



## Southwest City Dog Park

[www.swcitydogpark.org](http://www.swcitydogpark.org)

Message Center: 314/567-2012

Managed by SWCDP  
501(c) (3) non-profit organization

### Southwest City Dog Park

Originally Sponsored by SNA  
Southampton Neighborhood Association



### Mailing Address

Southwest City Dog Park  
P.O. Box 191152  
St. Louis, MO 63119

**Celebrating 10 Years - Funtastic!**

**2006 - 2016**

# Dog Park User Guide

Please take a few moments to read the entire Dog Park User Guide, including the Dog Park Tour and many tips and information to help you get the most from your dog park experience. If you have any questions – contact SWCDP Secretary: [secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com)

***We are happy to help you enjoy your dog park***

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# Dog Park Tour

## Street View

(updated photo coming)

2014: New sidewalk & ADA compliant ramp installed thanks to the efforts and tax funds allocation by Alderman Larry Arnowitz and the St Louis City Parks Department. 2016: Small handrail added along the step and entry areas for safety and cosmetic value thanks to a generous donation by Raising Cane's Restaurant and SWCDP operating funds. 2019: New front fence/gate, expanded garden and access control system for improved security and optimal dog park management paid for by SWCDP Special Projects Fund.

Front signage greets & informs the community about SWCDP. Front garden has been expanded, ongoing, and paid for and maintained through SWCDP operating funds, special donations and volunteer care. Within our **"Clean and Green"** initiatives, SWCDP donated and installed a poop bag station for Willmore Park visitors – to encourage them to pick up after their dogs while visiting the park; maintained by SWCDP volunteers.

## Entry Area



Required by City Ordinance 66595, we have a double-gate entry area. Members must enter the dog park while dog is still leashed – but remove the leash prior to entering the Main or Alternate play areas. This is considered an important “transitional” area. **Members must enter one household at a time – using their assigned fob ; do not allow other members or non-members in under your fob**; give each other plenty of space; don't pile up in heavy traffic entry areas. Dogs are overly excited in entry area.

SWCDP **Lost & Found** - if you lose something, check here – members are good about putting lost items in blue L&F container. SWCDP also has a “**Bag Bin**” in the entry; members are expected to keep an eye on bag supply, bring used plastic grocery bags as needed for poop pick up. No tiny or large bags, please. This is our central storage supply; members take turns distributing the bags to various bag holders located throughout the dog park.



Our two message boards & the arched sign in the garden were made possible by generous donations from our four Veterinary sponsors (Afton Vet Clinic, Big Bend Vet Clinic, Watson Vet Clinic, Webster Groves Animal Hospital) and additional operating funds. The large board offers emergency and informational contacts, tips, and upcoming activities or related dog park information. Multiple clear boxes contain an assortment of forms, sign-ups, and reports. A locked mail box is provided to deposit reports, checks, other hard copy communiqués. The small board is an interactive messaging space for members to post goods or services or dog related info, such as dog events or lost dogs, or rescue dogs seeking forever homes, etc. All messages are removed after 60 days; if the info is still viable, members will need to re-post. Absolutely, no political, religious, or controversial postings, please.

## Dog Wash Water Station 5



If your 4-Legged smells funky from the doggie pools, got a little muddy, or rolled in a stinky who-knows-what, you might appreciate the rinse off station. Handily located near exit; you can clean up before you go home. A two level wash table is provided as a human convenience. **No Shampoo allowed** – only water, please. We have no waste water out take, the water simply settles into the surrounding ground. We don't want chemicals damaging our garden or have soap build up. Always remember to turn off the hydrant by the handle and drain extra water from the hose line to prevent breakage. Clean up after yourself (pick up wads of hair, etc) to make ready for the next user. Trash can provided in this area, too.



There is also a boot brush for humans to scrape mud from their shoes. made possible by members donating lots of cash and sweat equity. were used for this project. You can read the story and see photos of BIG DIG III on website (coming soon).

The Dog Wash was  
No operating funds

## Gangway

The gangway connects the entry area to the Main playground. Unleash your dog before entering the gangway. This can be a big greeting area, dogs already in the dog park may be eager to say hello. Enter with confidence – and keep moving – encourage your dog to follow you to the open play area. There is often a lot of energy and excitement in this area. Hesitation or stopping in gangway only gives time and opportunity for the dogs to pile up.

# Dog Park Tour



**Continued**

## Clean and Green



Blue recycling cans are provided in Main and Alternate playgrounds – members are encouraged to recycle while visiting SWCDP. But, please, **don't put dog poop or plastic bags in blue cans** because they contaminate the recycling process. Grey & tan trash cans are provided throughout the dog park for poop and all other trash. Members are required to pick up after their dog and place feces in the grey and tan containers. **"Pick up one and then one more!"** Both types of receptacles are managed by SWCDP volunteers and emptied on a regular basis. Cans, can bags and bag holders provided thru operating funds. Please help keep our dog park "clean and green".

## Main Park



Our Main playground is where most of the action takes place – lots of different play styles and energy levels – the playground dynamics can change frequently with a variety of dogs and people coming & going. We provide two rectangular metal picnic tables and an assortment of metal benches scattered throughout the park and moved occasionally to allow turf to regenerate. Tables and benches provided by our operating funds.



## Main Park Agility Course



*Available year-round.*

Agility is fun and often a nice break from the group play. Agility builds a bond between canine and human, strengthens dog muscles and coordination, and helps your 4-Legged build self-confidence. We offer jumps, tunnel, pause table, weave poles; plans to add additional equipment. Equipment donated by a SWCDP member and operating funds.



## Main Park

### Winter Shelter Straw Maze

*Available November thru March.*



A temporary shelter offers a nice break from the wind and gives the humans a place to congregate and warm up. We also give the 4-Leggeds a fun winter maze, with surprises each year (*ramps, hallways, places to hide or jump*). Provided by operating funds and volunteer carpentry.



## Main Park Alternate Park

### Pools

*Available June thru October – Main and Alternate.*



In Main, we have a pool pad and maintain 3 pools of assorted sizes and shapes. In Alternate, we have 1 small pool which is moved around on grass. Dogs who love water cannot resist splashing and soaking in these pools whenever they are available.



