



STAFF REPORT

SAUSALITO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2016

AGENDA TITLE: Proposal to pass an Ordinance to limit dog park visitors to three dogs

LEAD DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission support the Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks proposal to have the City Council pass an Ordinance to limit Sausalito Dog Park visitors to three dogs.

SUMMARY

In 1991 an off-leash Dog Park was created at MLK Park. The Dog Park was to be operated and maintained by volunteers. Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in the amount of professional Dog Walkers visiting the Park. Despite signage to the contrary, the Dog Walkers often bring more than the suggested unenforceable three dog limit. This creates problems as the walkers are often unable to sufficiently supervise their dogs. The Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks would like to have the City Council pass an Ordinance to limit Sausalito Dog Park visitors to three dogs.

BACKGROUND

On July 30, 1991, through Resolution 4088, the City Council approved the creation of a permanent off-leash dog park at the North East corner of MLK Park. The Resolution specifically stated that the area be “designated as an off-leash area in which dogs under direct control and supervision of persons having responsibility for such dogs are permitted to run at large subject to the rules posted at the site”. (Attachment 1)

As part of the agreement between Sausalito Dog enthusiasts and the City, the Park is to be operated and maintained by volunteers. The Park is being maintained by the Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks, a 501(c)3 organization.

Over the past few years there has been a sharp increase in the amount of professional dog walkers using the park as well as the number of dogs each dog walker has been bringing to the Park. This has created a problem as many of the dog walkers are

unable or unwilling to have direct control and supervision over the dogs they bring to the Park as required in Resolution 4088.

Signage (Attachment 2) has been posted to limit the amount of dogs a person can bring in to three however this rule has not been adhered to. Residents have spoken to the people who have violated this rule to no avail and dog walkers continue to bring in more than three dogs.

As the three dog rule is not an official City Ordinance it is not enforceable by City Staff or Law Enforcement. The Friends of Sausalito Dog Park (Friends) are requesting that an Official Ordinance be passed by City Council so that the three dog limit can be enforced (Attachment 3).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Friends have reviewed the City's Animal Control Ordinance (Excerpts-Attachment 4 full Ordinance available at <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Sausalito/>), The Suggested Dog Park Rules as proposed by the Humane Society of the United States (Attachment 5), The Marin Humane Society Dog Park Rules (Attachment 6), as well as information from the American Kennel Club and the Center for Disease Control (Attachments 7 & 8).

Their research supports the passage of an Ordinance to limit the number of dogs that may be brought in by a single person to the Dog Park. When a person brings in multiple dogs it becomes extremely difficult if not impossible for them to maintain direct control and supervision of their dogs. Issues then arise with excess feces being left at the park causing a health hazard. Additionally, the possibility of fights and other vicious behavior increases since the dogs are not being supervised.

ALTERNATIVES

While Staff recommends that there be an Ordinance to limit Sausalito Dog Park visitors to three dogs, other alternatives could include:

1. Additional signage at the park reminding visitors of the current suggested three dog limit
2. A change in the number of dogs to be allowed (Marin Humane has a two dog limit)
3. Specific hours for dog walkers

FISCAL IMPACT

No direct fiscal impact is expected, however, the proposed Ordinance will require both Staff time to draft and enforce as well as Police resources to enforce.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission support the Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks proposal to have the City Council pass an Ordinance to limit Sausalito Dog Park visitors to three dogs.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- City of Sausalito Resolution 4088

Attachment 2- Current Signage

Attachment 3- Request from the Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks

Attachment 4- Excerpts from the Sausalito Animal Control Ordinance

Attachment 5- Humane Society of the United States Suggested Dog park Rules

Attachment 6- The Marin Humane Society Dog Park Rules

Attachment 7- American Kennel Club Information

Attachment 8- Center for Disease Control information

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:



Mike Langford
Parks and Recreation Director

Attachment 1

City of Sausalito Resolution 4088



Attachment 2
Current Signage



REMINGTON DOG PARK RULES

Welcome to Remington Dog Park. This park gives dogs a healthy and safe environment for leash-free socialization and exercise. Please help us keep it that way by following these rules:

- Dogs that bark persistently must be removed.
- All dogs must wear a current license and have up-to-date vaccinations.
- Any dogs...including *unneutered* dogs...that incite fighting must be removed.
- Female dogs in heat are not allowed.
- There is a limit of 3 dogs per person.
- Children must be with an adult and are admitted at your own risk.
- No unattended dogs. They will be impounded.
- No unruly or aggressive dogs are allowed.
- No climbing or jumping fences.
- Food is discouraged. If your food causes problems, please remove it.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Marin Humane Society	415.883.4621
Sausalito Police Department	415.289.4170
Emergency Vet Clinic	415.456.7372



Attachment 3

Request from the Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks





August 17, 2016

Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks

3001 Bridgeway Ave.
K-121.
Sausalito, CA
94965

www.sausalitodogpark.org

Board of Directors:

Jo Ann Ruff
Rob Beaton
Karen Bendinelli
Wayne Loucks
Mark Watson

The Remington Dog Park was created by the City Council on July 30, 1991 as a location for local residents to exercise their dogs off lease in a safe and enclosed location. This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary and would like the Parks and Recs Commission to consider recommending to the City Council the creation of a complaint based ordinance that would limit the number of dogs to 3 per person. We believe this to a reasonable number and would mirror the current city ordinance (6.04.185) that limits Sausalito residents from keeping more than 3 dogs in their home.

This ordinance would be targeting the abuse of people who arrive at the park with four to six dogs per person. It is a common site during the late morning and early afternoon to see groups of people socializing with one another in one corner of the park while ignoring their dogs. Not only are these dogs not being properly supervised, but also their feces are not being picked up leading to considerable excess poop at the park. Maintaining a clean and safe environment is our central goal and the abuse these people conflicts directly with the spirit in which park was created.

We believe the first few months after enacting the ordinance would be the busiest for the police, but once they begin getting fined they will discover other leashed and off leash areas in Marin to exercise their dogs. Unfortunately, the National Park Service are about to make our situation worse by eliminating all off leash dog access to GGNRA areas except Rodeo Beach, making a bad situation worse by forcing people off trails and into locally fenced dog parks. The good news is that Marin County Open Space is still relatively dog friendly and will take some pressure off local parks.

Please help us return our park to the safe and clean environment that was envisioned twenty-five years ago and recommend the City Council add to their consent calendar a complaint based ordinance limiting dog park patrons to three dogs per person.

Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks

Friends of Sausalito Dog Parks is a non-profit organization for the prevention of cruelty to animals under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. FEIN: 14-1843742

Our mission: to support and foster leash-free, clean and protected dog parks for exercise, socialization and education in Sausalito and in partnership with the City of Sausalito's Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Attachment 4

Excerpts from the Sausalito Animal Control Ordinance



Chapter 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL

Sections:

- [6.04.010](#) Short title.
- [6.04.020](#) Definitions.
- [6.04.030](#) Licenses required – Periods.
- [6.04.040](#) Rabies vaccinations, veterinarian reporting requirements.
- [6.04.050](#) Confinement and quarantine.
- [6.04.060](#) License fee.
- [6.04.070](#) Delinquent license penalty.
- [6.04.080](#) Duplicate license tags.
- [6.04.090](#) Display of license tags.
- [6.04.100](#) Exceptions.
- [6.04.110](#) Animal Services Officer – Appointment.
- [6.04.120](#) Animal Services Agency and its Animal Services Officers – Powers and duties.
- [6.04.122](#) Hearings.
- [6.04.130](#) Disposition of animals by Animal Services Agency.
- [6.04.140](#) Redemption of impounded animals.
- [6.04.150](#) Fees for redemption, placement, surrender.
- [6.04.160](#) Dogs running in certain public areas.
- [6.04.170](#) Dogs running on certain private lands.
- [6.04.175](#) Dog control by responsible person.
- [6.04.179](#) Prohibition of habitual animal noise which unreasonably disturbs the peace.
- [6.04.180](#) Prohibition of animals trespassing on public or private property.
- [6.04.181](#) Potentially dangerous and vicious dogs.
- [6.04.182](#) Prohibition.
- [6.04.183](#) Definition of wild and/or undomesticated animal.
- [6.04.184](#) Remedial measures.
- [6.04.185](#) **Limitation on number of dogs.**
- [6.04.190](#) Stray animals.
- [6.04.195](#) Fees for pickup and disposal of dead dogs, cats and small household pets and wildlife.
- [6.04.200](#) Biting animals to be reported.
- [6.04.220](#) Stray livestock – Charges.
- [6.04.225](#) Prohibition of big cats in residential areas.
- [6.04.226](#) Feeding of certain wild animals.
- [6.04.230](#) Use of animals for exhibits.
- [6.04.240](#) Commercial animal establishment.
- [6.04.241](#) Hearing regarding permits for use of animals for exhibits.
- [6.04.245](#) Dog hobbyists.

- [6.04.246](#) Ranch dog permittees.
- [6.04.250](#) Sale of animals for experimentation.
- [6.04.252](#) Animals and vehicles.
- [6.04.255](#) Senior citizen, blind or disabled persons discount on specified fees.
- [6.04.260](#) Penalty for violation.

ANIMAL CONTROL

6.04.160 Dogs running in certain public areas.

A. It is unlawful for the owner/guardian or person having control of any dog to permit the same, under any circumstances, to run at large in any public place, including, without limitation, parks, or in any school, or upon any school grounds, or in any commercial district, or in any game refuge, or in any public watershed area or to run off leash in a public place except where the City Council by ordinance or resolution has specifically permitted dogs to run at large; and where signs acknowledging such permission have been erected by the City. Every dog found running at large or off leash in violation of the provisions of this section shall be immediately seized and impounded. Any duly authorized peace officer shall be entitled to take such other action as may be reasonably necessary for the protection of public health and safety.

B. No owner or keeper of a dog shall permit or allow any dog to remain in any public place, on any public street including any public sidewalk, in any public park or in any public schoolyard except when leashed to and under the direct control and supervision of a person having responsibility for the dog.

C. Notwithstanding any other provisions herein to the contrary, no dogs, with the exception of dogs which are “service animals” as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, whether on or off leash, shall be permitted in Cazneau Park, Harrison Park, the fenced-in children’s area of Robin Sweeny Park, the fenced-in children’s area of South View Park, or the fenced children’s area of Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. [Ord. 1226 § 1, 2014; Ord. 1190 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1183 § 1, 2006; Ord. 1171 § 1, 2003; Ord. 1076 § 1, 1992; Ord. 881 § 5, 1975.]

6.04.175 Dog control by responsible person.

A. Dogs shall at all times be kept under the immediate control and direction of a competent, responsible person who is capable of controlling such an animal. Any dog that is not subject to such control and direction may be seized and impounded.

B. Every owner/guardian or possessor of a dog shall at all times prevent such

dog from biting or physically harassing any person engaged in a lawful act and from interfering with the lawful use of public or private property.

C. Every owner/guardian or possessor of a dog shall at all times prevent such dog from causing injury to another domestic animal that results in veterinarian treatment or death while such domestic animal is lawfully upon public or private property.

D. Every owner/guardian or possessor of a dog shall desist from commanding or provoking such dog to attack, sic or threaten a person when such person is peaceably and lawfully upon public or private property. [Ord. 1190 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1171 § 1, 2003; Ord. 1076 § 3, 1992; Ord. 981 § 1, 1980; Ord. 881 § 5.1, 1975. Formerly 6.04.171-A.]

