

WELCOME TO THE HAWKESBURY OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Off-Leash Dog Park Regulations and Town of Hawkesbury By-Law N° 3-2014

Reviewed and Amended June 2019

Off-Leash Dog Park Regulations as posted on the dog park entrance fence.

2.1. Dogs Off-Leash Areas are hereby established on those lands as outlined in Schedule "A" of this by-law. [Cyr-de-Lasalle park (east side only).

1. Opening Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (or one half hour after dusk).

2.4. No Owner shall remain in a Dogs Off-Leash Area between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

2. Owners are liable for all actions of their dogs.

"Owner" shall include any person who owns, keeps, possesses, harbours, or acts as a guardian of a dog for any length of time, whether or not that person has a licence for the dog, and where the owner is a minor, the person responsible for the custody of the minor.

3. Aggressive dogs are not permitted in the park. Owners will be prosecuted and are liable for all damages and injuries subject to the Dog Owners' Liability Act.

2.3 No Owner, whose dog is required to be muzzled including pit bulls as defined in the Dog Owners' Liability Act, or is deemed dangerous as defined in By-law N° 63-90 to provide for the regulation of the keeping of vicious dog, as amended, shall bring this dog in any Dogs Off-Leash Area.

By-law N 63-90 (1990) Regulation for keeping a vicious dog

I. Vicious dog means:

i. Vicious dog any dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack without provocation other domestic animals, or

ii. any dog that has bitten a domestic animal or person without provocation.

Bad behaviour is a risk to both dogs and humans. Aggressive behaving dogs should not enter the park.

It is advisable for each owner to have read the Dog Owner's Liability Act (DOLA). It can be found on the Internet.

4. Dogs must have a valid licence from the Town of Hawkesbury.

2.2. Subject to Subsection 2.3, a dog Owner may permit his or her dog licensed under By-law N° 73-2002 to regulate, license and control dogs in the Town of Hawkesbury, as amended, or any successor by-law thereto, to run at large in a Dogs Off-Leash Area.

5. Dogs must be leashed before entering and leaving the park.

2.5. No Owner shall fail to keep his or her dog leashed when entering and leaving the Dogs Off-Leash

Area.

6. Female dogs “in heat” and puppies under four (4) months old are not allowed in the park.

2.10. No Owner shall permit a dog within a Dogs Off-Leash Area that is in heat or that is under four months old.

7. Dogs must never be left unsupervised by their owners.

2.7. No Owner shall fail to supervise and be within sight of his or her dog at any time.

You are responsible for your dog therefore you must be present to supervise. If being distracted by your cell phone or tablet can mean distraction from supervising your dog.

8. Maximum of two dogs per owner.

2.6. No Owner shall bring more than two (2) dogs in a Dogs Off-Leash Area at any time.

9. Pick up and dispose any dog droppings and fill any holes it may dig.

2.8 No Owner shall fail to pick up and dispose of his or her dog’s feaces.

2.9. No Owner shall fail to fill any holes his or her dog has dug.

10. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Children are busy being children and can be easily run into by playing dogs, or even considered as part of the game.

11. Consumption of food for both dogs and owners is prohibited inside the park.

2.11. No Owner shall eat within or give food to any dogs within a Dogs Off- Leash Area.

Etiquette

Water:

Bring water, the park does not have water.

Dog Waste:

Grab or bring bags for scooping poop. There are garbage cans inside and outside of the park to dispose of the waste.

Dog Collar:

A regular flat collar is recommended. No chain (choke) collars, nor spike collars are allowed in the dog park. A flat collar can be easily used to grab your dog /deescalating over excited dogs. But never grab a collar to break up a dog fight! .

A dog harness :

They can be used to deescalate excited dogs.

Please closely supervise your dog if wearing a harness other dogs in a fight can get tangled in the harness causing further injuries.

Arriving at the Park – approach park with your dog leashed.

Your dog will be excited, but it is important that its not over excited. The dog park should not be the only form of exercise for your dog.

If there are 15 or more dogs in the park consider coming back at another time!

Removing the leash before entering the off leash area.

Dogs who are leashed and encounter dogs who are not, can feel vulnerable and anxious, increasing the risk of negative behaviours from the dogs in the park.

Owners of the dogs inside the park should recall their dogs or remove them from the gate area. Thus allowing the new dog to enter without being surrounded and anxious. Dogs don't like a group of dogs rushing up to it.

First visit and nervous dog.

Use the small dog park to allow your dog a chance to see the other dogs and smell the gang.

