TO DUSK.

This is a general rule, and some parks may have different hours if they are set up differently (e.g., lighted, etc.). Please check for signs at your local dog park.

ALL FOOD, HUMAN OR DOG, AND GLASS CONTAINERS ARE PROHIBITED.

Human food is prohibited for safety and health reasons. Dog food, which includes, bones, treats, dog food, etc., is prohibited for safety reasons. Glass is likewise prohibited for health and safety reasons. Broken glass is hard to pick up in a dog park and could hurt you or your dog.

SMOKING OR VAPING IS PROHIBITED.

This is a Commission-wide rule.

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

Why 16 years old? Well, we need people with their dogs to be responsible and able to drive a car in case they need to take their pet somewhere. If you're under 16, someone 18 or over needs to be with you.

INCIVIL USERS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION OR BANNING.

If you are disturbing other dog park users from enjoying the dog park because of your or your dog's actions, then you may be asked to leave by a Commission employee. For example, but not limited to, whistles, yelling, violent, abusive, or aggressive language or behavior. If you

come back later, but continue to disturb other users, we may decide that you shouldn't be allowed back. Please refer to suspension and banning process at [www.mncppc.org/dogparks/suspensionandbanning](http://www.mncppc.org/dogparks/suspensionandbanning)