

Doylestown Dog Park

Time for some Tail Waggin' Fun



Doylestown Dog Park Application and Information Packet

Doylestown Township
425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

www.doylestownrec.org

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*My goal in life is to be as good of a person as my dog
already thinks I am.*

General Information

Location:

The Doylestown Dog Park is located at Turk Park III (1260 Almshouse Road) between Route 611 and Turk Roads.

Mission:

To create a fenced-in, off-leash dog, park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or local wildlife. To develop a beautiful and well-maintained space open to dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and regulations. To view the park as a community project in partnership with the County of Bucks, Township of Doylestown, Borough of Doylestown and other public and private partners, designed to satisfy the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners alike. To promote education, training and recreational activities that facilitate responsible dog ownership and better-behaved dogs through the use of volunteers and professional dog trainers

Distinctive Features:

- 3 Acre off-leash park including a small dog area, large dog area and rotation/event area
- Easy access and free parking
- Shelter to provide shade and coverage in inclement weather
- Amenities including walking paths, fountains for both dogs and people, benches, doggie bags and double gated transition area
- Key fob access for safety and security
- Registered member access only

Health and Safety Requirements

VETERINARY RECORDS: A current copy of veterinary vaccination records is required at time of registration. Thereafter, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure an up-to-date copy of all required shot records is forwarded annually. You may bring a copy of your pet's veterinary records, have them faxed to 215-348-8729, or have them emailed to info@doylestownpa.org.

- **DHPP:** DHPP is a yearly vaccine administered to immunize your dog against (D) distemper, (H) hepatitis, (P) parainfluenza and (P) parvovirus.
- **Rabies:** PA Code (16.41. Rabies Vaccination Required) states, "A person living in this Commonwealth owning or keeping a dog or cat over 3 months of age shall have the dog or cat vaccinated against rabies under the act and this chapter."
- **Canine Bordetella:** Bordetella, also known as kennel cough, is a highly contagious upper respiratory condition that affects a high amount of dogs. Canine Bordetella is spread from dog to dog. It is often passed when there is a high amount of dogs in one contained area, such as with boarding kennels, shelters, obedience classes, dog parks and dog day care facilities. Infected dogs are not permitted in the dog park.

SEX: Male dogs are required to be neutered. Female dogs are not permitted in the park while in heat.

HEALTH: All dogs must be in good health. Owners will certify that their dog(s) is(are) in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition which could potentially jeopardize other dogs/persons.

PA Dog License: In accordance with Pennsylvania State law all dogs are required to have a current license.

How do I Join the Doylestown Dog Park?

Step 1 - Attend a mandatory orientation session.

The success of the Doylestown Dog Park is due in part to the unique mandatory education session that is required for all park users. Many dog parks require only vaccinations to participate, while the Doylestown Dog Park requires a dog license, vaccinations and attendance at an education session. We believe that our requirements result in a better educated participant who understands their responsibility as a dog park user. Qualified trainers will review the park rules and operating hours, responsibilities of the users, behaviors you may observe in your and/or other dogs while at the dog park and the registration process. A multimedia presentation will show new members what to expect from dogs and people at the parks. At the conclusion of the session, you will be given an attendance certificate (required for registration) and application packet.

All household members that will use the park are required to attend the orientation. You *will not* be registering or providing payment for dog membership at the orientation session.

The orientation schedule (dates, times, locations) can be found at www.doylestowndogpark.com and www.doylestownrec.com.

Step 2 - Obtain a current dog license and vaccinations.

Current licenses and up-to-date vaccination records are required for each dog (see page 3). You will need to submit written proof (copies) of these items when you register for a dog park membership.

It is the sole responsibility of the owner to ensure that license and veterinary records are kept current for all registered dogs. Failure to comply will result in deactivation of your key fob (without refund) until current information is received.

Step 3 - Register at the Doylestown Township Administrative Office.

The Doylestown Township Administrative Office is located at 425 Wells Road, Doylestown. Office hours are 7:30am to 5:30pm on Monday and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday. You will need to bring the orientation attendance certificate you received at the education session, proof of dog license and proof of vaccinations. Payment may be made by check, cash or credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover). You will be issued a key fob that will allow you and your dog access to the park. You may use the park immediately upon receiving your key fob (no more than two dogs per visit).

Annual Membership Fees (valid for one year from date of issue)

Resident Members (Doylestown Township and Doylestown Borough)

Membership (up to two Dogs, includes a one-time issued access key fob)	\$50.00
Additional dog(s)	\$15.00 each

Non-Residents (all others)

Membership (up to two Dogs, includes a one-time issued access key fob)	\$60.00
Additional dog(s)	\$20.00 each

Additional Key Fob at time of registration (maximum of one) \$15.00 each

Replacement of Lost Key Fob \$25.00 each

Step 4 - Have a great experience at the Doylestown Dog Park!

For additional questions, contact the Doylestown Township Administrative Office at 215-348-9915.

Owner Orientation

Several local dog trainers have generously donated their time and expertise to conduct our orientations, for which we graciously thank them! At the orientation, the trainer will briefly discuss good and bad play behavior, canine body language, how to tell when a dog is over-stimulated or needs to leave the park, how to identify true aggression and how to prevent and break up an altercation.

To refresh your memory on the tips discussed by the trainer at your orientation, download the orientation handouts and other helpful resources at www.doylestowndogpark.com.

Susie Danzis, PA Certified Dog Trainer

Training Tails
215-348-3118
susie@trainingtails.net
www.trainingtails.net

Linda Lelak, CPDT-KA

Pawsitive Paws Dog Training
215-968-5393
pawsitivepaws@verizon.net
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Melinda Berger, CPDT-KA, CDBC

Dream Dogs, LLC
215-906-9229
dreamdogslc@verizon.net
www.dreamdogsonline.com

Deb Lipartito

215-527-6061
deb@deblipartito.com
www.DogFriendlyTrainer.com

Leigh Siegfried, CPDT-KA

Opportunity Barks Behavior & Training
888-672-2757
info@opbarks.com

Victoria Schade

Life On The Leash
42 East State Street
267-247-5567
www.lifeontheleash.com

Diane Herstine, CPDT-KA

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267-347-4674 Ext: 109
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Jenna Robbins

Holiday House Pet Resort
215-345-6960
info@holidayhousepetresort.com
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Debb Kirschner

K9 Jym
215-822-8840
DebbTime@aol.com
www.k9jym.com

***Dogs don't break rules because they want to;
they do it because we let them. Proper training is
essential to create a safe, structured environment in
which our happy, healthy dogs can flourish.***



Dog Park Rules & Regulations

To ensure safety and enjoyment for all, park users must strictly observe the following rules and regulations. Those found in violation will lose dog park privileges without refund, and may be subject to fines.

1. Off-Leash Dog Area hours: Open dawn to dusk.
2. The dog park is for dogs, their handlers, and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed. All users must be registered "members" with Doylestown Township Parks and Recreation to receive an access key fob to utilize the dog park. Key fobs are non-transferable and can only be used by registered individuals and their registered dog(s).
3. Use of the dog park is at your own risk. Each owner is solely responsible for their and their dog's actions and assumes all liability for damages suffered by any person or dog injured by the member's dog(s) while utilizing the dog park.
4. No smoking, alcohol, food, or glass containers are permitted in the dog park.
5. Members are required to leave all food, treats and special toys at home. These may cause territorial or aggressive behaviors, posing a safety risk to other dogs and handlers.
6. For the protection of children and dogs, children under the age of 14 are not allowed inside the dog park. Children ages 14-17 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.
7. Dogs are to remain leashed outside of the dog park, as well as when entering and exiting the dog park. Members must keep the leash in their possession at all times while using the dog park.
8. The dog park is divided into separate fenced-in areas. Dogs weighing less than 30 lbs. must use the Small Dog area. Dogs weighing over 30 lbs. must use the Large Dog Area.
9. Dogs less than 6 months of age, unneutered male dogs and female dogs in season, aggressive, unruly, fearful and under socialized dogs are not permitted. Dogs having received a PA Dog Law Citation for aggressive behavior are not permitted or eligible for membership.
10. Members are required to clean up after their dog(s). All waste must be bagged and disposed of properly in the marked receptacles.
11. Members must accompany and monitor dogs closely. Dogs must be in view of and under voice command of their handlers at all times.
12. Members must leash their dog(s) and exit the dog park if their dog(s) is/are acting aggressively or fearfully towards people or other dogs.
13. No more than two dogs per member are permitted at one time.

Dog Park Rules & Regulations (cont.)

14. Members are responsible to ensure their dog(s) do not dig holes or cause damage to park plants or property.
15. Prong, pinch, choke or spike collars are not permitted in the Off-Leash Dog Area. They pose a safety risk to dogs and people.
16. All dogs entering the dog park must be healthy and must wear a collar displaying their current member tag, rabies tag and dog license as required by Pennsylvania law. Dogs with contagious health conditions are not permitted in the park.
17. The park may not be utilized for any private use or gain which includes, but is not limited to, instruction/training activities or events of any type without the written approval of the Doylestown Township Parks & Recreation Department.
18. There will be regular maintenance of the grass and landscaping by the Township. This includes but is not limited to mowing, grounds rehab and structural repair/replacement. During those times, the park will be closed; we will try to give advance notice when possible.
19. For all emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 215-348-4201 and state your name, location and reason for the call. Any serious dog bite should be reported promptly to the police.
20. All or any rules are subject to change without notice as deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of both humans and dogs.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in revocation of your membership and/or fines.

These rules have been put in place for the safety of both dog and owner. Anyone in violation will immediately have their membership suspended or revoked without refund.



Setting Up for Success at the Dog Park

On Your First Visit

Prepare for your dog's first visit by exploring the dog park without your dog. Enter the off-leash area, walk around, and feel free to ask questions of anyone in the park. Then, when you bring your dog for the first time, you will be prepared to guide your dog appropriately and less likely to walk into surprises.

The first time your dog comes to the park, try to visit at a relatively quiet time of day so that your dog can experience this new place without being overwhelmed by potential playmates. Most parks experience peak usage early in the morning, after work hours on weekdays and at midday on weekends; regular users of the Doylestown Dog Park can tell you when it tends to be most busy or quiet.

When you arrive, stand outside the fence and watch the dogs inside the off-leash area for a few minutes before you enter it. Ask yourself the following questions before deciding to enter:

- Does your dog already know any of the dogs in the park?
- Are they playing in a manner that is comfortable for your dog?
- Does your dog look keen to enter or reluctant?

If your dog seems afraid or reluctant to enter, remember that it is better to leave and come back at another time rather than set your dog up for trouble on the first visit. If you decide to enter the off-leash area proceed through the double-gated entrance as described in the section *Entering and Exiting the Park (page 9)*.

- Be aware that dogs that are already in the larger fenced-in area will likely gather around the gate to "meet and greet" your dog.
- Allow your dog to remain in the enclosed area for a few minutes until the other dogs retreat from the entrance area.
- When you AND your dog feel comfortable, open the second gate and let your unleashed dog enter the play area (leashed dogs tend to become frightened or defensive if suddenly surrounded by other dogs).
- Close the second gate behind you and follow your dog into the play area.

On Every Visit

Before entering, assess how many dogs are already playing in the park, the intensity of the play, and whether their owners are paying attention. Does this look like an appropriate situation for your dog? If not, come back at another time. If you decide to go in, please turn off your cell phone so that it cannot distract your attention from your dog.

The entry and exit to both the "Large" and "Small" off-leash areas are double-gated. If someone is entering/exiting in front of you, wait until the area is clear and both gates are secure before entering. Do not enter or exit as a group.

Inside the park, keep moving. Dogs tend to play more when their owners are in motion; An owner standing or sitting in one place makes it more likely for a dog to guard the surrounding space. While your dog plays, stay engaged: call your dog periodically, praise and reward, and then say, "Go play!" to put what he is going to do on your queue. Have your dog take occasional breaks from play to make over-arousal less likely.

Many dogs pay acute attention to who is entering a dog park, and sometimes dogs will bunch up at the entryway as another is entering. If an entering dog is swarmed and feels threatened, a fight can erupt. The person inside the entryway should wait until the dogs disperse or the owners inside the off-leash area call their dogs away from the gate before allowing the dog(s) in.

If another dog owner is not following the posted rules, politely approach that person and ask for cooperation. It may be more comfortable if you ask another dog owner to accompany you. You are the only person who is responsible for your dog's safety and well-being, and all of us are responsible for the well-being of the park.

When you leave, leash your dog in the double-gated vestibule before returning to the lobby area. Afterward, think your experience over: What did your dog learn? What did you learn?

Entering and Exiting the Dog Park

The Doylestown Township Dog Park is divided into two (2) separate off-leash areas, providing maximum safety for your dog. The third section is designed as a rotation and/or events area. When entering and exiting designated areas close the gates securely behind you and your dog(s). Open or tied back gates defeat the purpose of the security provided. Anyone found leaving the gates open, tied back or unlatched will have their membership/key fob suspended (1st offense) or membership/key fob revoked (2nd offense) without refund.

Service gates are located on the outside of the park. These gates provide access for the Township's maintenance. They are not intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, please notify the Township immediately at (215) 348-9915 or call police at (215) 348-4201. Do not enter the off-leash areas through the service/emergency gates as these gates do not provide sufficient control necessary for safely entering or exiting the park. Additionally, dogs already in the off-leash area might escape as you enter the park through these unauthorized service gates.

Entering the Park

The outer entry gate is electronic and the use of the access key fob is required to enter. **The lobby/pavilion area is a communal area and dogs must be leashed at all times in this space.**

Entering the Off-Leash Area (designated entrance)

1. Before opening the outer gate, check to be sure that the inner gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are in the vestibule area.
2. Open the outer gate and enter the vestibule with the dog on-leash. Close the outer main gate and check that it is properly secured.
3. Remove the dog's leash.
Note: Having a dog on a leash when confronting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble. A leashed dog may feel vulnerable and fearful, as well as protective of their owner. Tugging on the leash puts a dog at a disadvantage with other dogs. The dog is restrained but placed in a chest-out, raised-up aggressive pose that can cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened.
4. Remain in the vestibule while you observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area. If the behavior is friendly, and the area is not congested, carefully open the inner gate and enter – move forward into the park, do not stand at the gate.
5. If your or other dogs behavior is unfriendly, put the leash back on your dog and remove them from the area through the exit gate.

Exiting the Off-Leash Area (designated exit)

1. Before you open the inner gate, please check to be sure that the outer gate is properly closed and that any other dogs are not trying to leave with you.
2. Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule. Close the inner gate properly and ensure that the latch is secure.
3. Place a leash securely on the dog, open the outer gate and exit from the vestibule into the main lobby.
4. Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.

Exiting the Park

- The lobby/pavilion area is a communal area and dogs must be leashed at all times in this space.
- Before opening the park exit gate, check to be sure there are no loose dogs that may escape while you exit.
- Be sure to check and make sure the gate is closed and secure after you exit the park.

Dog Park Etiquette

By Nicole Larocco, CPDT & Behavior Consultant - www.thatsagooddog.com

For many pet owners, dog parks are a god send! They are a way to exercise your athletic dog after you've been at work all day, socialize a young dog, and even meet new friends (for you and your dog!). But a dog park can also be dangerous when we are not watching our dogs closely enough for signs of stress, anxiety, or overstimulation. This information should serve as a guide on how you and your dog can have a positive experience at the dog park!

First, Some Basic Guidelines:

Not all dogs are dog park dogs! If your dog has a history of aggression towards any other dogs or humans, becomes stressed in a group of dogs, or guards things that are of high value to him (toys, sticks), he may not be the best candidate for dog park socialization.