6.04.185 Limitation on number of dogs.

Except as provided in SMC [6.04.245](#) and [6.04.246](#), and other than legal uses now in existence, it is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor more than three dogs which are over the age of four months on any lot, premises, dwelling, building, structure, boat or living accommodation. As used in this section, "lot," "dwelling," "building" and "structure" have the same meaning as set forth in SMC Title [10](#). [Ord. 1190 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1171 § 1, 2003; Ord. 976 § 3, 1980; Ord. 881 § 3.9, 1975. Formerly 6.04.116.]

6.04.245 Dog hobbyists.

A. Regulations. The Animal Services Agency is authorized and directed to adopt and to submit for approval to the County Board of Supervisors comprehensive regulations concerning dog hobbyist activities.

B. Permit. An individual who wants to qualify as a dog hobbyist must apply for a permit from the Animal Services Agency. A permit shall be issued if, after investigation, the Animal Services Agency determines that the applicant is a bona fide dog hobbyist, maintains appropriate premises for the proper confinement and control of dogs. The Animal Services Agency must determine that issuance of a permit will not create a nuisance in the neighborhood in which the activity is proposed, and in all other respects complies with the regulations adopted by the Animal Services Agency pertaining to dog hobbyists. Permits may be issued subject to such conditions as the Animal Services Agency determines are necessary to protect the public health and welfare and to avoid the creation of a nuisance or public health hazard.

C. Hearings. Any applicant, permittee or other interested party aggrieved by the issuance, revocation or modification of a permit may request a hearing provided by SMC [6.04.122](#). A request for a hearing or mediation shall be in writing and filed with the Animal Services Agency not later than 30 working days following

transmittal of the Animal Services Agency's decision to the applicant or permittee. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer shall issue an appropriate order sustaining, modifying or setting aside the determination of the Animal Services Agency.

D. Revocation of Permit. A permit may be revoked, or continued, subject to limited conditions of use, if the Animal Services Agency determines that any of the following conditions exist:

1. The permittee has violated the provisions of this chapter twice in one license year.
2. The permittee has been convicted of cruelty to animals.
3. The permittee has failed to comply with the conditions of the permit.
4. Continuation of the permit will create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Continuation of the permit will create a nuisance in the neighborhood in which the permit has been issued.

E. Fees and Licenses. The Animal Services Agency shall collect a fee for the issuance of each dog hobbyist permit as may be established by separate ordinance of the County Board of Supervisors. The issuance of a dog hobbyist permit shall include provision of an individual license for each dog harbored under the permit at no additional charge.

F. Confinement. All dogs under the control of a dog hobbyist must be confined to the owner/guardian's property at all times, except when removed for training, recreational use or exhibition, at which times they must be under the immediate control of the permittee or agent. [Ord. 1190 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1171 § 1, 2003; Ord. 976 § 2, 1980; Ord. 881 § 3.9, 1975. Formerly 6.04.114.]

6.04.246 Ranch dog permittees.

The provisions and regulations provided in SMC [6.04.245](#) for dog hobbyists shall govern and apply to all ranch dog permittees. The fees and license requirements for any ranch dog permittee shall be the same as provided in SMC [6.04.245](#) for dog hobbyists. [Ord. 1190 § 1, 2008; Ord. 1171 § 1, 2003.]

Attachment 5

Humane Society of the United States Suggested Dog park Rules



Suggested Dog Park Rules

The Humane Society of the United States:

A successful dog park needs rules that are easy to understand and visibly posted. Dog park rules are usually drawn up by the park department and the affiliated dog park association whose members provide an example to other dog owners and exert peer pressure to enforce the rules.

- Dog feces must be cleaned up by owners. Due to the concentration of dogs in one area, feces must be removed in order to prevent transmission of parasites, reduce odor, and promote general cleanliness. Many dog parks supply bags to pick up feces for free or at minimal cost which encourages compliance.