## Alternate Park

Our Alternate playground is intended for special needs dogs or humans. Used for smaller dogs or dogs with a lower energy level, shy dogs or those recovering from illness/surgery, and older dogs who may no longer enjoy the robust play on Main. When not used for special needs, members may use for small play groups or taking a break, too. The Alternate dog park is also wheelchair accessible.

## Alternate Park Patio Special Events



Our patio was made possible mostly by a fantastic donation from Sticka Brothers and some operating funds. Members enjoy sitting at the umbrella table while watching their 4-Leggeds play. We have 3-4 special events each year and use the Alternate area for the festivities, usually having several booths and various games and activities.



## SWCDP Merchandise



*You can now order on-line, go to our website...*

As a way to promote our dog park in the community as well as have an ongoing opportunity to raise additional funds for the dog park – we offer a variety of items with our SWCDP logo. Such as, t-shirts (short and long sleeves), tank tops, hoodies, sweatshirts, hats, caps, totes – and – a custom shirt with your dog photo and personalized caption.

**A special commemorative shirt honoring SWCDP 10 Year Anniversary also available**

<https://swcitydogpark.org/merchandise>

# Tips for Success

	<p><b>Park ID Important.</b> Keep your Fob and Password to your SWCDP web profile and SWCDP dog tag number (s) with you at all times. Put in your cell phone and a hard copy either in your wallet or car glove compartment, so that you have a back-up resource in case you forget or lose.</p>
	<p><b>Dog Roster.</b> A list of member dogs (name, breed, color, tag #, and picture) and owner's first name is updated frequently and kept on the Community Bulletin Board. If you need to know a dog's name, or check for authentic SWCDP membership – this resource is for you.</p>
	<p><b>HOTLINE: Message Center – Temporary Closings. 314/567-2012 #2</b> From time to time, for extreme muddy conditions, repair/maintenance projects, or other turf or safety considerations, the dog park may close for short periods of time. Always check the Hot Line to learn the status, especially after periods of protracted, heavy rain.</p>
	<p><b>Start with short visits.</b> Leave on a successful note, lengthen your visit as your dog demonstrates that he is enjoying the experience – don't force him.</p>
	<p><b>The Greeters.</b> Often dogs already at play are eager to greet newcomers. If you have a "greeter" you should be close by in case the greeting turns into a pile-on. It's never OK for dogs to overwhelm the 4-Legged members who are just entering the playground; give them a fair chance to move thru the gangway and on to the open playground. If you are just arriving, your dog will do better entering the gangway off-leash, so to be on equal terms with the "greeters".</p>
	<p><b>Hold on to dog leash.</b> Keep the leash with you at all times, in case you need to take control of your canine. This is both a SWCDP rule and a City Ordinance.</p>
	<p><b>Keep moving!</b> Our 4-Leggeds tend to stay close to their humans. When the humans congregate for long periods, the 4-Leggeds tend to do the same – and that is when a doggie brawl has potential to develop. Dogs often need a new focus or redirection of energy; 5-6 dogs piled on top of one another rarely works out well; 2-3 dogs wrestling is ok. Help keep things interesting for your pooch.</p>
	<p><b>Take a break from electronic devices.</b> Since it is a membership requirement that you keep an eye on your dog (s) at all times and be within a reasonable proximity to your dog in case you need to redirect attention - this might be a good time to put your cell phone and other electronic devices away. Treat yourself – a break from the daily stresses and info overload. Bond with your dog, engage with others, and relax.</p>
	<p><b>Remember – it is their time.</b> Your 4-Legged will quickly learn this is their time and their playground – and learn to love it. Why not make the best of each visit?</p>

# Tips for Success

**Continued**



**Excessive barking is rude.** Please re-direct your 4-Legged's attention if he fixates on a dog (s) and ruins their play with his barking – but also recognize that some dogs are very vocal and bark to engage in play. A need to balance the two. Even if the 4-Leggeds don't mind the ruckus, the constant barking is likely to annoy some of the 2-Leggeds. And, harassment is never acceptable behavior.



**Smaller dogs and the prey risk.** While SWCDP does not currently have a rule about smaller dogs being required to use the Alternate Dog Park only – it is strongly recommended. Small dogs on the Main playground run the risk of being viewed as prey, especially when they run, bark, etc. – and this puts an unfair burden on the larger dogs who misinterpret them as prey. Also, given the significant difference in weight & size, a small dog could easily be injured even during a nice play session.



**Visiting during extreme weather.** It is always much colder and windier on the dog park playground than in your own backyard – the wind whips across the field at a robust clip. Bring extra warm clothing if you plan to stay awhile but also keep vigilance regarding your 4-Legged (s). Tips of ears & tails and paws can sustain damage if allowed to get too cold. And on hot days, remember dogs can overheat even in mild spring temperatures – keep them hydrated with frequent rest breaks – watch closely.



## Water Stations

Water Station 1 – Open November thru March  
Water Station 2 – Open June thru October  
Water Station 3 – Open June thru October  
Water Station 4 – Open June thru October  
Water Station 5 – Open Year-Round



## Water Buckets

Multiple white, plastic water buckets are available during warm weather; members are encouraged to keep filled with fresh water – and distribute around the park. Heavier, black buckets are available in the winter. In freezing weather, it may be necessary to bring jugs of water, if water faucet is frozen.



## Pools – Hoses – Mud

Pool etiquette means using the water as it relates to what is good for the group, not what each individual feels like doing. Change water in pools when dirty but not excessively. We do not have adequate drainage, and constant pool dumping creates serious water standing issues – which will require pool closing until the area dries out. Hoses are intended for quick pool refill, not for spraying your dog as this also creates mud problems.



## Dog Ears . . .

can get infected easily. Ears should be dried after each bath or pool activity.



**Ear Troubles?  
Try Epi-Otic Advanced**

# Important Information

## **Leash and Collars, Coming and Going**

Use your leash while in the parking lot or just outside the dog park. This is the law but it is also a matter of common courtesy to your fellow dog park users. UNLEASH your dog inside the double-gated areas while other dogs are not immediately close to your dog. When a leashed dog is greeted by an off leash dog (s), the leashed dog will not be able to display normal doggie greetings and he may feel trapped or threatened. If he does feel this way he may act defensively and a tense situation may arise. When all dogs are off leash they can display normal dog greeting signals and they can get away from a pressure situation if they feel the need. This is very important.