Keep it positive! If your dog is unfamiliar with the dog park setting, make sure his first few times at the dog park are positive and fun! This may mean going at off-peak times (Monday-Friday between 10am and 3pm or after 7:30pm on any day). Once you are sure that your dog can successfully handle the rigors of a dog park, you may want to introduce him at peak times.

Be present at the dog park. When you are at the park, always have your eyes on your dog! Watching for signs of stress or bullying, giving your dog time outs if they are becoming overstimulated, and knowing when to go home for the day all come from watching every move your dog makes at the park. Sure, you can still socialize with all of your new dog people friends, but remember to keep one eye on your pooch at all times!

Mind your comings and goings! Entering and exiting the dog park can be hot buttons for many dogs. Leashed dogs, when surrounded by loose dogs can feel threatened and vulnerable and may lash out. Practice proper entrance and exit techniques by utilizing our double-gate policy.

Know when your dog has had enough. You will notice through your dog's behavior and body language when it's time to go! If you see any signs that your dog is tired or has had enough for one day, be proactive and give your dog a time out by taking him for a walk outside the park, or go home for the day and come back the next day.

Be proactive! Everyone knows that their dog is pretty much the most wonderful dog in the whole park. But even if your dog is not the instigator, if you think that your dog is in danger of having a bad experience at the park, be proactive about the situation. Always talk to people respectfully, and know when it is better to simply remove your dog from the situation before an accident happens.

What's What at the Dog Park

When at the dog park, it is important to understand basic canine body language. This simple chart will help you recognize what is ok and what might lead to trouble.

Aggression vs. Correction:

There are times when a dog will correct another dog for something he deems inappropriate. This is totally normal, nonaggressive, and is actually good for teaching young dogs important lessons about canine social structure and body language. Appropriate corrections generally escalate in severity and result in no harm being done to the correctee. If your dog is over-correcting, it may be time to give a time out.

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection or whale eye. (Hair on shoulders and butt stand up and you see the whites of eyes)
- Loud woofs or snarks directed at an individual
- Muzzle punching or lunging resulting in no harm being done to the correctee
- Normally done once and the argument is over

Dog Park Etiquette

When it's time to go!

An important part of being a member of the dog park is recognizing when it is time for your dog to end their dog park session for the day. If your dog is exhibiting any of the following behaviors, it may be time to leave the park and come back later:

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection (hair on shoulders and butt standing straight up)
- Repeated correcting of other dogs, sometimes over very benign instances
- Targeting, bullying, or stalking individual dogs
- Fearfulness which does not subside
- Prey drive

Breaking Up a Dog Fight:

Dog fights happen! It is important when in a dog park to keep your cool if a fight breaks out so as not to escalate the situation. Collect loose dogs who are not part of the fight to prevent mobbing.

- Start by making a loud noise such as clapping your hands or shouting "No!", or throwing water on the fighting dogs.
- Do not grab dogs by collars or necks/faces to avoid a redirected bite.
- One person should grab each dog from the hips, pinching the loose skin between their belly and legs, and pull out of the fight, wheelbarrow-style. (Remember: 1 person per dog)
- Remove fighting dogs from the park for the day.

Appropriate - You're Ok!

- Butt sniffing and loose tail and body language
- Wide, circular tail wagging
- Play bows
- Butt bumps
- Playful vocalization
- Brief, fair, and harmless disagreements or corrections

Calming Signals - Meant to Diffuse Tension, Recognize and React Appropriately.

- Averting eye contact
- Lip-licking, chewing
- Submissive urination
- Going belly up
- Tail between the legs

Inappropriate or Rude - Time for a Time Out or Maybe Time to Go!

- Hard stares and face-offs
- One dog chasing, pinning, targeting, or not letting up on another dog
- A group of dogs mobbing an individual dog



Properly trained, a man can be a dog's best friend.

Corey Ford

Avoiding Good Times Gone Wrong

Healthy Play

Dogs nip while they play, chase, slam each other with their shoulders and hips, lie on top of each other, mount each other, and “fence” with their teeth. It can look scary and confusing to human beings, but it is how dogs have fun.

The same behaviors, however, can be carried to the point of rudeness and bullying. The following questions can help dog owners sort good, healthy fun from abusive or bullying play:

- Do both dogs look happy most of the time?
- Are their tails, mouths, and movements loose and relaxed (having fun), or are they tight and stiff (not so fun)?
- Is one dog asking for space or trying to get away and the other dog is not allowing it? (See “Stress Signals” section)
- Is the play edgy, hard-hitting, or causing fear for any participants?
- Is there healthy give and take in the play? Over a few minutes, does the dog who was on top take a turn on the bottom, or does the chaser become the chased?
- Is the play fluid, moving from one activity to another, or are the dogs “stuck?”
- Are two or more dogs ganging up on another who looks stressed?
- Is it becoming so intense that “snarks” and “scuffles” are happening?

If the play is not balanced, comfortable, and clearly happy for all parties, the dogs' owners need to redirect the dogs' activities, settle the offending dogs down with a time out from play (preferably outside the off-leash area), take some dogs home, or, if the Small Dogs area is not in use, move like-minded playmates over there.

