

Upper Allen Township Dog Park Rules

- Dog park use is at your own risk.
- The park is restricted to those with current registration and in possession of an active security fob purchased at Township office at 100 Gettysburg Pike during business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8 to 4:30.
- Dogs must be a minimum of 4 months old and must be licensed, healthy, current on vaccinations & spayed/neutered if older than 1 year of age.
- Size restrictions for small and large dog areas must be observed as posted. Only dogs under 30 lbs. and special-needs dogs are permitted in the small dog area. Only dogs over 30 lbs. are permitted in the large dog areas.
- Handlers must keep dogs in sight & be in control of dogs at all times.
- Excessive barking is not permitted in accordance with Upper Allen Town Code Chapter 88, Section 88-3.
- Dogs must be collared; however, no chain, prong, or e-collars are permitted due to safety concerns.
- Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and could lead to revocation of park access.
- No more than two (2) dogs per person/owner at a time.
- Dog waste must be picked up immediately and deposited in the provided receptacles.
- Dog handlers must be 18 or older.
- Children under the age of 5 are not permitted within the fenced areas.
- Food, treats, smoking, and alcohol are not permitted within the park.
- Dog handlers must bring water for their dogs. At this time neither the dog park nor the church can furnish water.
- No digging allowed.
- No toys or balls allowed.
- If you misplace your fob or your dog's collar tag, you may purchase a replacement at the Township building during business hours.
- There are no park personnel on duty.
- Rules are subject to change and may be revised at any time.

The success of this park depends on self-policing and the good manners of its users. Please address potential problems before they become big problems. A friendly reminder is better than an angry confrontation; however, do not get in over your head! If there is a problem, you always have the option of calling the police, or taking your dog and walking away. It's always better to remove yourself and your dog to safety and call 911.

1. To gain access to the park, all dogs must be registered through Upper Allen Township on an annual basis. Park is only open during daylight hours (dawn to dusk). We want to keep this park as friendly as possible and the best way to do that is by limiting the park to healthy dogs with owners who have been educated about the park rules. Unregistered dogs are **not** permitted except during Township-approved Open House events. Access to the park will be permitted only upon registration, proof of license and vaccination records, and acknowledgement of the park rules. Registered dog owners will receive a key fob that will provide access to the park for one year. At the end of that year, dog owners may renew their registration by providing updated vaccine and license records. Please do not allow access to unregistered dogs. Violation of this rule (or any rule) is grounds for revocation of registration.

2. Dogs must be licensed, healthy, current on vaccinations & spayed/neutered. Female dogs in heat, unaltered dogs over 1 year of age, and sick dogs are **not allowed** at any time. There are health risks any time your dog interacts with other dogs. Healthy, vaccinated dogs are at a lower risk of getting ill as a result of visiting the dog park. Consult with your vet about your dog's overall health and temperament before coming to the dog park. Concerning spaying and neutering: In addition to accidental puppies, intact males can experience social problems.

An unneutered dog's high testosterone level can make him the target of harassment or aggression from other male dogs. Females in heat can inadvertently cause dogfights.

3. Dogs must be over 4 months old. The immune system for puppies under four months is not fully mature, making them highly susceptible to potentially deadly and contagious diseases. Dogs of any age will not be permitted until they are registered and fully vaccinated. While socializing your puppy is one of the most important things you will ever do, the dog park may not be the best option for beginning socialization. For young puppies, a dog park can be scary and overwhelming, potentially giving your puppy life-long issues with other dogs. We encourage all puppy owners to enroll in a puppy class before visiting the dog park.

4. Handlers must keep your dog in sight & be in control of your dog at all times. You are liable for your dog's behavior and actions. Excessive barking is not permitted (Upper Allen Town Code Chapter 88, Section 88-3). Aggressive dogs **must** be removed from the park at the first sign of aggression. Your dog is your personal property. You are legally responsible for damage or injury caused by your dog. This includes injury to another dog or person. You should always remain with your dog, observant of his or her behavior, as no one knows your dog as well as you. If your dog becomes upset, worried, scared, belligerent, or a nuisance to other users, please remove him or her from the park. Remember, you are your dog's best advocate. Finally, you also need to watch to know when and where your dog "does his or her business" so you can quickly clean it up.