Retractable leashes or "Flexie" leads are not a good idea even in the parking lot or outside areas of the park – and they are not allowed inside the dog park. These long thin cords can get entangled around people or dog's legs with potential for panic or injury to others. These leashes can offer no help to you if your dog gets into an altercation with another dog while inside the dog park. A regular 6ft leather or nylon leash, which you should carry with you while in the park, can act as an emergency leash to help separate dogs or quickly get control of them. Just put the snap end of the leash thru the hard loop and turn the leash handle inside-out. This leash can then be quickly slipped over the dog's neck or back leg to gain control of a situation without having to reach in close to grab a collar to attach a leash by the snap.

The collar your dog wears while inside the dog park is another important consideration. A buckle, snap or Martingale-style (leather or nylon) collar, with your dog's tags attached, is the safest choice for a dog in the dog park. Pinch, prong, choke training collars and loose-fitting collars are not allowed. These collars have caused injury and death to dogs when playing dogs get caught in the links (catch teeth, collar, etc.) and cannot get free. The tendency for both dogs when something is caught on a link - is to pull in the opposite directions, seriously choking one of the dogs. If one of these collars is necessary for you to control your dog, you should refrain from visiting the dog park until you achieve better control of your dog through obedience training. But at a minimum, these collars must be removed upon entry to the dog park, and replaced with an appropriate collar. Please, don't put your dog or other member dogs at risk.

## **Children, Safety First**

Dog parks are not children's playgrounds and extra care must be taken. **Children under the age of 8 are not allowed.**

Carefully consider whether you want to bring children to the dog park. In many households, the 4-Leggeds are considered "family", so it is a natural extension to want to bring children to the doggie playground. But, it is important that parents are informed and stay alert to certain issues in order to make good decisions.

Your child may be familiar and get along fine with your own dog, however, realize that while only non-aggressive dogs are allowed in the dog park, some dogs do not live with or understand small children and may be unpredictable around them. Member dogs are expected to be under control by their owner, but SWCDP does not require that member dogs have experience around children. SWCDP does not guarantee any specific level of training of such dogs nor can SWCDP guarantee the child's safety while on the dog's playground.

Dogs engaged in play or simply running and having fun can easily knock down adults – and frequently do. A young child could be unintentionally hurt, especially by a large dog – or group of dogs – if dog (s) bumps into or knocks down the child.

If you want to bring your child to the dog park – please note: Children who have not been around dogs could suddenly become very frightened by a friendly dog, and dogs sense fear and sometimes react to that fear in odd ways.

It is not easy to closely watch your children and WATCH YOUR DOG while in a dog park but both must be done equally to ensure safety for all. The dog park, especially our Main Playground, is a high energy, high action playground and the situation can go awry within seconds – members are expected to keep an eye on their dog (s) at all times.

## **SUGGESTION FOR FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN**

Those who wish to show younger children the "doggie" activity may wish to bring some lawn chairs and sit outside the SWCDP fence (excellent viewing from the ball park side) – and simply observe and enjoy up close while keeping youngsters safe by the protection of the fence. It is recommended that should one choose to do this – consider doing so when no ball games are in session, for additional safety precautions.

# Dog Play Styles

Dogs play with one another in four basic styles. Some of the different styles blend well for nice, compatible play, while others do not combine well. It is important to be aware of your dog's play style and play preferences before you bring your dog to the dog park, especially if your dog is very shy or timid or if your dog has a high-energy, bordering on bullying tendencies. It is up to you to seek out playmates that are compatible with your dog – or keep your dog moving, or use the Alternate Dog Park, as situations and behavior warrant. All dogs need exercise and socialization – but each dog has his own degree of comfort – it is YOUR job to make sure your dog – and those sharing the dog park with you – find the right mix.



- 1. Rough and Highly Physical Body Contact:** These dogs play by pushing into one another's space. They run hard, clash, rear up on their hind legs and then clash like rutting elk. There are lots of body slams and hip checks, all done with a fair amount of brutality. You'll see lots of hard impact and physical contact. This style is common to the bully breeds (Pit Bulls, Boxers, etc.) but popular with many other breeds & mixes as well.
- 2. Chase or Be Chased:** These dogs play by instigating a chase by running and egging another dog on. They usually like to both chase and be chased. These dogs like to run and the excitement of being chased. This style is common to many breeds & mixes, especially the herding breeds and sometimes sight hounds.
- 3. Mouth Wrestlers:** These dogs play with their mouths. Usually one dog lies down with his butt in the air while the other dog dances around his head, their mouths engaged. There is the lazy, lying down role and the agile, leap up and over role. There is often vocalizing. Various breeds and breed mixes seem to play in this style.
- 4. Scare and Be Scared:** These dogs play in the same way that children watch a scary movie – they can't help but thrill themselves by peeking through their fingers during the scary part. These dogs are not frightened or scared of other dogs; they just like to play by poking and jabbing at the other dogs. They both freeze and then suddenly burst out in play. Often these dogs keep their ears pinned back, don't look directly at the other, and one will parry forward and poke and prod to get the other one to play. Both dogs get equally thrilled by play and the sudden explosions of activity. Various breeds & breed mixes seem to play in this style.

## TWO MORE PROFILES, JUST FOR GENERAL INFO

- 1. Just Hangin':** Enjoys doing own thing; sniffing, watching, just happy being there, may check out other dogs but then content to go off on own.
- 2. Fun Police:** Not really a play style - but enjoys being Playground Monitor, will lay and watch or circle around - will break up any dog interaction that seems overly intense, by his/her own standards.

# Dog Language & Signals

## Please Leave Me Alone . . .

Dogs that are experiencing stress and wish to be left alone will use Cutoff or Calming Signals. These are normal behaviors, but if you see two or more of these signals during dog interactions, you should defuse the situation by distracting or separating the dogs.

Some dogs are natural peacemakers & will walk between the two dogs that are tense and 'split' them apart. These Peacemakers will not make hard eye contact and will be nonchalant in their approach.



- Sniffing
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Sitting or laying down
- Paw Raising
- Sneezing
- Lip Licking
- Shaking Off
- Head Turn
- Pretending Interest in Environment

## Please, Please Take Me Home . . .

If your dog is exhibiting any of these signs of tension and anxiety for longer than 10 minutes, please take him home immediately; he is not having fun. Staying longer will not make him more comfortable.