- Dog owners must be in the park, within view, and be able to maintain voice control of their dogs at all times. This encourages dog owners to seek some level of training for their dog and promotes appropriate dog behavior through strict supervision. Owners are present to observe and clean up when their dog defecates.

- Dogs with a known individual history of dangerous behavior are not permitted in the park. This discourages aggressive behavior. No dog should be excluded based solely on breed.

- Dogs must be removed from the dog park at the first sign of dangerous behavior toward people or other dogs in the park. Responsible dog owners must teach their dogs that such behaviors are unacceptable.

- Dog owners must have a leash in hand at all times. This enables the dog owner to remove a dog from the park for any inappropriate behavior.



■ •Small children should not be brought into the dog park. Small children can be harmed inadvertently by a playful dog. Chasing may be viewed as a threat to a dog, and running away from and high-pitched screaming may trigger hunting instincts in a dog. A responsible dog owner needs to devote his full attention to watching his dog.

■ •Dogs should be leashed while entering and exiting the dog park. It is important for safety and legal reasons to obey leash laws whenever your dog is not in the boundaries of the dog park.

■ •Female dogs in heat are prohibited from entering the dog park. The presence of a dog in heat may promote fights among unneutered males. This threatens the dogs as well as their owners who must break up the fights. Unwanted pregnancies may also result.

■ •Fill any hole your dog digs. Dogs and people in the dog park may be injured if they step into a hole. Designated digging areas within the dog park may help preserve the landscape and train dogs to dig only in specified areas.

■ •Puppies and dogs must be properly inoculated, healthy, and parasite free. This protects all dogs and promotes responsible veterinary care. For puppies less than 4 months of age without full vaccination protection, socialization with friends' or neighbors' dogs with known vaccination histories and temperament may be safer.

■ •Dogs must be licensed. This promotes rabies vaccination of dogs and their licensing as required by law.



■ Limit three dogs per visit. It would be difficult for one adult to monitor more than three dogs.

■ Do not bring food into the dog park. Fights may occur over food, and dogs may get sick if they eat foods that are not part of their usual diet.



Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

For More Information The Humane Society of the United States:

For more information about dog parks, refer to the resources below.

So You Want to Build a Dog Park? A Comprehensive Guide for Municipalities and Private Entities. Author: Susyn Stecchi
Information on how dog parks add value and quality of life to communities; what other communities did to get their dog parks; what to take into consideration when building a dog park; how to obtain or construct your own Dog Park equipment; and miscellaneous information, interesting tidbits, and generally unclassifiable items. Available online.

Establishing a Dog Park in your Community, AKC:

<http://www.akc.org/pdfs/GLEG01.pdf>

Magazine Articles

Adelman, Beth. "Dogs and Parks." AKC Gazette, August 1996 v. 113, n. 8, pg 34- 35.

Battiata, Mary. "Lassie Go Home." Washington Post Magazine, May 30, 1999, pg 8- 13, 23-27.

Bourbeau, Joanne. "Dog Parks: Can a Place That Lets Rover Roam Help Your Shelter?" Animal Sheltering May-June 1998, pg 19-21.

Burnham, Patricia. "Dog Parks." Dog World, June 1991 v. 76, n. 6, pg. 10-12. Crane, Candace. "Off-Leash Havens, Canine Heavens." Animals, March/April 1990,

pg 28-31.

Elmer, Irene. "Dog Parks." Dog Fancy, July 1990 v. 21, n. 7, pg 38-41.

Kawczynska, Claudia. "Dog Power." The Bark, No. 8, pg 33-37.

Kochan, Maureen. "America's Best Dog Parks," Dog Fancy, July 2006, pg 42-43.

Marar, Eve. "Point Isabel: A Playground Made In Paradise." Dog World, August 1997 v. 82, n. 8, pg 34-37.

