

DAVID BARTLETT PARK DOG WALKERS ASSOCIATION

THE “DO THIS, DON’T DO THAT” LIST

A few words on Park Etiquette

DO THIS . . .

- Keep your dog leashed until you are actually in the Park
 - ❖ It is dangerous for your pet, other dogs, and for people entering or exiting the area. Be responsible and keep your pet on leash until you are inside the park. Everybody wins.
- Keep your dog in sight at all times
 - ❖ An off leash designation does not mean you can abdicate your responsibilities as a dog owner
 - You can track your dogs’ interactions with other dogs and/or people
 - You can see when you need to pick up your pups’ smelly gifts
 - Your dog isn’t under your control if you can’t see it
- Leash your dog immediately if he/she begins to play too rough or in a bullying manner
 - ❖ Step away from the action temporarily until your dog settles into a more calm state, then reintroduce into the play. Repeat if necessary
 - ❖ Highly excitable behaviour can lead to fights if not addressed
- Discourage ‘mob’ behaviour
 - ❖ Over-excited dogs can overwhelm, swarm and sometimes harass another dogs
 - Make sure your dog isn’t participating
 - Encourage others to call their dogs away
- Obtain any ‘stolen’ toys from your dog
 - ❖ Stealing is a way to initiate play – chase, or tug; but it may be unwanted
 - ❖ Return the item immediately
 - Can also contain virus and bacteria that travels through saliva
 - Viral or bacterial hitchhiker can cost your pet his/her health
- Take any food / drink / toys and trash with you when you leave
 - ❖ Dogs see these as treats and toys and will chew or consume them, possibly resulting in a visit to the vet

DON’T DO THAT . . .

- Feed a dog unless their owner says it is okay
 - ❖ Get consent every single time
 - Some dogs take to begging as a result of your friendliness
 - Dogs on special diets or have allergies can be harmed
 - Some owners are only allow certain foods, or want to know what is in the treat or where it came from. This is the owners’ prerogative, not yours.
- Bring unhealthy or ill dogs to the Park
 - ❖ If your dog is contagious or has any form of communicable disease or infection, please leave him at home until he is in a better state and safe to play with our dogs
- Bring a dog with a history of aggression to the Park
 - ❖ This includes resource guarding of toys and treat and possessiveness over you
 - ❖ You could be responsible for any vet bills
 - ❖ This also applies to aggressive people
- Discipline another dog (slap, touch, scold)
 - ❖ You would not strike or discipline someone else’s child, and it is no different with a dog; let the owner handle any bad behaviour
 - ❖ If they do not address bad behaviour, remove yourself and your pet from the immediate area and move to another section of the park

Generally Speaking . . .

- ✓ Use common sense
 - ❖ Wear clothing appropriate to the environment
 - Dogs jump, they drool and foam; they play in water and roll in the dirt and other unmentionable things - and usually shake it off as close to as many people as they can – it is, after all, a dog park
 - ❖ Leave the expensive toys or family heirlooms at home
 - Bring toys you can afford to lose – the dollar store is a wonderful resource
 - Be prepared to occasionally share – there are playful thieves in the area

- ✓ Make sure your dog has all their vaccinations. This is especially important for puppies.
- ✓ Be considerate and courteous to all Dog Park users and neighbours.
 - ❖ This includes the parking lot and the homes that back on to the Park and neighbouring areas, such as Beryl Gaffney Park.
- ✓ Park appropriately in the parking lot.
 - ❖ It is not okay to park on the diagonal, or use more than one space. Do not block anyone in and obey all signs.