- Pressing into your body
- Yawning
- Ears Back and Tight Against Head
- Lip Licking
- Tail Tightly Tucked / Low Tail
- Excessive Salivations
- 'Whale' Eye
- Panting
- Dilated Pupils
- Shallow/Fast Respirations
- Slow/Little Movement
- Whining/crying
- Pacing
- Stiff Posture
- Hiding
- Stretching
- Crouching on the ground
- Sweaty Paws
- Freezing in place
- Inappropriate Urination
- Trembling
- Penis Crownning

# Dog Language & Signals

**Continued**

## **Signs of Potential Conflict . . .**

Dogs that are on the offensive will display these signals prior to actual physical contact.

Upon seeing two or more of these signals in combination, you should immediately defuse the situation by distracting or separating the dogs, and perhaps a brief time-out to allow your dog to reduce arousal. Dogs that continue to exhibit these signals should be removed from the park immediately.

- Up on Toes, Body Leaning Forward
- Tense Body with Stiff Walk
- Ears Up and Forward OR Tightly Pressed to Skull
- Prolonged Stare, Dilated Pupils
- Hair Raised on Shoulders or Base of Tail
- Tail High, Tail Held Still or Waving Slowly
- Baring Teeth, Growling, Snarling Barking
- Lips Drawn Back or Mouth Tight

## **Behavior**

Proper greeting behavior entails the dogs sniffing each other. Growling and snapping at a dog that is boisterous in greeting should not be inhibited. It is a polite warning that communicates 'settle down' to a rude dog. Dogs that resist appropriate sniffing by scooting away or sitting down are not yet ready to visit the dog park.

If your dog is not having fun, GO HOME! Usually, 30-60 minutes of interaction is enough time to meet an average dog's social, mental and physical needs. If you are new to the dog park, start with short visits, increase as your dog's comfort level and enjoyment increases. Visiting the dog park during "off peak" hours (Week days Mid-day or Weekends after 8:00pm) is helpful, too.

Self-control is the expected behavior on the dog park grounds. Boisterous" or "Overly-Friendly" dogs must be controlled by their owners. Examples of inappropriate behavior includes: mounting another dog, circling another dog while barking hysterically. Mounting is an indication that excitement levels are too high – dogs that are mounting should be called away for a calm-down period.

## **Know Your Dog**

Before you use the dog park, Know Your Dog! Check your ego at the gate and be realistic rather than idealistic when it comes to your dog's temperament. Is he a bully and pushy with other dogs? Is he shy and timid? Is he old and might feel vulnerable in this environment? Dog parks are great for most dogs, but some do not like being there. People must WATCH THEIR DOG very carefully to ensure the dog wants to be there. If your dog lives with another dog he may get along fine with that dog, but if he hasn't been introduced to strange dogs on a regular basis he may need time to adjust to many different doggie personalities he may encounter at the dog park.

Aggressive dogs, even if he is your "best buddy", are not appreciated by others, and not allowed at the dog park. No matter how cute you think he is and no matter how much you want your dog to be able to use the park, if he's acting aggressively he needs to leave. To some humans, there is a fine line between "aggressive" and "physical" play – and each dog and each situation can vary. Work together with the other dog owners to determine the correct action, if any, to take. Always, be respectful of the other members and if it appears that it is YOUR dog causing the ruckus – or making the majority of members uncomfortable – then YOU must take charge of the situation, and correct or remove your dog immediately.



If your dog has not interacted with other dogs and you are not sure if he will get along you can find out how he may react when meeting other dogs. Invite another owner with a dog that is known to be 'dog friendly' to meet at a fenced location unfamiliar to both dogs ('neutral territory'). Separate them and let them both go off leash (or drop the leash on your dog to and allow it to drag the ground). Let them meet on their own terms. If an altercation does break out you will be right there to intervene.

# Fights and Bites

## FIGHT!!! What Do We Do?

	<b>REMOVE ALL SPECTATORS</b> If your dog is not involved, calmly call him to you and get out of the area as quickly as possible. Wading in to help can signal your dog to join the fray!
	<b>REMAIN QUIET</b> Stay calm and QUIET. Shouting rarely helps and can be misinterpreted as 'excited barking'.
	<b>INTERRUPT THE FIGHT WITH NOISE / SPRAYS</b> Attempt to interrupt the fight by blowing on a loud whistle or an air horn. A blast of water from a hose is effective and preferred. Spray Shield ( <i>formerly known as Direct Stop</i> ), a humane citronella formula, can also be used, but must be sprayed directly in the dogs' faces. SWCDP does not condone pepper spray or other harsh chemicals. When the dogs break apart, the owners should immediately leash the dogs. Loop the leashes around the dog's necks and fasten the clasp some distance away.
	<b>INTERRUPT THE FIGHT PHYSICALLY</b> As a last resort, the owners of the involved dogs should grab their dogs. First, be sure all other dogs are removed from the immediate area. Next, each owner should grab their dog by the hind legs or tail, and lift their back ends off the ground. This technique will increase the chances of breaking the dogs apart, and lessen the possibility of being bitten. <u>Stay silent</u> , or speak only using a calm reassuring voice as you touch your dog. Once you succeed in separating the dogs, face them away from each other and securely attach their leashes. Move the dogs some distance away, and sit quietly and assess any injuries.
	<b>AFTER THE FIGHT</b> ALL owners who have been visiting the dog park during the fight and whose dogs were either involved directly, indirectly, or otherwise engaged emotionally, should take their dogs home for the day. Adrenaline will be flowing; emotions will be high and over stimulation can result in another altercation. After everyone has calmed down, the owners of the fighting dogs should quietly and unemotionally exchange contact information, as well as vaccination information. Owners are legally responsible for any injuries inflicted by their dog. SWCDP is <u>not</u> responsible for negotiating settlements.
	<b>FILE AN INCIDENT REPORT, <i>maybe</i></b> If an injury occurred to dog or human, you must file an SAIC report. It is not necessary to file for fights that do not cause injury. If you have ongoing situations with a dog who tends to bully or a human who is not watching his dog, you <u>may</u> send a "note" to SAIC with dates and details including witnesses.

