**DOG PARK ETIQUETTE**

As dog parks increase in popularity, it is important to remember the following rules and recommendations to keep the experience enjoyable for everyone.

**RULES**

- Dog owners are legally and financially liable for injuries/damages caused by their dog(s). Wis. Stat. Ann. 174.02 (1).
- All dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated. Dogs are required to wear a visible, municipal license, and I.D. tag. Wis. Stat. Ann. 95.21 (2).
- A Daily or Annual Park Dog Permit is required. D.C. Ord. 53.02 (2).
- Aggressive dogs are prohibited from the park. Any dog exhibiting aggressive behavior must be removed from the park immediately.
- Female dogs in season (heat) are not allowed in a dog park.
- Dog waste must be cleaned up and placed in the proper receptacle by the owner/Handler. This is essential to the ongoing success of the dog park.
- The owner/Handler must be in control of their dog(s) at all times. The dog must be within view and under voice control of the owner/Handler.
- Dogs must be leashed with a 6-foot static leash when entering and leaving off-leash area. The owner/Handler must have a leash in his/her possession at all times.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Limit food and treats brought into a dog park as it may attract other dogs.
- Throwing balls or other dog toys may lead to possession aggression.
- Make sure your dog is healthy. It is possible for your dog to pass on an infection or parasite to other dogs. Sharing water can also lead to disease transmission.
- Children should be supervised when in the dog park.
- Do not bring more dogs than you can effectively restrain. It is recommended that you bring no more than three dogs at one time.
- You are responsible for all actions of your dog. You must remain in the dog area with your dog at all times.
- A dog park is not the place to work on behavioral problems with your dog.
- Do not allow your dog to be in contact with wild animals.
- It is not acceptable to dump pet waste offsite at the dog park.
- Dog bites/attacks should be reported to Madison Police Animal Services (608) 255-2345 (non-emergency) or 911 (emergency). For all other park related issues, contact Dane County Parks at (608) 224-3730.

**DOES YOUR DOG WANT TO BE HERE - YES!**

Great, Stay Awhile! Appropriate dog play includes lots of short breaks for sniffs, drinks or laying down so they don’t become over-stimulated.

**OVER-STIMULATED PUP**

Dog that is panting/stressed/nippy and ready for a break.

**SURE THING!**

Approaches from the side; relaxed faces and bodies.

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**

Wiggly, loose bodies.

**LITTLE BREAK**

Regular pauses in play, interaction without being obsessive or intense.

**KING/QUEEN OF THE PARK**

Mounting other dogs or guarding resources like water, entrances, picnic tables, people or doggy friends.

**I LOVE CHASING THINGS THAT MOVE!**

Obsessive and intense.

**THIS ISN’T FUN ANYMORE**

Tail tucked; ears back; hiding.

**SHARING**

Sharing resources.

**THIS IS GETTING A BIT ROUGH**

Lots of teeth, facial tension; hackles up; rearing up on back legs; rolling other dogs.

**DOES YOUR DOG WANT TO BE HERE - NO!**

Time for a Break! If you’re worried about your dog or the behavior of another dog, clip on your dog’s leash and take them out of the dog park to give them a break. The Dane County Park System has many on-leash scenic hiking trails that you and your dog can explore.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ACTIONS OF YOUR DOG.**

You must remain in the dog area with your dog at all times. A dog park is not the place to work on behavioral problems with your dog. Do not allow your dog to be in contact with wild animals. It is not acceptable to dump pet waste offsite at the dog park. Dog bites/attacks should be reported to Madison Police Animal Services (608) 255-2345 (non-emergency) or 911 (emergency). For all other park related issues, contact Dane County Parks at (608) 224-3730.