Mounting

Mounting is a form of dog play that can be especially volatile, even if the dogs are well matched in size and physical condition. Mounting is not necessarily about reproduction or dominance, but can be a request for attention, an invitation to play, or a way for an overexcited dog to discharge energy. The problem is that some dogs are intolerant of mounting, and so it can trigger fights. Because mounted dogs often react to an innocent dog standing in front of them rather than to the one on top, the behavior can pose risks for surrounding dogs.

If your dog tends to mount, teach an “off” cue and intervene. Better yet, learn to see the behavior coming and redirect your dog before another one is stressed by it.

Stress Signals

Depending on context, some perfectly mundane dog behaviors can also indicate stress. Some of these behaviors discharge energy that is building up, and some signal that “I’m not looking for trouble!” If you see combinations of the following in social situations, look for what may be stressing your dog. If the stressors do not shift and you cannot positively influence your dog’s experience, take your dog out of the park.

Avoiding Good Times Gone Wrong (cont.)

Signals that may indicate stress, discomfort, or an effort to avoid conflict include:

- Increased activity
- Marking territory
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Shaking off
- Sniffing the ground
- Looking directly away from a perceived threat
- Lip- or nose-licking
- Front paw lift
- Approaching slowly and in an arc
- Sitting or lying down
- Blinking
- Sneezing
- Slow, careful movements

Signals that request or demand greater distance from another dog include:

- Staring
- Growling
- Snarking
- Ears flat against head (uneasy) or erect and forward (confident)
- Tension in body and face
- Muscle ridges in face
- Stalking or very erect, up-on-toes stance
- Hair up on back (can also indicate excitement)
- Urination and ground scratching
- Tail up over back or straight
- Tail wagging only at tip
- A brief look-away or turn-away at a tense moment

Again, many of these behaviors have multiple meanings, and so the trick is to know your dog and read the whole dog in context. If Daisy has one paw raised and her ears back, and she glances away from a dog approaching her, then she's probably feeling uneasy. If she has one paw raised and her ears forward as you head to the cookie jar, then she's probably thinking, "You rock, Mom, and I'll do anything for a cookie!"

If you think Daisy is expressing discomfort at the dog park but then her body language loosens up and she goes back to playing freely, no problem—but if she keeps expressing stress or a need for space, it's probably time to go home.

Avoiding Good Times Gone Wrong (cont.)

Resource Guarding

Some dogs are very protective of objects they value. The resources a dog may guard can be food (including training treats), toys, their owners ("my hunter, my driver, my ball thrower," etc.), doorways, and more—even feces or holes! Early signs of resource guarding could include hovering in a particular space or over a toy, lip licking (indicating stress), flared whiskers, curling the lip, and freezing as another dog approaches.

If your dog appears to be resource guarding, remove the resource, if possible. If that is not possible or does not help, take him/her out of the park before they begin lunging at others or a fight erupts, and come back at a quieter time.

If someone else's dog is resource guarding, move your dog away from him, put away anything that seems to arouse the dog's guarding impulse, point out aggressive behavior to the other owner, or leave.

Snarks and Scuffles

Just as tempers flare on a playground or basketball court, so do they in a dog park. When a dog nips or bumps too hard, another dog may respond by saying, "Hey, you jerk! That hurt!" That is the meaning of a "snark," - a vocalization that sounds like a combined snarl and bark. A "scuffle," sounds like a fight but ends just as quickly as it started.

If your dog has just had a scuffle, a time out may be advisable. If there are repeated snarks or scuffles, then it may be time to head home for the day and consider whether that particular group of playmates is healthy for your dog.

Fights

If handlers are on the ball, they will preempt rude play or bullying before fights break out. What do you do, though, if a fight erupts?

One option is to do nothing. Very few dogs fight to the death, and no dog with a history of serious fighting should be at the dog park in the first place. Age appropriate children (14-17) who visit the dog park with an adult must be instructed ahead of time to walk calmly away from any fighting dogs, even their own. Do not run or scream, and do not get involved. Shrieking children can trigger tragic behavior from dogs.

Anyone interfering in a fight is at risk of being bitten. Highly aroused dogs do not always know what they are biting. If a person restrains one dog, the other dog might continue aggressing, provoking the restrained dog to bite the person holding him. Screaming or shouting can escalate tensions and bring more dogs into the fray.

If someone has been knocked down near the fight or the dogs are badly mismatched, it can be almost impossible to stand back. If you feel compelled to intervene in a serious fight, here are some options, listed in descending order of safety:

Avoiding Good Times Gone Wrong (cont.)

- Use water: a squirt water bottle or throw containers of water on the dogs.
- Startle the dogs with loud noise, such as a loud whistle, an air horn, or clanging metal.
- Throw coats or blankets over the dogs.
- Use Direct Stop, a citronella-based spray (for dogs).
- Owners can simultaneously lift the tail of each dog in the fight.
- Take the dog's back feet off the ground, or...
- Grab the rear legs and pull the dogs out of the fight.
- Release their legs the instant the fighting stops (to avoid getting bitten yourself) and keep the dogs separated.
- As soon as the fighting breaks, immediately lead the dogs away from one another and follow the instructions described in "After a Fight", below.

After a Fight

Put each of the dogs involved in the fight on leash, check them for injuries, and assess whether veterinary care is appropriate.

As after a car accident, calmly exchange relevant information with the other dog owner(s), especially if there is an injury.

Remove the dogs from the park, one at a time. Even dogs that did not join the fight are likely to be extremely aroused, and their owners are advised to call it a day also.