### Understand Bite Inhibition Understand Bite Assessment

Most dogs learn bite inhibition before 3 months old from their litter mates & Mother. If they were not properly socialized early, it may take longer to learn. If your dog gets into fights and does not bite – he has learned to control his bite. If your dog inflicts puncture wounds or tears while playing or fighting – he has little to no bite inhibition and this can be dangerous.

According to Ian Dunbar, DVM (*world renowned dog behaviorist*), bites are categorized at six levels. Read & listen more about this at:  
<http://www.dogstardaily.com/radio/404-bite-scale-and-how-evaluate-aggression>

### Understand Growling Understand Bluster

Characteristically, growly and blustery dogs are middle-ranking males, who have limited experience and are insecure of their social standing and so, usually resort to bluff and protracted threats. Often the dog may growl incessantly to add major emphasis to a minor point. Most overtly aggressive dogs are all bark and no bite. Indeed, a true top dog is a rather cool and relaxed customer, who very rarely resorts to threats of any kind, let alone lengthy blustery bluffs.

But growling is also used as a legitimate warning. Some dogs have not learned the cues and continue to pursue a dog who has explicitly told him to back off. In these cases, often a fight will ensue – it is up the owner's vigilance and understanding of dog signals, and their dog's tolerance & communication skills, in particular.  
[www.dogstardaily.com/training/dog-communication](http://www.dogstardaily.com/training/dog-communication)

TRASH TALK

# Emergency & First Aid

## Always call 911 for Emergency Situations



**First Aid Kit** and cleaning supplies located in vertical storage unit for canines and humans: Band-Aids, gauze, cotton balls, Stiptik, isopropyl alcohol, variety of antiseptics for cuts / bee stings, scissors, tweezers, wire cutters, stretcher, soap, bleach, brushes, sponges & rags. Please report to SAIC when supplies run low; do not take supplies from the grounds, or replace.



### Where to Find Pulse

Femoral pulse is located high on the inner thigh where the leg meets the body.

If cannot find pulse, use left side of the chest behind elbow; count for 15 seconds and multiply by 4.



Puppies tend to have higher pulse, up to 220 bpm

### Normal Vital Signs

**Heart Rate at Play:** 60 – 160 bpm

**Rectal Temperature:** 100°F – 102.5°F

**Respiration Rate at Rest:** 20 – 40 bpm

*Know Your Pet's "Normal Vital Signs"*

### Trouble Signs - Emergency

#### Dog Size

	Heart Rate
Small	<80bpm or >160bpm
Medium	<70bpm or >150bpm
Large	<60bpm or >140bpm

#### Heart Rate

**Rectal Temperature:** <99°F or >103°F

### Canine CPR

#### Remember ABCs

#### Airway - Breathing - Cardiac Compression

- A - Establish an airway. Safely check for debris from mouth.
- B - Blow 5-6 quick breaths into nostrils, 1 every 3-5 seconds (Mouth to nose ~16% oxygen)
- Check for pulse and mucous membrane color.
- If none, put both hands on the widest part of the chest cavity for dogs over 15lbs. Use thumb and forefingers for dogs under 15lbs.
- C - 80-120 compressions/min., alternate this with continued mouth to snout blowing. Each compression should depress the chest cavity by ~1/3.
- Scoop and run to Vet immediately.

#### Heatstroke can be deadly.

*Share this image to help pet parents learn the signs!*



Dogs don't recognize their activities are causing them to overheat.; need help.

#### Symptoms

Excessive panting, hyperventilation, thick saliva, anxiety, glassy eyes, dark /bright red tongue and gums, staggering, stupor, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding, coma

#### What To Do

Lower dog's temperature, douse him with cool (not cold) water, apply wet towels to head, stomach, feet, "armpits". Blow as much cool air as possible (maybe the car's a/c vents) on way to Vet, if necessary.

### Head Trauma

#### May be life-threatening

### Impalement

#### Do not remove object

- Keep pet still & warm
- Hold head elevated or level to body
- Minimize pressure on head, neck, back
- Use stretcher, or keep body level in transport to emergency care

### Dog Bites

#### Even tiny bites can be serious

- Clean with antibacterial soap & warm water
- Apply pressure with cloth, cold pack to reduce swelling, as needed
- Seek Vet care: infections, tears, deep bites

# Contacts

*Who You Gonna Call?*



## Always call 911 for Emergency Situations

### Park Rangers 314/289-5350

Park Rangers will from time to time, visit the dog park, as way of relationship building. They stand ready to help our members when situations occur that members cannot resolve on their own. Please use discretion when choosing to contact the Park Rangers but know they are interested in assisting us with situations such as, but not limited to, trespassers on the property or members or visitors who have become unruly, potentially dangerous situations, etc.

## Other Useful Emergency Contacts

Organization	Contact Info	Service	Organization	Contact Info	Service
<b>St L Lost Pets</b> 	<a href="http://www.stllostpets.org/">www.stllostpets.org/</a>	Collaboration: Animal Protective Association (APA), St. Louis County Animal Care and Control and the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO)	<b>Wildlife Rescue Center</b>	<b>You must rescue &amp; deliver. Call for instructions.</b> 1128 New Ballwin Rd (Big Bend-New Ballas) <b>636/394-1880</b>	Rehab -release injured rabbits, squirrels, game birds (duck, geese, turkeys), reptiles. Does not handle deer!
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpets/">www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpets/</a>	Additional area Lost & Found links	<b>Wild Bird Rehabilitation</b>	<b>314/426-6400</b>	Rehab -release injured song birds only.
<b>Craigs List</b>	<a href="http://www.stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/">www.stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/</a>		<b>Wild Bird Rehabilitation</b>	<b>636/861-3225</b>	Rehab -release injured raptors only.
CITY OF ST. LOUIS ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL	<a href="http://www.acctl.com/">www.acctl.com/</a> <b>314/657-1486</b>	<i>Report on Twitter LostDogSTL</i>			

