

Dog Park Safety Tips

Here are some safety tips to help keep your dog park running smoothly.

Fencing, gates, and clean up:

- ◆ Fencing: The fence should be at least four feet high.
- ◆ Gates: The fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- ◆ Clean-up: A bag-dispensing station and a waste disposal can should be provided.

Pet addendum:

- ◆ Residents should sign a pet addendum or similar document that does the following:
 - * Establishes rules
 - * Provides hold harmless and indemnifies the owner/manager
 - * Establishes demand for tenant liability insurance (if not already required in the lease)
- ◆ The document should somehow address the risk of large dogs and dogs with aggressive behavior:
 - * Specify a weight limit
 - * Do not allow dogs that have bitten or attacked in the past
 - * A prohibited breed list could be used if allowed by law in your state
 - * Do not allow dogs that show signs of aggressive behavior when you meet/screen them

Signage should include:

- * Only residents who have signed up and have eligible dogs are allowed
- * Unsupervised children are not allowed
- * Clean up rules
- * Emergency phone number
- * Requirement for dogs to be on a leash when exiting the park

Maintaining a safe dog park:

- ◆ A protocol should be in place for
 - * Periodically checking the fence and gate
 - * Monitoring resident compliance with clean-up
 - * Mowing and general upkeep while looking out for potential hazards

