



# DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

## JOIN US!

The Conway Area Humane Society Dog Park is located behind our shelter, surrounded by secure fencing and equipped with trees for sniffing, pools for swimming, rocks for climbing and poo-bags for scooping!

Open from dawn to dusk every day  
Closed 8am-10am and 2pm-4pm  
for shelter use

Visit our website for rates and details:  
<http://www.conwayshelter.org>



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## UNDERSTANDING DOG BEHAVIOR

Dog's play styles vary. Some dogs like a rough-and-tumble style of play. Some dogs have a daintier style, with bowing and chasing but not much physical contact. Some dogs like to herd other dogs and may bark or nip. Understand your dog's style and respect the styles of other dogs in the park.

Understand canine communication:

- Dogs that enjoy rough play may growl and snap as part of that play. Dogs may also snarl and/or snap to "set their limits" with other dogs.
- Dogs are programmed to be part of a pack, with some dogs being higher in the pack hierarchy (dominant) and others being lower in the hierarchy (submissive).
- Dogs have various ways by which they communicate their dominance to other dogs. This may include a stiff-legged posture with the head held up and back, raising the hackles on the back, raising the tail or laying the head across another dog's shoulders or back.
- If you see two dogs exchanging dominant gestures, watch carefully. Be ready in case a fight is brewing.
- Mounting ("humping") is a way one dog expresses dominance over another. Do not allow your dog to mount another dog. This behavior is likely to lead to a fight. Even if your dog means no harm, the other dog is likely to take offense.



## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Friendly, well socialized dogs are welcome.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed.
- Owner/guardian is fully responsible for all actions of their dog.
- Dogs must be spayed/neutered.
- No children under 12 allowed in park.
- Rawhides, food, glass containers and smoking not allowed.

## ENTERING

- Dogs must be kept on leash until inside double gate. First gate must be closed before entering second gate.
- Unleash your dog in double gate area before entering the park. A dog feels restricted and vulnerable on leash while other dogs are off leash. This may lead to aggression.
- Users already inside park should call their dogs away from the gate until new arrivals have entered. If people are not calling their dogs, ask them to call their dog, or wait until their dog walks away.



## INSIDE THE PARK

- Keep proof of membership in possession.
- Know your dog's play style. Recognize warning signs your dog may be getting over-stimulated and in danger of crossing the line into aggression.
- Be sensitive to other dogs with whom your dog is playing. Watch your dog closely. Be prepared to intervene if the interaction seems to be getting out of hand.
- Constantly barking dogs should be removed from the park.
- Dress for the mess. You should expect dirt, mud, slobber, wet dogs, and yucky toys in your lap.
- Avoid using harnesses or dog clothes, as these items can cause injury when playing.
- Bring your own dog toys, but make sure no other dogs are competing for them.
- Always clean up after your own dog.
- Do not ever leave your dog unattended.



## AGGRESSION

Although unfortunate, aggressive behavior does happen. Please respond promptly to any aggressive behavior. Stay calm. Do not scream when breaking up a fight.

Dogs displaying significant aggression must be leashed and removed from the park for the day. It is acceptable to remove a dog to the small side of the park if unoccupied and no significant injury occurred. This removal not only increases safety, but is educational. A dog will realize aggressive behavior has a clear consequence.

If a dog that displayed significant aggression is not removed by the owner, other dog park members should ask them to do so.

You may find your dog gets along better with certain dogs. You may want to avoid entering the park when there are dogs present with whom your dog has a problem. A dog that repeatedly displays aggressive behavior with a variety of dogs should stop coming to the park.

Thank you for helping ensure that the dog park remains a safe, enjoyable experience for all.