Moran, Peggy. "Take Me Out To The Dog Park." Dog World, April 1999, v. 84, n. 4, pg 42-47.

Skoczek, Marianne. "The Ruff Part of Town." Pawprint, Summer 1998, vol. 23, issue 2, Peninsula Humane Society

Wolch, Jennifer R. and Rowe, Stacy. "Companions in the Park." Landscape, 1992 v. 31, n. 3, pg 16-23.

Attachment 6

The Marin Humane Society Dog Park Rules



MHS Dog Park Rules



The Marin Humane Society does not staff the dog parks during public-use hours. Use of the Dog Parks is at your own risk. For emergencies, please call 911 or the Marin Humane Society at 415.883.4621.

Park Use

GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR DOGS AT ALL TIMES. The Large Dog Park is for dogs over 25 pounds and smaller dogs only if appropriate. The Small Dog Park is for dogs 25 pounds and under or physically challenged older dogs.

- Dogs must be healthy, parasite-free, and currently vaccinated against distemper, parvo, and rabies.
- Dogs must wear a valid license and owner-identification (collar tag or microchip) when using the parks.
- Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- Dogs under four months of age are prohibited.
- **No more than two dogs per adult in the parks at any time.**
- Dogs may not be left unattended in parked vehicles anywhere on our campus at any time.
- Dogs may not be left tied outside the dog parks or anywhere on our campus at any time.
- Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the enclosed park areas.
- Aggression, bullying, and rough play are prohibited.
- Dogs displaying inappropriate or dangerous behavior towards people or dogs must be leashed and removed from the parks immediately by their guardians.
- Cooperation between handlers is expected and required.
- Please honor other patrons' requests regarding their dogs.
- Guardians must clean up after their dogs.
- No digging.
- Children are not allowed in the enclosed areas unless accompanied by an adult. Small children should not be brought into the dog parks, as they are at risk of inadvertent harm from playing dogs. While in the dog park, children should not scream, chase, or run around the parks.
- Children may not be left unattended in the dog parks at any time.
- No smoking or alcohol is permitted in the dog parks or anywhere on the MHS Campus.
- Dog guardians must have a leash in hand at all times, so that they may quickly remove a dog from the park for any inappropriate behavior.
- All head harnesses and muzzles should be removed before entering a dog park. Only flat collars or harnesses may be worn in the parks. Choke, prong, and pinch collars may not be worn in the parks.
- Guardians must be in the park, within view of, and able to maintain voice control over their dogs at all times.
- Park gates must be kept closed except when entering or exiting.
- Excessive barking is prohibited.
- Guardians may bring small, bite-sized treats for their dogs into the dog parks. Long-lasting treats, such as rawhide chews, pig's ears, and bones are prohibited.

continued on next page -->

- The dog parks may not be used for any business or commercial use without the written consent of the Marin Humane Society.
- To help keep the dog parks clean, please do not groom or wash animals at the park.
- No glass containers allowed in the dog parks.
- No littering. Place all trash in receptacles.
- No strollers, carriages, bicycles, or children's toys allowed in the dog parks.
- No skateboarding, bicycle riding, or rollerblading allowed in the parks or plaza.
- No climbing on or over the fences.
- Shoes and shirts are required at all times.
- No other animals except dogs are allowed in the park areas.

Complaints

The Marin Humane Society is not responsible for monitoring, assessing, or controlling dog behavior in the dog parks.

Non-emergency complaints regarding inappropriate behavior in the parks may be made to our Community Services desk at 415.506.6250. The Marin Humane Society reserves the right to respond to complaints about individuals or dogs with appropriate action, including revoking dog-park privileges and/or referring complaints to Animal Services Officers.

Any bite of a person or dog must be immediately reported to the Marin Humane Society at 415.883.4621.

If you have any questions regarding our dog parks, please contact the MHS Community Services desk at 415.506.6250.