Individually or collectively, review and evaluate what went wrong: What could have been done to prevent the dogs' interaction from escalating to a fight? Why didn't people see the fight brewing and intervene earlier?



***Dog parks are not the place
to take your dog for socialization...
Dog parks are a place to take socialized dogs.***

Pennsylvania Dog Laws

The Dog Law Enforcement Office through the PA Department of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Office also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

What are Pennsylvania's Dog Laws?

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer.
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- Owners of dogs and cats three months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination.
- It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

The Dog Law Enforcement Office is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
- Providing educational services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

Dog Law Enforcement Office:

Bucks County

Verna North
215-257-2050

Region VII

(Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties)

Kristen Penn, Supervisor
1015 Bridge Road
Collegeville, PA 19426
Region: 610-489-1003, Office: 717-957-4751

Doylestown Dog Park Incident Notification Procedure

When an incident occurs at the Dog Park, dog owners should follow the posted rules. If an owner would like to file a formal report or make the Township aware of an ongoing dog park situation, the Incident Report form must be completed. The Incident Report will enable us to document occurrences and properly investigate and resolve the concerns of our dog owners.

Incident Report Forms can be obtained as follows:

Download: www.doylestownrec.com or www.doylestowndogpark.com

Pick Up: Doylestown Township Administrative Office at 425 Wells Road, Doylestown PA 18901 during regular business hours: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm on Monday and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday

Completed incident report forms can be submitted as follows:

Mail: to the above address
Fax: 215-348-8729
E-mail: info@doylestownpa.org

What is reportable and what will be reviewed

Violations that should be reported and will be automatically reviewed:

- Children under the age limit in the dog park
- Person bit by a dog
- Dog bitten requiring medical treatment

Violations that can be reported and will be documented and investigated:

- Dog bitten with no medical treatment necessary
- Failure to abide by Dog Park rules
- Disruptive/abusive behavior to persons and/or dogs

If repeated offenses of the same violation are reported, a full review will begin (see Procedure for Review below).

Procedure for Review:

1. When a formal complaint is received and is eligible for review, the report will be distributed and reviewed by the Dog Park Advisory Board at the next scheduled meeting.
2. If a Dog Park Advisory Board member is involved in the incident, she/he will be excluded from the review process except for providing a written statement of what happened.
3. If the incident resulted in serious harm to a person(s) or dog(s), the offending dog will be temporarily suspended pending outcome of formal review and final determination.
4. A member of the Dog Park Advisory Board may be designated to collect statements from parties and witnesses named in the incident.
5. The Dog Park Advisory Board will discuss the incident and recommend a course of action, if any, to take. Actions may include but are not limited to: restricted use of the park, temporary or permanent bans on using the park, dog training, or testing requirements (e.g., Canine Good Citizen Test).
6. Any incidents where a person is bitten will be reported to the Doylestown Township Police and Dog Warden in accordance with the PA Dog Law. The PA Dog Laws shall supersede all other rules, regulations and guidelines.

Doylestown Dog Park Incident Report Form

Please note that any incident involving bodily injury to persons or dogs requiring medical attention should be immediately reported to the Doylestown Township Police by calling 911. This form should be completed for all incidents of aggressive dog behavior & those incidents noted above regardless of the severity.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Dog's Name _____ Breed: _____ Weight: _____ Lbs. Color _____

General Description _____

Other Individual/Dogs Involved

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Dog's Name _____ Breed: _____ Weight: _____ Lbs. Color _____

General Description _____

If names are not known please provide a full description of the individual, their dog's name and anything that may be pertinent (i.e., make, model, color of their car, license plate number, etc.) or other additional information that may assist us in this review.

Nature of the Incident

Date of Incident: ____/____/____ Time: _____ am pm

Location: Small Dog Area Large Dog Area Other (specify) _____

Describe Incident _____

Description of Injuries _____

Witnesses _____ Phone _____

Witnesses _____ Phone _____

Actions Taken:

None Ambulance Police Veterinary Other (describe) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Note: All incidents will be handled in as timely a manner as possible. All of the guidelines of use of this facility can be found at www.doylestownrec.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doylestown Dog Park Membership Application

Last Name _____ First name _____ Date: ____/____/____

Residency (check one): Resident - \$50 (Doylestown Township/Borough) **or** Non-Resident - \$ 60 (all others)

Add'l Dogs (over two): _____ @ \$15/ea (R) / \$20/ea (NR) • Add'l Key Fob (max 1) _____ @ \$15/ea

Renewal (complete): Key Fob 1 # _____ Key Fob 2 # _____

Address: _____ Township: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (h): _____ Phone (c): _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Emer. Phone: _____ Emer. Cell: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Add'l family members (same household) permitted to use access tag. Must be over 18 years of age and completed orientation:

1) _____ DOB: _____ 3) _____ DOB: _____

2) _____ DOB: _____ 4) _____ DOB: _____

Use additional sheet for other dogs in same household (R - \$15 ea. / NR - \$20 ea.)