5. Chain, choke, prong or e-collars are not permitted. During dog play, other dogs can get their teeth caught in a chain, choke or prong collar when playing and panic when stuck, causing injury to themselves and the dog wearing the collar. A prong or pinch collar may also get caught up on a fence and will be painful if pushed into the dog's neck during play, potentially causing a fight because of a perceived "signal of threat." While not a rule, halters are discouraged as they too can get caught up during play. Plain, buckle, stretchy or leather collars are the safest choices at the dog park.

6. Dogs must wear a leash to the dog park and have it removed inside the dog park. For your dog's safety, keep the leash on until you are safely in the double-gated entry area. Both the small dog and large dog areas have two double-gated entrances. Once inside the double-gated area, and before entering the off-leash area, unleash your dog.

7. Dogs must be on their best behavior in the dog park because aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. Often people mistakenly believe that if their dog fears or dislikes other dogs, the dog just needs socialization to "get over it." However, if your dog is fearful or nervous around other dogs, exposing it to unfamiliar dogs could worsen existing issues. If your dog exhibits aggressive behavior toward other dogs, visits to a dog park may worsen the behavior and put other people's dogs at risk or ruin their enjoyment of the park. Always respect other dog owners' wishes if someone is not comfortable with how your dog is interacting with theirs. Simply move to another part of the park for a while or leave the dog park if your dog is acting in an aggressive manner or having a bad day.

What should you do if someone else has a dog acting aggressively? First, remove your dog from the situation. Second, if it is safe, politely tell the dog's owner that you feel their dog is behaving aggressively and ask them to take some action to control their dog or leave the park. If you do not feel safe or your request has no effect, call Upper Allen Township Police at 717-795-2445 or 911 and file a report.

8. No more than two (2) dogs per person/owner at a time. It is very difficult for one person to effectively control and supervise more than two dogs. If you have more than two dogs, feel free to bring a friend or relative to assist with the close supervision.

9. You must clean up your dog's poop IMMEDIATELY. No one likes even a little poo on the shoe. Moreover, it's unhealthy and can spread disease as there are some canine diseases that spread through feces. Our dog park will be equipped with waste receptacles and bags for your convenience. Use them! Feel free to bring some extra bags along too. Also, please pick up any "orphan poo." From time to time, you may also have missed your own dog's "presents." If you notice that a dog has pooped and the owner seems unaware of it, politely point it out to them. Additionally, please also pick up any other litter that could possibly be eaten by a dog. In summary, leave the dog park better than you found it.

10. Dog Handlers must be 18 or older. As you are responsible for your dog's actions, handlers must be of a legally responsible age.

11. No children under the age of 5 are allowed within the fenced areas of the dog park. All children must be under the direct supervision and in close proximity of an adult at all times when within the fenced areas. This is a dog park and not all dogs are child-friendly; however, all dogs have the potential to bite. Children should be discouraged from running in the dog park or getting close to a dog's face. An interested child staring into a dog's face may provoke a dog unintentionally. Never let your child have toys or food in the Dog Park. Never allow your child to approach or pet a strange dog without the owner's presence and approval.

12. Food, alcohol, smoking, dog treats of any kind, and glass containers are NOT permitted in the dog park. Food and treats can trigger fights between dogs. It's that simple. Some dogs may have allergic reactions; food or treats accidentally dropped on the ground could cause problems.

13. Stop your dog from digging. Let's keep the park nice for everyone. Owners must fill in any accidental holes immediately.

14. NO toys are permitted due to the possibility of them causing fights and aggressive behavior. Additionally, toys can become a real headache for the maintenance staff and problematic for mowers and equipment.

15. Carry your dog's leash with you at all times. A leash is a sure way of gaining control over your dog in an emergency.

16. Response to emergencies. Report all unattended dogs to the Upper Allen Township Police by calling 911. For assistance in unsafe situations, call 911. As a dog owner, you are liable for injuries and damage inflicted by your dog. Watch your dog carefully! If your dog injures a person or a dog, give your name and phone number to the injured party. Report to law enforcement authorities any handlers who refuse to take responsibility for damages/injuries and who are endangering the safety of others.