

Dog Off-Leash Facility Rules

The County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing access to parks for a variety of purposes including recreational opportunities for visitors and their dogs. Before heading out to one of our parks, please review the following information and regulations to insure that your visit is pleasurable.

Watch For Posted Restrictions

Most areas in the County Park System are open to dogs on leash. Common areas where they are not permitted include children's playgrounds, interpretive facilities, and a few designated trails. Areas that are prohibited to dogs entirely will be clearly posted with an international "no dog" sign. You can also check park maps or the *Dog Access Matrix* which is posted on the County Park website at www.parkhere.org for more information on dog access restrictions in County Parks. If you don't see a sign, just keep your dog leashed and **Go Outside and Play!**

Comply With the Leash Law

Dogs must be controlled by a 6' leash at all times, except in the designated off-leash areas. Use of extended leashes, voice control, or electronic collars does not meet the County's ordinance requirements for controlling one's dog. Please plan on using a standard 6' leash to prevent your dog from disturbing park wildlife, natural resources or other park visitors.

Pick Up After Your Pet

The Department provides scooper bags and receptacles in high use areas; but you may be venturing into an area where these resources are not available. Plan on bringing a bag to collect your pet's waste, and discard it appropriately in a trash receptacle. If you have hiked into a remote area, please pack your dog's waste out.

WE HAVE OFF-LEASH FACILITIES!

The County has three off-leash facilities conveniently located for your enjoyment.

Los Gatos Creek County Park (408) 356-2729

The Los Gatos Creek off-leash facility is located off of Dell Avenue in Campbell and is the newest of our three dog parks. Located in the recently renovated Los Gatos Creek County Park, the facility has two fenced areas to keep small and large dogs separated.

Ed Levin County Park (408) 262-6980

The Ed Levin off-leash facility is located off of Calaveras Road in Milpitas and is operated by the City of Milpitas. The facility has separate small and large dog areas and is the largest of all the fenced off-leash facilities.

Hellyer County Park (408) 225-0225

The Hellyer off-leash facility is located off of Hwy. 101 at the Hellyer Avenue exit on the north side of Hellyer County Park. The facility is one large area where small and large dogs share roaming space.

Use of any of our off-leash facilities is free; however, a vehicle entrance fee is collected upon entrance to the park. In addition, the facilities are closed one day a week for routine turf and grounds maintenance. Please check our website or call the park office for current facility maintenance schedules.

www.parkhere.org



Off-leash areas are for dogs, their handlers and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed. Visitors using the areas assume all risks related to park use.



Handlers must be at least 16 years old. An adult must accompany all persons under 16.



Dogs must be on a 6 foot leash prior to entry and after exiting the areas.



Dogs must wear proof of current license, rabies vaccination, and be free of communicable diseases. Dogs in heat are not allowed.



Only two dogs are permitted per handler. Handlers must supervise and be able to verbally control their dogs at all times.



Handlers must pick up and dispose of their dog's waste.



Dogs with aggressive tendencies are not allowed. Any dog showing aggressive behavior must be removed from the off-leash facility immediately.



Dog handlers / owners are responsible for all injury caused by their dogs and must provide contact information if their dog bites another dog or person.



**Report Dog Bites To
County Communications
(408) 299-2311**

Report All Other Emergencies To 9-1-1

Water Access For Dogs

Dogs are generally not permitted in the waterways of the County Park system. Many of the reservoirs and percolation ponds throughout the County are controlled by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and are an integral part of the County's drinking water supply. Other waterways are home to a host of native birds, waterfowl and listed endangered species, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Act, or the Endangered Species Act. Water access may be available at non-sensitive sites by special permit.

Special Use Permits

The County Parks Director has authority to issue special use permits to organized groups for special dog events, dog shows, search and rescue exercises, and water retrieval training. Special Use permit fees vary based on group size, park site, activity, and whether it is a one time or annual permit. Insurance is required. If your group would like more information on the special permit process, or if you would like contact information for established dog groups, call our Special Use Coordinator at (408) 355-2220.

Enforcement Of County Ordinances

To protect you, your dog, park wildlife, and other park visitors, County Ordinances related to *Dog Access in County Parks* will be strictly enforced. Your cooperation with park rules and regulations will insure everyone's enjoyment of County Parks.

Dogs must be under control of their owners or caretakers at all times. Please do not let your dog interfere, harass or bother other park visitors, or park wildlife. Park Rangers may require handlers to remove a dog from a park if it constitutes a public nuisance. Citations may be issued.

For a complete listing of
County Ordinances, visit the County's website at
www.sccgov.org

HELPFUL HINTS Did You Know?

Dogs Don't Sweat!

Don't forget that on a hot day, or during a long hike, your four-legged pal needs rest and a drink just like you. A dog is more susceptible to heat exhaustion on a hot day because they pant to cool themselves. By panting, a dog exchanges hot core temperature with cooler outside air, which helps to reduce overall body temperature. The hotter the day, the less likely a dog can cool down by panting. Heat exhaustion can be prevented by making sure your pet is in sufficient condition for the hike, by providing rest in shaded areas, and by offering water along the way. Many trails and remote areas are removed from water sources, so plan on taking water for both you and your pet when hiking in remote areas.

Ticks Can Transmit Lyme Disease

Ticks can carry a variety of diseases that can be transmitted to humans *and dogs* including Lyme disease. When you finish your hike, check yourself and your dog carefully for ticks and remove them as soon as possible to help prevent the transmission of disease. If you have questions about tick borne diseases, or whether you or your dog could have contracted Lyme disease contact the Santa Clara County Vector Control at (408) 792-5010.

Wildlife Poses a Danger to Your Dog

The park system is home to many animals that can pose a threat to your unwary friend. Rattlesnakes, bobcats, coyotes and even mountain lions may be encountered in remote areas. By keeping your pet leashed, and on the trail, you are choosing to keep your pet safe.

Some People Are Afraid Of Dogs

You may have the nicest dog in the world; unfortunately, this does not matter to the fearful hiker who was bit as a child, or the horse that thinks your pet is a predator. Please be respectful of all users on the trail system. Yield to other users by reining in your dog and moving off to one side to allow people and horses to pass safely without having to interact with your pet.

DOG ACCESS IN COUNTY PARKS



**SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS**