

**Briar Chapel Community Association
BARK PARK ETIQUETTE**

Here are a few things to consider when bringing your pet to the dog park:

Do not leave your dog unattended for any amount of time.

Clean up after your dog; utilize the baggies and trash cans provided by the park or bring your own. Each time you see your pet eliminate, please clean it up immediately. Not only is this common courtesy, but it helps to prevent the spread of intestinal parasites and disease.

Do not bring your dog to the park if he or she is ill. If you have any concerns about your pet being healthy enough for a visit to the dog park, please consult your veterinarian.

Do not bring your dog to the park if he or she has fleas or other potentially contagious skin diseases, such as sarcoptic mange.

Be sure that your dog has been properly vaccinated and has a valid Rabies tag and certificate. Your pet should be up to date on:

- Bordetella (Canine Cough) vaccine
- DHPP vaccine
- Rabies vaccine
- Fecal exam or prophylactic deworming

It is not recommended to bring puppies under the age of 16 weeks to the dog park. Young puppies may not be vaccinated appropriately for that type of exposure to other pets. Talk to your vet about when it is safe for your puppy to join in the fun. In the meantime, focus on socializing your puppy with people and other well-vaccinated pets.

Bring only spayed and neutered pets to the dog park. Bringing intact pets to the park is irresponsible and can provoke rough play and aggression.

Follow the dog park rules about the number of dogs you can bring at each visit. More than three may be more than you can supervise and handle. It is always best to feel comfortable and in control of the number of pets you are responsible for that day.

Keep your dog on a leash until your dog is safely inside the gates of the off-leash area.

If your dog begins playing too rough, the best way to control this is by leashing your dog immediately and leaving. Come back at another time when your dog is willing to play nicely with others.

Use caution when bringing your children to the dog park. This can be very dangerous if children are not closely supervised. Again, don't bring more pets or people to the park than you are comfortably able to supervise and control.

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This is adapted from material originally provided by Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Pet Resort <https://www.dogwoodvethospital.com/>