## Southwest City Dog Park Veterinary Sponsors

**SWCDP Vet Sponsor**  
Afton Vet Clinic  
[www.aftonvet.com](http://www.aftonvet.com)

8455 Gravois Road  
**314/352-8600**  
9am-7pm  
Mon, Tues, Thurs  
8am-7pm  
Wed  
9am-5pm  
Fri

**SWCDP Vet Sponsor**  
Big Bend Vet Hospital  
[www.bigbendvet.com](http://www.bigbendvet.com)

2224 Big Bend Blvd  
**314/781-6121**  
8am-5pm  
Mon & Wed  
8am-7pm  
Tue, Thur  
8am – 4pm, Fri  
8am-1pm, Sat

**SWCDP Vet Sponsor**  
Watson Vet Clinic  
[www.watsonrdvet.com](http://www.watsonrdvet.com)

3725 Watson  
**314/644-1544**  
9am-7pm  
Mon thru Thurs  
9am-5pm, Fri  
8am-1pm, Sat

**SWCDP Vet Sponsor**  
Webster Vet Hospital  
[www.webstervets.com](http://www.webstervets.com)

9937 Big Bend Blvd  
**314/822-7600**  
Vets on site 24/7  
Always open



Numerous dog rescue and adoption organizations are listed on our website along with additional information related to canine safety, education, training, and more. (Work-in-progress; Coming 2017)

# Responsibility & Accountability

Southwest City Dog Park is a self-directed playground with no day-to-day management supervision. In order to have a dog park facility that is relatively safe, clean, and fun - it is necessary for every SWCDP member to adhere to the dog park rules and to help enforce the rules by monitoring the playground and reporting issues that cannot be handled easily as they arise. This is a collective effort and success depends on you, the members. **Members who fail to comply with SWCDP rules or fail to comply with directives from the Safety and Incident Committee regarding outcome from complaints or incident reports may have their membership either temporarily or permanently revoked.**

**Owner:** Any adult member who is accompanying member dog inside dog park will be considered the "owner" for sake of legal responsibility during that visit.

**Household:** Each base membership is considered a "household unit". Humans and dogs being registered must live at this household to qualify as part of household. Children or foster dogs are the exception; clear foster dogs with SWCDP should status change during the season.

**Pet Sitter:** An adult who is given responsibility to care for member dog while owner is unavailable. May not bring non-member dogs into dog park and must be registered and sign waiver before bringing in member dog (s).

**Trespasser:** In compliance with City Ordinances 66595 and 57333, anyone entering SWCDP facilities without a current membership is considered a trespasser and SWCDP has the responsibility to report such trespassing to authorities for further action.

## **SWCDP Management**

In 2016, SWCDP will have ten years of successful dog park operations. From the beginning, as now, the facility is run by members who volunteer their time and agree to take on varying levels of responsibility. We continue to offer a clean, safe, and fun place for 4-Leggeds and their humans. To achieve this - we ask each member to cooperate and share tasks, etc. – however, no member should make any changes to the traffic or play flow, bring in any new equipment, toys, furniture, etc., or make any changes that would run afoul of the rules or create more work for the management team, or SWCDP members at-large, without first being approved by SWCDP management.

SWCDP has been working diligently since 2014 in strengthening the rules, safety procedures, and the control of who comes in and out of the dog park. No later than 2017, SWCDP will switch from a manual key pad to an electronic access control system. More on this major upgrade will be discussed at membership meetings and through membership communiqués. SWCDP enjoys a reputation as one of the top dog parks in the St Louis Metro area – we have a great dog park community – our members are awesome. But, always remember, SWCDP is only as good as the efforts members put into it.

For issues or questions about general management:-operations: [president@swcitydogpark.org](mailto:president@swcitydogpark.org)

For issues or questions about membership, payments, rules/waivers: [secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com)

## **Repair and Maintenance Situations that justify a Maintenance Request**

SWCDP does not have a paid, on-site grounds keeper; management determines which things can be fixed by our volunteer members vs. which will require outside contractors. Examples of things you should notify SWCDP about: Broken sprinklers, water stations, hoses, fence hole or gate troubles, temp fencing needed for muddy or problem areas. Replacement supplies needed for First Aid Kit, cleaning supplies, wasp spray, dirt bin, bag bin, etc.

**Things that YOU can do:** Bring used plastic grocery bags for bin, refill bag holders throughout the park, fill holes with dirt, destroy/remove wasp or bee nests using wasp spray (*located in vertical storage units*), pick up poop or trash. Get on the SWCDP volunteer list for ongoing tasks or future projects.



For maintenance request, submit to: [maintenance.swcitydogpark@gmail.com](mailto:maintenance.swcitydogpark@gmail.com) or drop in the secure, black mail box in SWCDP entry area, or mail hard copy to PO Box 191152, St Louis, MO 63119. Please realize the quickest response time will be by using the email for notification.

## **Contractor Protocol**

SWCDP members must be alert and responsive when outside contractors (or volunteer workers) are on site. Safety concerns come first and with service gates being opened and closed, and tools and equipment in use – we think an abundance of caution should be used. It's incumbent upon the members to ensure that the contractors can perform their services without interruption or delay. Some workers may be afraid of dogs or not like dogs. Please keep your dog under control and cooperate. If the dog park remains open during work, such as grass cutting or other minor projects, you should:

Unless your dog is consistently obedient to recall, leash your dog immediately. Keep your dog away from the workers and work site.

Either go home, or take your dog for a short walk in Willmore Park until contractor is finished.

Speak to the contractor, if necessary, to determine what work will be done, and what you can do to maintain a safe environment.

# SAFETY AND INCIDENT COMMITTEE

## **What is SAIC and why do we have it?**

Effective 2013, we combined our safety first initiatives with our **Incident Committee** activities. The group is now called the **Safety and Incident Committee (SAIC)**. The committee is comprised of dog park members and they are selected carefully by SWCDP management. Committee members must demonstrate the ability to review cases objectively and without emotion, looking at the facts of each individual case, without bias. If a SAIC member is directly involved in the case (their dog), they will be excused from the review. Committee members must also make a commitment to the confidentiality inherent in reviewing such cases and agree not to discuss the case details at large. This is because we do not want any dog or human to be labeled or be viewed in a negative manner by other dog park members. If a dog or human is determined to be a serious safety risk, their membership will be terminated or other measures will be taken for remedy. But, because we are dealing with dogs – animals – we understand that dogs will get into scuffles from time to time, and some dog play styles or energy levels may not mesh well with others. This does not mean they are bad dogs and should not be labeled as such.