Toys at the park:

Never bring the dog's favourite toy.

Some dogs are ball or toy obsessive, which may lead to aggressive behaviours, when other dogs want to join in or steal the toy. **STAY ALERT** – Recall your dog.

Dog Park Socializing:

While many owners at dog parks socialize as much as their dogs, it's important that playing dogs are monitored closely at all times for their own safety. You are there for your dog's well being.

Move or walk around so that your dog looks for you and is not interested only in other dogs.

STAY CLOSE, STAY ALERT.

Children in the dog park:

If you bring children with you, please supervise them at all times. Dogs playing can easily inadvertently knock a child down. Not all dogs are familiar with small children.

KNOW WHEN TO LEAVE.

If your dog is being too aggressive (teeth bared, growling, biting, eyes narrowed),

Remove it from the park immediately.

If your dog is frightened with tail between its legs and trying to hide between yours,

Remove it from the park - it's not ready yet for a group of dogs.

If your dog is constantly barking at other dogs and won't stop – Remove it from the park.

Common Dog Behaviour

When dogs GREET each other.

When your dog is greeting another dog be aware of both of their demeanours.

*Friendly postures generally involve the dog making themselves «smaller» relative to the other dog.

*Not so friendly greetings involve the dog making themselves appear larger. For example:

Erect stance, head up, ears forward, tail up (possibly flicking tip), stripping (hair up on neck/back, puffed tail hair), direct stare (pupils may or may not be dilated), raised lips, low tone growl, snapping.

Appropriate owner response: Stop the behaviour immediately by Recall or remove of your dog from the other dog.

When dogs HUMP each other

Humping occurs for different reasons, including anxiety and stress.

Appropriate owner response: Recall or remove your dog from the other dog

Good game/play.

Good play is balanced and a two-way interaction; there is a change of roles.

What to watch for: The game can become intense and one of the dogs may become hyper-stimulated.

Appropriate owner response: The game should be interrupted frequently to avoid this rise of excitement.

Recall.

Chasing/chase games.

Good play: Its a game – but you must still observe:

- 1.The pursuit must be initiated by the one who flees (invitation: «run after me»).
- 2.The one who pursues has his ears backwards; the one who flees has a mid to high tail.

Occasional change of roles excellent. No physical contact or some contact without too much impact (bumping).

Appropriate owner response: Stay vigilant and alert, watch for increase in intensity or physical contact. Recall dog as appropriate.

Risky chase.

High risk play with elevated potential for increased intensity or ganging up scenarios, see description below. What to watch for:

- 1.The one who pursues (pursuer) has his ears forward and his mouth open.
- 2.The one who flees (pursued) has a low tail and ears.
- 3.There are too many bodily impacts.
- 4.The pursuer is aiming at the neck.
- 5.The pursued faces the other when they stop; the pursued can not turn its back on the pursuer.

Appropriate owner response: STAY CLOSE, STAY ALERT. Recall your dog immediately to reduce the risk.

“Ganging UP”

An archaic instinct of predatory behaviour in which dogs will run and catch prey (but do not kill and do not eat).

What to watch for in the victim: The «victims» do not have a precise portrait and many become reactive, snapping at the predator or running away from approaching dogs.

Appropriate owner response: Recall your dog – STOP the behaviour.

“Targeting” One dog follows another dog without rest, no matter what signals the victim sends.

What to watch for: The targeting dog has ears and tail straight, eyes - head - column aligned in the orientation of the targeted dog. Targeting can turn into sexual harassment.

Appropriate owner response: Recall your dog – STOP the behaviour

Harassment

A type of targeting: defined as a dog that constantly harasses a weaker, younger or smaller dog.

Rejection When one or more dogs reject another. The victim is under intense stress!

How to break up a FIGHT:

It's violent and it's an assault.

Appropriate owner response: Immediately intervene and separate these dogs.

Never let your dog harass another who is afraid of him/her! If it persists leave the park.

Appropriate owner response:

Owner of victim – remove your dog!

Other owners, Recall your dogs.

If your dog is often a victim, the dog park is not for him/her.

Appropriate owner response:

Do not panic or scream! This will escalate the dogs' energies!

Never try to pull your dog off by their collar. The chances of getting bit are very high.

Try to grab the dog by their hind legs or, even better grab them by the hip/waist. You can really dig into his/her fur and skin and pull him/her off. The typical reaction for a dog is to look back and to see what grabbed them.

If you think the situation is too dangerous let other people handle it!