Breed: _____	Age: _____	Date of Birth ____/____/____	Weight (lbs.) _____
Name of Dog: _____	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Spayed/Neutered: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Color(s): _____	Vet: _____		
License #: _____	Exp. Date: ____/____/____	Rabies #: _____	Exp. Date: ____/____/____
Has this dog ever displayed any aggressive behavior toward another dog(s) or person(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Has this dog ever received a Police or PA Dog Law citation? <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (reason) _____			

First Dog

Breed: _____	Age: _____	Date of Birth ____/____/____	Weight (lbs.) _____
Name of Dog: _____	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Spayed/Neutered: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Color(s): _____	Vet: _____		
License #: _____	Exp. Date: ____/____/____	Rabies #: _____	Exp. Date: ____/____/____
Has this dog ever displayed any aggressive behavior toward another dog(s) or person(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Has this dog ever received a Police or PA Dog Law citation? <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (reason) _____			

Second Dog

Office use Only

<input type="checkbox"/> Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> DHPP	Application: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renew = \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Application & <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> Bordetella	Add'l Dogs: _____ @ \$ _____ = \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sign-Off Form	Fob #1 _____	Add'l Fob: _____ @ \$ _____ = \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> License	Fob #1 _____	TOTAL = \$ _____

Sign-Off - Rules and Immunization Requirements

Please read this page carefully, initial and sign. This page is required to be submitted with your registration materials.

_____ I have received, read and understand the Doylestown Dog Park Application and Information Packet in its entirety and agree to abide by all rules and park etiquette as established. I understand that failure to comply will result in suspension or revocation of my dog park membership without refund.

_____ I understand that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and dog(s) including but not limited to

_____ Any and all damages caused to the park facility by my dog(s)

_____ Any and all injuries caused by my dog to another person(s) and or dog(s)

_____ I understand and agree that it is solely my responsibility to maintain current immunization and license records on file and provide updated records if and when they expire for as long as I maintain a Doylestown Dog Park membership. I understand that if I do not do this, my access key fob will be deactivated and will not be reactivated until updated/current records are submitted.

Name (print legibly)

Signature

Date

Doylestown Township reserves the right to suspend or revoke park privileges to any member who fails to follow park rules and etiquette or where it has been determined a member dog or dog owner is dangerous to others or is in violation of any applicable animal ordinances or regulations.

Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver

• Initial each section, sign and date •

Important Information

_____ Acceptance of the terms & conditions of this release and adherence to established Dog Park Rules & Regulations are conditions of membership and issuance of an access key fob, retention and renewal. Key Fobs are for use only by those listed on the application.

_____ You are solely responsible for supervising your dog and determining whether or not this is an appropriate activity to participate in. You must understand that you and others who accompany you are participating in this activity at your and their own risk (and risk of your dog). Dogs and members of varying degrees of skill, training and experience use this facility. You are solely responsible for determining if you and/or your dog are physically fit and/or adequately skilled to use this facility. It is always advisable, especially if you or your dog is pregnant, disabled in any way or recently suffered an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician or veterinarian before undertaking any dog training or exercise activity.

_____ When this Waiver & Release refers to “your dog,” “my dog”, or the “owner” of a dog, it includes you whether or not you are the legal owner of the dog, since you are the person responsible for the dog while using this facility.

Warning of Risk

_____ Dog activities are intended to provide a fun and rewarding experience for a dog and its owner/handler. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including death to the dog, its owner/handler or other persons or animals. Dogs are pack animals and when “off lead”, even the best-trained dogs will act instinctively. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers associated with dog activities can be foreseen. Certain inherent risks include the propensity of any dog to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to you, another person or dog. Other risks include, but are not limited to, the inexperience, negligence or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog’s reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or other animals; and actions by the dog due to fright, anger, stress, insect bites, or natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting. Other risks include the hazards associated with environmental and traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and all other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities.

_____ Should you attempt to break up a dog fight or restrain a dog, including but not limited to your dog, you may be attacked and severely mauled by your dog the other dog or attacked by another dog’s owner/handler. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the The Township of Doylestown to guarantee absolute safety.

Assumption of Risk

_____ I hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate and use with my dog(s) the dog park (“Park”) owned and operated by the Township of Doylestown. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present within the Park necessarily involves a risk of injury to me, any persons that accompany me, other people using the Park, my dog(s), and other dogs. I understand that these risks are entirely my responsibility and I expressly assume that responsibility knowingly and voluntarily. I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog’s actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I further understand and assume the risk that all dogs in the Park may not have current vaccinations for bordetella, distemper, parvovirus, or rabies, all of which could result in injury to me, any individuals (including children) accompanying me, and my dog(s). I also understand that there are certain inherent risks, including the propensity of a dog to behave in a dangerous way. Additional risks include, but are not limited to: the inexperience or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog’s reaction to sound, movement, objects, persons, or other animals; dog fights, dog bites, and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences, plants in the area that may be poisonous to dogs or people; mosquitoes, ticks chiggers, fleas, or other insects that may be present; and wild animals, such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs that could be present in the Park, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s); slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities. I knowingly and voluntarily accept responsibility for all these risks in exchange for the privilege of using the Dog Park.

Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver (cont.)

_____ I further understand that no agents or employees of the Township of Doylestown will supervise the Park at any time and I therefore expressly assume responsibility for all risks associated with the Park as well as any fixtures and equipment that may be located there in an unsupervised manner.

Waiver and Release of all Claims and Indemnification Agreement

_____ I have carefully read this waiver and release and understand its contents. I have received/read the Doylestown Dog Park Application and Information Guide including the dog park rules and regulations, and agree by affixing my signature below to comply with those rules and regulations. I will also inform others that I may bring to the park (including children) of these rules and will ensure their compliance while using the park. My signature confirms that I am also not aware of any incidents in which my dog(s) has/have shown aggressive, fighting, or biting behavior towards people or other animals.