## **What is the scope of SAIC responsibility – what justifies a report?**

Our committee exists only to provide an organized manner in which to process and review situations in which our rules have been repeatedly broken, an injury has occurred, aggressive behavior is exhibited on an ongoing basis, physical threats have been made, trespassers have been discovered, or other situations which may create an unsafe environment. SAIC has the authority to terminate a membership or require additional actions, such as outside training, consultation, etc. If the committee reaches an impasse or a difficult scenario arises – the Incident Report will also be evaluated by the SWCDP Board. SAIC decisions are final. SAIC does invest time and effort to make sure we have as much detail as is available, including witnesses, photos, etc. We give all involved parties a fair opportunity to present their interpretation of the situation. SAIC is not responsible for negotiating financial disputes between members. We do, however, factor in how members handle dog fights in which their dog has caused injuries. Taking responsibility for their dog's actions is important.

## **Situations that do not justify an Incident Report**

Conditions of membership include the understanding that members use the dog park at their own risk and that the playground is self-directed with no day-to-day management. Both dogs and humans can have a bad day and SAIC does not need to know every time there is a scuffle or disagreement on the playground. Please use this system frugally so not to overload our volunteer committee.

## **What is the SWCDP Watch List?**

For dogs whose names keep popping up as trouble makers or are constantly in scuffles, etc – we keep a list and watch for a trend line of behavior. Not all dogs like one another, and any dog can have a bad day. But if we see ongoing behavior leading to bullying tendencies or safety concerns – or an owner who does not supervise dog (s) appropriately – SAIC will contact them for corrective actions.

**What is a “note”?** If you are witness to such activities that might warrant Watch List attention, a full Incident Report may not be needed but you may send SAIC an email with details of the behavior, including dates, actions, dogs/humans involved.

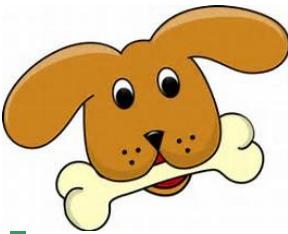
## **How do I file an Incident Report or Note?**

Incident Report forms are located in display box in our Entry Area and on-line at our website. Provide all required information; use additional space, if needed. Provide of photo of injury or damage, if possible. Witnesses are helpful to collaborate or clarify the situation. Remember, if you do not have names of involved parties, provide a good description or a member name who was there who might help with identification.

Submit to: [SAIC.incident.SWCityDogPark@gmail.com](mailto:SAIC.incident.SWCityDogPark@gmail.com) or drop in the secure, black mail box in SWCDP entry area, or mail hard copy to PO Box 191152, St Louis, MO 63119.

## **What happens after I file an Incident Report?**

Every report is logged in and permanently kept in the SAIC records. Each case is assigned a number. For instance, the first case for the 2016-2017 season will be assigned 1617001. An acknowledgement of the report is sent. Cases are systematically reviewed. If an injury or serious safety issue is involved, SAIC may hold discussions via email to expedite. All others will be processed in order of receipt at the next SAIC meeting, or as soon as possible, as the situation warrants. Case evaluation will include consulting with all involved parties and recommending guidance, tips, or outside help, temporary or permanent suspension of membership, or other, depending on the situation.



# A Special Word About Treats

SWCDP Rules and St Louis City Ordinance 66595 both clearly state that no food (human or canine) is allowed in the dog park. The rules also specify no alcoholic beverages and no smoking. You agreed to abide by these rules when you signed your SWCDP membership registration. SWCDP expects all members to stay in compliance. Thank you for your cooperation.

## ***Exceptions***

**We ask members to use good judgment during the following**

Special Events, SWCDP sanctioned/managed

Special On-Site Training/Educational activities, SWCDP sanctioned

Agility Course, Self-managed\*

**EVENTS** If you have a dog who is resource aggressive (with either food or toys) – the group events, which sometimes include doggie treats or toys – will not be a good venue for you. Stay home that day or at least do not enter the Alternate Dog Park or wherever the event is held; if you attend, and then discover an issue, go home immediately – before an incident happens. Unfortunately, not all of our 4-Legged members will be suited for events where treats are served.

**AGILITY** If you choose to use SWCDP agility course, remember, treats are not mandatory – your dog will respond well to praise, hugs, or a quick play with favorite toy. But if you choose to use bait, please do so by following these guidelines:

- **Use agility space solo, your dog only; keep gate closed**
- **Keep treats in tightly closed bag and keep in your tote, pocket, purse until you are inside agility area**
- **Bring only enough bait for the agility session for that day**
- **Take any remaining treats to your car; do not walk around the grounds with left-over treats**
- **Never, ever, give treats to other dogs**

