



## **WELCOME to Moore Humane Society's Pooch Park in the Pines**

We are happy you are interested in joining the Park and believe you will find the Pooch Park in the Pines (PPIP) to be a wonderful place for dogs and people to play and socialize.

**LOCATION** - The Park is located at 7920 Aviation Drive in Southern Pines/Carthage. It is just off Rt 22, directly across from the hangers at the Moore County Airport. It is open from dawn until dusk. There is a parking lot adjacent to the Park. Please do not park next to, or in front of the fire hydrant.

**HISTORY** - In the summer of 2009, the Park area was heavily wooded, undeveloped acreage owned by Moore Humane Society (MHS). MHS allowed us to use 3½ acres of its beautiful land to build the Pooch Park in the Pines. The members of the Park would be totally responsible for managing and maintaining the Park. The goal was to develop an area where dogs could run free, and play in a fenced environment with the comfort of knowing all dogs have current immunizations. A small group of volunteers led by Linda Hubbard raised money, obtained permits from Southern Pines, cleared the land and, built the Park. The Park opened on October 9, 2009.

**FEATURES** -The Park has two fenced and gated areas. One is for small dogs less than 26 lbs and one is for large dogs 26 lbs and over. Large dogs are not permitted in the small dog area unless it is vacant. If a small dog arrives the large dog owner must vacate the small dog park. **For more info, please refer to MHS PPIP Rules and Guidelines.** There are several poop stations (with bags and poop trash cans) in both the large and small dog areas. Poop bags, plastic grocery bags and newspaper bags are supplied/donated by members. Additional bags are kept in the bin in the double-gated entry area.

**Also on site:** Running water & hose, water bowls, Chuck-it balls and ball launchers, porta potty, and a garbage can outside of fenced area for non-poop waste.

**HOW TO JOIN** - The cost for a one-year membership for one dog is \$50. Two dogs \$70. Three dogs \$90.

Membership is limited to three dogs per family.

Membership packets can be found on line at [www.ppipdogpark.com](http://www.ppipdogpark.com) or in the Membership Kit box located on the Park's information board. Each New Member packet includes:

- This MHS Pooch Park Welcome letter
- MHS Pooch Park Application for signature
- MHS Pooch Park Acknowledgement and Release of Liability for signature
- MHS Pooch Park Rules and Guidelines

**ORIENTATION** - Orientations are held the first Saturday of each month (rain or shine). January and February are at 10:00 a.m. March through December is at 9:00 a.m. Please come 15 minutes early for check-in. **You must attend an orientation prior to using the Park.** Be sure to read all documents in the Membership Packet, and sign the Application and Release of Liability form where indicated. The Welcome letter and the Rules and Guidelines are yours to keep. You will receive additional information at orientation.

Please **DO NOT** bring your dog(s) to the Orientation. If you do bring your dog we ask that you leave them in the car, which is not advisable during the summer months.

You can register for orientation at: [www.ppipdogpark.com](http://www.ppipdogpark.com) or send an email to: [shotsppipdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:shotsppipdogpark@gmail.com)

**ORIENTATION CHECKLIST** - Be sure to bring the entire member packet with all forms filled out and signed.

The following forms will be turned in at orientation, so make any copies of documents you wish to keep for your records:

- Bring a copy (a copy to leave) of vet records verifying shot history (must include Rabies, Bordetella, DHLPP = (D)distemper, (H)hepatitis, (L)leptospirosis, (P)parainfluenza, (P)parvovirus) and annual fecal exam.
- Application form filled out completely and signed indicating you have read and understand the Rules and Guidelines of the Park. (Please print clearly, and make sure your email address is clearly legible)
- Signed Acknowledgement & Release of Liability form
- A check payable to Pooch Park in the Pines or PPIP. (\$50 for one dog, \$70 for two dogs, and \$90 for three dogs). Exact cash is also accepted.

**SHOTS** - You will be notified of membership renewal and shot updates prior to the due dates. You can leave updated shot document(s) in the SHOT BOX located on the information board at the Park, via mail to Moore Humane Society P.O. Box 203 Southern Pines 28388 or email an electronic copy to [shotsppipdogark@gmail.com](mailto:shotsppipdogark@gmail.com). Shot renewal information NOT received within 30 days of the shot expiration date will result in deactivation of your membership **so please ensure we have an accurate email address for you.**

**POOCH PARK NEWS** - We will keep you posted on happenings at the Park by e-mail, by posted notices on the information board, and in newsletters.

**EMERGENCIES** - If a dog bites another dog, it is best to bring the bitten dog to the vet. Human bite wounds should ALWAYS go to the emergency room or family physician for treatment and must be reported to Moore County Sheriff's Office, Animal Services at 910-947-2858.

Note: The Fire Station at the airport has the combination to get through the two large front gates should an emergency vehicle need to enter either side of the Park.