_____ I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog's actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ In signing this Waiver and Release, I do hereby agree to waive, relinquish, release and forever discharge the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, the Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park, and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, from any and all claims or causes of action for injuries, damages, loss, liability or expenses that I may have or which may accrue hereafter to me or any other person claiming through me or on my behalf and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I fully and forever release and discharge the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park, its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers, and others working on behalf of the Township from any and all negligent acts or omissions with regard to the Dog Park and intend to be legally bound by this Release.

_____ I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, the Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, and from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions, and expenses (including but not limited to court costs and attorney fees), occurring, growing out of, incident to, or resulting directly or indirectly from my use of this facility and surrounding area, including without limitation any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions and expenses on account of personal injury to or death of any person or animal, or damages to property of any person or entity.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, WARNING OF RISK, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS. IF THIS FORM IS RECEIVED ON-LINE OR VIA FAX, YOUR ON-LINE OR FACSIMILE SIGNATURE SHALL SUBSTITUTE AND HAVE THE SAME LEGAL EFFECT AS AN ORIGINAL FORM SIGNATURE.

Print Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

DOB: ____/____/____

Incident Resolution Protocol

The primary purpose of the Doylestown Dog Park rules is to protect our members and their dogs. The Second is to provide an enjoyable experience for both humans and pets while in the Doylestown Dog Park. The safety of our members and pets is our first priority.

So that we may provide, within our ability, safety and peace of mind we need your assistance. Because our staff and/or Dog Park Advisory Board members cannot be present park at all times of operation, they depend on our members to follow the rules and to report incidents they have witnessed.

In the event of an incident please complete the Incident Report Form and provide all relevant information with as much detail as possible so we can investigate appropriately. Please do not forget to provide your e-mail address so that we may contact you to follow-up, if necessary.

Also, we will not sell or share your contact information. We will only use your e-mail address to contact you regarding an incident or other pertinent dog park information.

Human Infractions (any member who chooses to disregard the dog park rules):

- Level 1 (first incident): Warning or dependent upon severity or number of infraction(s) level 2 consequences may be imposed.
- Level 2 (second incident): The key fob will be turned off immediately and the member must register and re-attend orientation. The key fob will remain deactivated and membership suspended until orientation has been completed and certificate of attendance submitted to the Township.
- Level 3 (third incident): Suspension or termination of membership dependent upon severity or number of infraction(s) as determined by recommendation of the Dog Park Advisory Board and final decision of the township.

Dog Fights/Bites:

- If a member's dog is involved in an incident involving aggressive behavior one and/or all involved parties will have key fob use suspended pending investigation.
- All parties must submit an incident report. Witness statements will be solicited
- If determined that a specific dog initiated aggression with intent to cause harm and/or caused physical harm to another dog/human, membership will be terminated.
- Appeals must be requested in writing and scheduled to be heard at a regular DPAB meeting.
- Members determined to be free of fault will have their renewal date extended for the same period of time the key fob had been de-activated for incident investigation.



Emergency Telephone Numbers

Doylestown Township

425 Wells Road, Doylestown PA 18901

- Phone: 215-348-9915
- FAX: 215-348-8729

Doylestown Township Police

425 Wells Road, Doylestown PA 18901

- Emergency: 911
- Non-Emergency: 215-348-4201

Emergency Veterinary Services

The following information is intended as a general reference only. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of local emergency veterinary services are listed for your convenience. None of these listed parties are in any way connected with the information printed herein or necessarily agree with the information printed herein. You are responsible and liable of your own dog's actions and well being.

Bucks County Veterinary Emergency Trauma Services (Bucks County V.E.T.S.)

978 Easton Road

Warrington, PA 18944

215-918-2200

Available after 6:00pm daily, weekends & holidays

Center for Animal Referral & Emergency Services

2010 Cabot Blvd West, Suite D

Langhorne, PA 19047

215-750-2774

Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center

1900 West Old Lincoln Highway

Langhorne, PA 19047

215-750-7884

Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Red Bank Veterinary Hospital

197 Hance Falls

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

732-747-3636

Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Gwynedd Veterinary Hospital & Emergency Services

1615 West Point Pike

Lansdale, PA 19446

215-699-9294

Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Canine Emergencies

Heat Exhaustion/Stroke

Heat stroke is a common occurrence during the hot months of the year. Dogs are prone to overheating because they do not sweat. Other factors such as obesity, advanced age or infancy can also make a dog more vulnerable to heat.

Symptoms (some or all may be present):

- *Panting* • *Weakness or collapse* • *Gums getting very dark or very pale* • *Vomiting and/or diarrhea* • *Seizures*

Cool the dog down immediately by soaking with water (use a piece of clothing in the dog watering facility to wet the dog down if nothing else is available). If showing signs of distress, contact your veterinarian and/or transport to emergency hospital immediately.

Prevention: Wet your dog down periodically. Offer water frequently. Dogs at risk should not use the park during the heat of the day.

Bug/Bee bites/stings

If a dog suddenly starts clawing at their face or drooling excessively they may have been bitten or stung. If your dog exhibits signs of distress contact your veterinarian immediately.