

Tips for Bringing Kids to the Park

We want a visit to the Dog Park to be an enjoyable experience for you!

One reason for development of this area was to provide a space away from park playgrounds and playing fields where dogs could be free to run without disrupting families with children.

You may bring your kids to the Dog Park, but be aware that dogs running around changes the dynamics a bit.

Not all dogs in the park have children in their homes. Some of them have not been exposed to kids, or may even simply not like them.

In the interest of keeping the Dog park a safe, fun place for everyone, please watch your children closely and read the following recommendations.

- NEVER allow your child to approach or pet a dog without the owner's permission and presence.
- Children are easily run over and knocked down by running dogs.
- Some herding breeds may nip at kids in an attempt to round them up.
- A running, yelling child attracts attention and may become a target for dogs because she resembles an injured animal or running prey.
- Never let a child bring food or toys to the Dog Park. Even a friendly dog may go after a treat.
- 1 adult to supervise several children and the family dog is not enough. Make sure that you can take care of everyone you bring with you.

Parents: Teach your children how to behave around animals and what to do in case of any emergency before bringing them to the park:

- NEVER RUN- Hide face, fold arms and stand still. If necessary, lie down, tuck arms and legs into the body and lie still. In both cases, wait for help or until the dog leaves.
- Direct eye contact (staring) is confrontational and a challenge. A child is at just the right height for this, and, therefore, at risk.
- We strongly suggest that children under the age of 8 be closely supervised by an adult- keeping them within arm's reach.

Note to parents of infants: some dogs may jump to investigate babies in front or back packs. While most are merely curious and friendly, some have strong prey instincts and may mistake the baby for a small injured animal.