**VOLUNTEERS** - The Park is self-sustained by its members, and we always need volunteers to help maintain it, as well as with projects throughout the year. We ask each member to contribute a few hours each year to the Park. Please volunteer when a notice is posted or ask how you can help.

**Important phones numbers**

- Your veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_
- Moore Humane Society: 910-947-2631**
- Small Animal Emergency Services: 910-246-0405**
- Moore County Sheriff's Office, Animal Services: 910-947-2858**

We look forward to meeting you and your dog(s) at orientation.  
Visit our website for complete information: [www.ppipdogpark.com](http://www.ppipdogpark.com)  
For information not found on the website, contact the PPIP at [shotsppipdogark@gmail.com](mailto:shotsppipdogark@gmail.com)







## RULES AND GUIDELINES for MHS Pooch Park in the Pines (PPIP)

Please keep this document, and periodically review the information.

### RULES:

#### General

- All dogs must be registered Pooch Park members. Family members & their friends who have not attended an orientation are not permitted in the Park unless accompanied by a member. Dog sitters for hire are not permitted in the Park. Foster dogs or visiting family dogs are not permitted in the Park unless they are registered with PPIP.
- The Park is a member managed park meaning there are no Pooch Park police. If there is an issue which owners cannot resolve between themselves, they should contact PPIP at [shotsppipdogpark.com](mailto:shotsppipdogpark.com) describing their concern.
- The Pooch Park is open dawn to dusk.
- 3 dogs maximum, per member. Multiple dogs should be monitored by multiple family members.

#### Enter/Exit

- A code is required to enter the Park. NEVER, under any circumstances, give the code to anyone. You have no way of knowing if their membership is current, or if their shot records are up to date. If someone has forgotten the code, they need to email [shotsppipdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:shotsppipdogpark@gmail.com).
- Do not hold the gate open for another dog family.
- Only 1 dog family at a time inside the double gated entry area. Wait for others to exit before entering or exiting this area.
- Leash your dog(s) at your car and until safely inside the double gated area. Remove leash prior to entering the fenced parks. Keep your leash with you at all times while in the Park. When exiting, leash your dog while in the double gated area and then exit.
- Ensure each gate closes behind you at all times.
- Dogs already in the Park should be kept away from the gates as other dogs enter & exit. This is very important when new dogs enter.
- Dogs must wear a flat buckle collar. No prong, spike, choke, or pinch collars.

#### Small/Large Dog Sides of Park

The Park has two fenced and gated areas:

- Small side for dogs less than 26 lbs
- Large side for dogs 26 lbs and over  
Typically large dogs are not permitted in the small dog area. However, large dogs will be allowed in the small dog side ONLY if there are no small dogs on that side. If an owner brings a small dog and wants to enter the small dog side, the large dog owner must leave the small side with their dog(s) promptly.

#### Requirements

- Dogs must be 4 months or older.
- Current Rabies, Bordetella, DHLPP: (D)distemper, (H)hepatitis, (L)leptospirosis, (P)parainfluenza, (P)parvovirus) vaccines. In addition, a fecal test within the past 12 months.
- Healthy dogs only - **If you know your dog is ill do NOT bring them to the Park until a vet indicates they are not contagious.**
- Spaying and neutering is strongly recommended.
- Female dogs in heat are NOT allowed in the Park.
- Dogs with a history of fighting/biting are prohibited.

## Owner Responsibilities

- Humans must wear shoes.
- Owners are responsible for their dog(s) and must supervise their dog(s) at all times.
- OWNERS MUST SCOOP THEIR DOG'S POOP. If you are physically unable to do so, make arrangements with another member to have them pick up after your dog.
- If your dog digs, fill the holes.
- Owners are responsible for any injury or damage caused by their dog(s).
- If inappropriate behavior is observed, take immediate action. Based on the guidelines above.
- No food (dog or human), no smoking, no alcohol, no drugs, no weapons.
- No bikes, strollers, wagons, roller blades, coolers, or children's toys.
- No dog toys. Chuck-it balls and ball launchers can be found inside the Park. Please do not remove these items from the Park.
- As a member managed park, it is each owner's responsibility to resolve any issue between them.

## Children

- Children between 12 and 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 12 are not allowed inside the Park.
- Children must be strictly supervised. Realize children can easily be run over by dogs.
- Children are to behave in an adult-like manner (quiet voices, no chasing).
- Children can pet other dogs only with owner's permission.

## GUIDELINES:

These guidelines are designed to help **PPIP** members become familiar with dog-to-dog interactions and how they can influence their dog's behavior while at the Park. It is not intended to be all inclusive. Do your own research on line or at your library.

