



The Big Two

1) Pick up poop!

Always! Everywhere!

Especially on and near paths or near ponds and other water sources.

2) Report Serious Incidents!

Call the appropriate law enforcement authorities in your area.



The Scoop on Poop

Dog poop is not a pleasant topic, however it is the most controversial issue surrounding dog ownership and public access for dogs. Over and over again, complaints about abandoned dog poop top the list of reasons that dogs are prohibited, on-leash or off-leash, from parks, hotels, camping areas and other public places. Dog poop tops the list of complaints about dogs, far exceeding concerns about dog aggression and public safety.

Many dog owners believe that poop will simply “go away” on its own. While this may seem true, the reality is quite different. Biodegradation is a slow process, especially in cold climates. In dog parks and other popular walking areas, poop accumulates much faster than it degrades. It is both unsightly and unhealthy, fostering the notion that dog owners are rude and irresponsible. This perpetuates the notion that dogs are a public nuisance.

In addition, poop left behind on streets, sidewalks or near ponds and streams finds its way directly into the water via storm sewers and run off. The real consequence of orphaned poop is water pollution.

So, please pick up after your dog! With your help, you may begin to see more signs that say “Dogs Welcome”.

Be Part of the Solution, NOT Part of the Problem!

To learn more about ROMP®, please contact us or visit our website at www.dogROMP.org.

BE RESPONSIBLE. USE COMMON SENSE.

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ROMP®
RESPONSIBLE OWNERS OF
MANNERLY PETS®

Dog Park 101: Practical Tips For New Users To Off-Leash Areas!



“Access, Education and Advocacy:
Making a World of Difference for
People and Their Pets”™



First Time to an Off-Leash Area?

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Many dogs who visit the off-leash areas are not socialized to children. Help prevent accidents. Keep children away from unfamiliar dogs!

- New users should try to visit the area at non-peak times. Peak times are after work on Monday-Friday and midday on weekends.
- The first visit can be somewhat stressful for both you and your dog. Stress and anxiety could ruin the experience for you and your dog, so try to keep those initial visits short and happy!
- We hope that you will become an active supporter of this site. Please do your part to keep this area clean, safe, and enjoyable!

Typical Off-Leash Site Rules*

- Owners must pick up and dispose of feces.
- Owners must have voice control of their dogs and prevent aggressive behavior, biting, fighting, and excessive barking.
- Owners must carry a leash at all times.
- Owners are liable for damage or injury inflicted by their dogs.
- Dogs must be leashed prior to entering, and upon exiting, the off-leash area.
- Dogs must be properly licensed and vaccinated.



Practical Tips For Off-Leash Areas

- * **Keep your dog leashed until you are within the off-leash boundary.** People who walk their dog on-leash are often afraid of off-leash dogs, so please respect the off-leash boundary. Non-compliance generates complaints and threatens the existence of the off-leash area.
- * **Once inside the off-leash boundary, remove your dog's leash.** Mixing leashed and unleashed dogs creates tension!
TIP: If you are worried that your dog will escape the area, keep a long training line attached to your dog's collar (it's much easier to catch them). Drop the line and let your dog run freely. To build up a good recall, periodically call your dog to you and then run away from the dog. Your dog will start to become more interested in following you than in running away or ignoring you. Always reward success!
- * **Keep walking!** Walking helps the dogs perceive the site as neutral territory, which minimizes turf battles and other canine misunderstandings. Avoid the temptation to congregate with other people or to let your dog 'greet' other dogs at the entrance.
- * **Know your dog and supervise your dog at all times.** Avoid situations that are likely to cause problems for your dog or other dogs. Be willing to work with other dog owners to prevent incidents. Understand that dogs, like people, have different temperaments and play styles. Rambunctious play is common (for more info, see the "Why Dogs Do What They Do" dog park behavior brochure).
- * **Beware of breaking up fights.** Though serious fights are uncommon, it is often a good idea to carry a water bottle. Squirting water in the dog's faces can safely distract them. Do NOT reach in to pull the dogs apart without first distracting them. Once distracted, separate the dogs, leash them and move to another area.
- * **Always ask permission of the owner to approach and pet another dog or give treats.**
- * **Keep the off-leash area safe and clean.** Pick up cigarette butts and other trash. Fill any holes that your dog digs to avoid dog or human mishaps.
- * **Take responsibility for the actions of your dog.** By state law, you are liable for damage or injuries inflicted by your dog. Offer to pay for vet bills, doctor bills, and replace damaged property. Involved persons should exchange names and phone numbers. Report serious incidents to posted authorities.
- * **Be a responsible dog owner.** Spay/neuter your dog. Keep licenses and shots up to date (ask your vet about Bordatella vaccines). Train your dog in basic obedience and educate yourself about dog behavior.

RCMP® periodically sponsors dog behavior seminars for the general public.