

**Avoid Warm Days**

Heat stroke can occur as low as 70°; avoid peak hours.

**Follow Posted Rules & Regulations**

# Dog PARK SAFETY

**Top tips** for making visits enjoyable

## Take Age-Appropriate Dogs

Parks are great for socialization and exercise; however, keep puppies four months and younger at home until vaccines are complete and they are mature enough to run with the pack.



## One Size Doesn't Fit All

Many parks have designated large- and small-dog areas. If possible, keep your dog in the area allocated for his size to avoid physical intimidation.

## Up-to-Date Vaccinations

Prevent potential exposure to disease: verify with your veterinarian that your dog's vaccinations are up to date.



## Take Dog Collar and Tags



Not all dog parks are fenced in. A dog with a collar and ID tags (and a microchip) has a better chance of being found should he run off. Keep a leash handy for safely commuting between car and park.



## Don't Take Treats

Dogs will compete for treats which can lead to snapping, fighting and injury. Leave treats in the car and reward your dog after a play session.

## Monitor Aggressive Behavior

Pay attention to your dog at all times and ensure that playtime remains friendly. If your dog or another dog is playing too rough, it's best to remove your dog from the situation.



## Bring Water

Your dog will get thirsty after running. Try to limit the intake to a small amount within an hour of playing; excessive drinking can lead to life-threatening stomach bloat, especially in large dogs.



## Beware of Heat Exhaustion

Look for signs of overheating; including profuse and rapid panting, a bright red tongue, thick drooling saliva, glassy eyes and lack of coordination. If this occurs, take your dog to a veterinarian immediately.

Heat stroke  
**\$704**

Lacerations or bite wounds  
**\$384**

Average Nationwide® member claims for dog park-related mishaps.

Sprains  
**\$232**

Cruciate injury with surgery  
**\$3,289**

Average Nationwide® member claims for dog park-related mishaps.

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For more pet health and safety tips, visit [MyPetHealthZone.com](http://MyPetHealthZone.com)



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