- Have realistic expectations about your **dog's suitability for going to a dog park**. If they are not polite or friendly with others, get help to change their behavior before you bring them to the Park. Dog parks are not places to rehabilitate fearful or aggressive dogs or those who just don't know how to play well with others.
- **Before you take your dog into the Park**, spend a few minutes watching the other dogs and how they are playing and interacting with others. If the dogs seem to be too rough in their play or are intimidating other dogs, come back at another time.
- If your dog has **never been around other dogs**, don't come to the Park until your dog has had a chance to be around other dogs in other situations. Inexperienced dogs and young puppies can be overwhelmed, terrified or traumatized by suddenly finding themselves surrounded by a lot of dogs.
- **Introduce your dogs to other dogs gradually**. Allow your dog to greet other dogs while he's still in the separate entry area, or let your dogs sniff around the fenced boundary. Do not bring your dog into the Park for the first few visits when the Park is crowded. More information about introducing your dog to the Park will be distributed at the new member orientation.
- Be careful **entering the Park gate**. Other dogs tend to crowd around to greet arriving dogs. If needed, call out to owners to move their dogs away from the gate.
- **Supervise your dog**. This is not the time for you to be distracted talking with others or burying yourself in a book or your phone. You must monitor your dog's activities to be sure he isn't behaving badly and other dogs are not behaving badly toward him. Stay close enough to control or protect your dog.
- **Be watchful of small or elderly dogs** around big dogs. Do not let big dogs frighten or threaten smaller dogs.
- If **your dog seems to be fearful or is being "bullied"** by other dogs, don't let them stay, thinking they will "get over it". Signs of stress are lowering the head, putting ears back, yawning, raising hackles and/or cowering, hiding or trying to leave. Remove your dog from the situation, and try again when the Park is less crowded.

- **If your dog is being a bully**, threatening, aggressive, or just seems to be overly excited, remove him from the Park. Try taking your dog for a walk, or going into a different part of the Park to see if they will settle down. If you are unable to get your dog to settle down you should leave the Park.
- Be knowledgeable about **dog body postures**, communication signals, and social behavior. When a new dog enters a dog park, there may be increased activity, noise and sniffing. Eventually there will be wrestling, mounting, posturing, possession claiming, and vocalizing which are common in order to establish ranking order for the newcomer. Some dogs enter as lowly underdogs and others as leaders of the pack. Dogs that **roll on their back** are signaling they are withdrawing from active, solicitous interactions. If their **limbs and tails are limp** and their neck is fully exposed, they may invite/tolerate more passive interaction (e.g. sniffing, petting). If they **tuck their tail** and put their paws over their chest and groin, they do not wish to interact.
- **Inappropriate Behavior** - Owners **MUST** intervene if these behaviors are observed:
  - More than one dog picking on another - pack behavior
  - Bullying - e.g. Charging, Snapping, Body Slamming, Snarling, Not letting other dog get up or get away
  - Chasing without letting the other dog rest
  - Cornering or crowding another dog - especially by a pack
  - Mounting/humping can be dangerous and should not be tolerated
- During **fun play** it is normal for dogs to bark, growl, wrestle, chase, mouth, paw, bow and butt swing. **Rough play** is only allowed if consensual and both dogs are having fun. If a dog is playing too rough or behaving in an aggressive manner, you must step in and control your dog. You may need to move to another area of the Park or leash your dog and leave the Park. Rough play and chasing are not acceptable if any of the dogs are not enjoying it.
- If you find yourself needing to **Break Up a Dog Fight**:
  - NEVER rush in & try to grab dogs to pull them apart.
  - Distract & divert. Shake the "CAN IT" yellow cans provided at the Park. A loud whistle or blast of water might work. Or throw a coat or hat to startle the dogs.
  - Do not yell or get upset. It will only add to the frenzy.
  - If you and your dog are not involved in the fight, leash your dog and move away.
  - If any dogs are hurt, owners need to exchange contact information.
  - Once a fight occurs, the adrenaline levels of the dogs involved may be raised for several hours.
  - To insure the fight will not happen again, owners should leash their dogs and leave the Park to avoid the potential of another fight.
  - Recognize that by taking your dog to a dog park, you are **accepting a degree of risk** that your dog may be injured or may injure another dog. Remember, you are responsible for damage or injury caused by your dog.
  - **If a person is bitten, they are required by law to report the bite to the Moore County Sheriff's Office, Animal Services at 910-947-2858.**

**Heat stroke/exhaustion** - Dogs are prone to overheating during the hot months because they do not sweat.

- **Symptoms** are panting, weakness or collapse, seizures, vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- **Cool the dog down** immediately by soaking with water or use a piece of clothing soaked in water to wet the dog down.
- **Transport** the dog to your veterinarian or to the Small Animal Emergency Services in Vass immediately: 910-246-0405.
- **Prevention:** Heat Stroke/Exhaustion can be prevented by wetting your dog down periodically and offering water frequently.