*Please, remember . . .*

**Many members do not want their dog to be given treats at the dog park**

**Many 4-Legged members may become aggressive if they smell or see treats; don't start trouble**

# SWCDP Rules

KNOW  
THE  
RULES

<b>1</b>	<p>Only members who have signed the waiver enclosed with SWCDP application will be allowed to bring dogs into the dog park – and such dogs <u>must</u> be registered through the SWCDP application process and have a current membership. Members may bring a human guest with them. Members <u>may not</u> bring canine guests into the dog park, ever.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Members agree to abide by the “<b>No SWCDP tag, No admittance, No exceptions</b>” rule. All dogs must wear the SWCDP current season tag at all times. <i>If there is a valid reason for the dog not to wear the tag, this must be <b>approved by SWCDP Secretary – and the member must agree to carry the tag while the dog is inside the dog park.</b></i></p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Members are assigned a SWCDP fob unique to their membership upon registration (a second one may be requested) ; the fob is non-transferable. Members understand the responsibility implied by membership and further agree <b>not to allow anyone, members and non-members, into the dog park using their fob</b>. Violation of this agreement is grounds for membership termination. A 25.00 will be charged for lost/stolen fobs. Only vetted / registered members are allowed to use the dog park.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>No children under age 8 allowed inside the dog park. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Member dogs may, or may not, have experience being around children; being child-friendly is not a requirement for dog membership and experiences will vary.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Dog owners are responsible legally and financially for any injury caused by their dogs.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Dog owners must pick up their dog's poop and place in grey or tan trash cans – <u>not</u> in blue recyclable cans. <b>SWCDP</b> provides bags for poop pick up throughout the park and a poop scooper is provided in the Main and Alternate play areas.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Dog owners must stop dog from digging and must fill any holes caused by their dogs. Extra dirt available in the Dirt Bin.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Collars:</b> Dogs must wear a buckle, snap, or Martingale-style (nylon or leather) collar. Choke, prong, pinch, spiked, loose-fitting collars are not permitted.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Leashes:</b> Dog owners must have dog's leash in their possession at all times. If a situation arises in which the dog must be leashed and taken out of fenced area, owner is ready to take immediate action. Retractable “Flexie” leashes are not permitted.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Control:</b> All dogs must be under <b>visual and voice control</b> by owners; excessive barking is <u>not permitted</u>, uncontrollable dogs must be removed. Having a bad day? Go home, come back later. Humping is not permitted. Dogs shall not be left unattended.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Capacity:</b> No member may bring more than three dogs into the dog park at any one time. No more than 100 dogs may be on SWCDP grounds at any given time (<i>unless a SWCDP sanctioned event</i>).</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Gates &amp; Equipment &amp; Pools/Hoses:</b> All gates must be closed, including gates to agility or other game areas. Members must follow guidelines for pool, hose, and other resource use, as directed by emails and/or signage, per season, as needs arise.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Courtesy – Resources:</b> Be respectful of other member's wishes; if your dog is creating angst for a member dog or human, adjust the behavior or leave. Do not take supplies or resources from the grounds, including, not limited to first aide, toys, tools, lawn equipment, etc.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p>Professional dog trainers may not use the facilities in the conduct of their business; however, <b>SWCDP</b> may from time to time bring trainers to a sanctioned <b>SWCDP</b> event.</p>
<b>15</b>	<p><i>The following are <u>not permitted</u> inside the dog park:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dogs under 4 months old</li><li>Female dogs in estrus (heat)</li><li>Sick or injured dogs or dogs with external parasites</li><li>Aggressive, uncontrollable dogs</li><li>Bicycles, roller blades or skates, skateboards, strollers, etc (Wheelchair access in Alternate Dog Park)</li><li>Children under 8 years old</li><li>Glass of any kind</li><li>Alcoholic beverages and smoking</li><li>Food (<i>human or canine</i>), see User Guide for details</li><li>Unsolicited sales activity of any kind</li><li>Firearms (<i>weapons of any kind</i>)</li></ul>
<b>16</b>	<p><i>Additional actions <u>not permitted</u> inside the dog park:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Run, wave arms, shout, scream, or cause unnecessary excitement which may antagonize dogs</li><li>Sit, stand, climb on or over the fence, gates, trees, water stations, or pools or agility equipment</li></ul>

# SWCDP Waiver

By entering Southwest City Dog Park I agree to indemnify, defend, hold harmless City of St. Louis ("City"), and Southwest City Dog Park ("SWCDP"), and their officers, agents, employees, volunteers from any/all lawsuits, damages, claims, judgments, losses, liability, or expenses arising out of:

Any personal injuries, property damage, or death (including any and all injuries suffered any dogs) which I may sustain while I am using this park or any associated equipment owned by, donated by, or under the control of the City or SWCDP, or which I or my animal cause while I am using this park or any equipment owned by donated by, or under the control of the City or SWCDP, or while participating in any activity in Southwest City Dog Park sponsored by the City or SWCDP.

Any injury or death which results or increases by any action taken to medically treat me for any injury I may sustain or which I or my animal may cause while I am using this park or any equipment owned by, donated by or under the control of the City or SWCDP, or while participating in any activity sponsored by the City or SWCDP. I understand and agree with the following

- 1) Use of the dog park is self-directed and used with the understanding of "use at my own risk".
- 2) That SWCDP (or The City) does not carry insurance to cover users of this dog park and I understand there are risks associated with any dog park for myself, my dog (s) or other humans who may be my guest (s).
- 3) Unleashing my dog and being physically present at SWCDP involves risks of injury to me, any individual accompanying me, other people, my dog(s) and other dog(s), including but not limited to, risks resulting from aggressive dogs, unpredictable behavior, and lack of training.
- 4) SWCDP does not guarantee that dogs in the park are safe or healthy and that despite the efforts of SWCDP to ensure owners have complied with SWCDP registration procedures, there is a risk that not all dogs present in the dog park are licensed and vaccinated as required by law.
- 5) Additional risks include, but are not limited to, dog fights, dog bites, theft, disappearance or unlawful capture, escape over and under fences, being knocked down, chased or tripped by a dog, and vegetation or standing water that may be unhealthy if consumed.
- 6) I assume all risks associated with using the dog park, including its fixtures and equipment, in an unsupervised manner, including the risk of injury to me, any individual (including supervised children age 8 or older) accompanying me and my dog (s).

## **I further understand and agree that**

SWCDP is not managed by the City of St. Louis or its Parks Department. In accordance to St Louis City Ordinances 66595 and 57335, the dog park management responsibilities are handled through a SWCDP management team who are SWCDP members and who donate their time as volunteers to oversee dog park membership process, adherence to the rules and general operations and maintenance, SWCDP management decisions are final and binding. The SWCDP management does not provide ongoing, day-to-day on-site supervision, except for SWCDP sanctioned activities. Members are expected to adhere to SWCDP rules and assist in monitoring the dog park; be responsible for their own behavior and that of their registered dog (s).

## **And, I acknowledge that I**

- agree not to loan fob or allow non-members to use my membership;
- agree to immediately report any unsafe property conditions or dog fights with injuries or non-member dogs (trespassers) on site to SWCDP;
- attest to the fact that the dog (s) and human (s) being registered for an annual SWCDP membership have not previously had a dog park membership terminated at SWCDP or any other dog park due to inappropriate behavior or for other reasons.

I have carefully read this release of liability and understand and fully agree with its contents. I have received a copy of the rules for dog park usage and agree to abide by these rules. Acceptance of the terms and conditions of this release and adherence to dog park rules are conditions of approval, retention, and renewal of membership to Southwest City Dog Park (SWCDP). SWCDP membership may be revoked at any time for non-compliance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is a release of liability. Do not sign if you do not understand or do not agree with all its terms. Any dog owner / handler using the park must sign this waiver. This means if you have more than one person in your household bringing your dog to SWCDP, he/she must also sign the waiver. If the applicant has not attained the age of legal majority (18), the signature of parent or guardian shall also be required.