Attachment 7

American Kennel Club Information



A photograph of two dogs running on a gravel path. In the foreground, a black and white dog is running towards the right. In the background, a golden retriever is running towards the right. The path is made of dark gravel, and there is a grassy area in the background. A yellow vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

Establishing a
Dog Park
in Your Community



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What Is a Dog Park and How Does It Benefit the Community?

With cities becoming more and more crowded and leash laws becoming more restrictive, many concerned dog owners are looking to the creation of dog parks as a solution to their need for a place to spend quality time with their pets. But just what is a “dog park,” and what benefits can one bring to your city or town?

A dog park is a public park, typically fenced, where people and their dogs can play together. Similarly, a dog run is a smaller fenced area, created for the same use, that is often located within an existing park. As the names imply, these places offer dogs off-leash play areas where their owners can enjoy a park-like setting and the chance to socialize with other canines and their owners. Dog parks, which are sometimes managed by park users in conjunction with city or town officials, are being established all over the country and offer a wealth of benefits to dogs, dog owners and the community as a whole.



More than just “room to roam,” the creation of a dog park . . .

Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely. Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others (for example, by running into the path of an oncoming vehicle). In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well toward strangers.

Promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a city to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners with



Enclosed play areas for exercise make dogs better-adjusted neighbors.

park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside of the park.

Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize. Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community. Park users also benefit from the opportunity to ask questions of other owners and find solutions to problems they might be having with their pet.

Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, and destroy property. Their presence in the park, along with their owners, also may help deter crime.



How to **Build** a Dog Park in Your Community

By now you've recognized the need for a dog park in your area, and you're eager to see one established. But how do you get started? The following are some strategies for a successful campaign:

The First Steps . . .

Start with a core group of committed dog park activists. Talk with a half dozen other individuals who are concerned about the lack of off-leash spaces. These may be people you already know, or you may want to put a notice in the local paper. This group may form a park association and will be responsible for meeting with public officials, making presentations, maintaining the park and defusing any problems that arise.

Hold a public meeting. Once the core group is in place, a larger community meeting will help you get the word out to supporters and solicit input and suggestions. Contact other dog owners, dog-related clubs, veterinarians, and humane society and animal control officials to gather interest and support. Do so by posting, mailing, or distributing notices in areas such as neighborhood bulletin boards, pet supply stores, animals hospitals, and shelters. Encourage people to write letters of support to public officials and the media, and to make presentations to community groups whose backing would be valuable.

Educate your fellow dog owners on the need to be responsible. The owner who neglects to pick up after his dog or who allows an aggressive or unsocialized dog to run loose can do a lot of damage to your cause and undermine your chances of success.

Write a clear mission statement that details the need and purpose of the park, stressing the benefits to dog owners, their canine companions, and the greater community. The Redwood City [California] Responsible Dog Owners' statement says it all: "To establish a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. To



Dog owners who neglect to pick up after their dogs can damage your cause.



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develop a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions. To view this park as a community project, in partnership with the City of Redwood City, designed to satisfy the needs of dog-owners and non-dog owners alike.”

Choose a site. The ideal area will be a safe, accessible location that takes into account the needs of park users as well as the effect the park will have on neighbors and the environment. Please refer to “Dog Park Design” on page 15 for additional recommendations.

Create a budget. Determine how much it will cost to construct and maintain the park – costs for grass, fences, garbage removal, lawn maintenance, drinking water, field drainage, lighting, benches, and a pooper-scooper station. Some cities are willing and able to finance a dog park; others would rather share the cost with a group committed to maintaining the park and ensuring that park rules are followed. Keep in mind that, if it is within your budget to do so,

SUCCESS STORY #1

Monmouth County, New Jersey

In the summer of 1999, a newly organized group of Monmouth County dog owners petitioned the county park system and several local municipalities to establish an off-leash dog park. The Bay Shore Companion Dog Club and New Jersey D. O. G. (Dog Owners Group) helped recruit members and collect signatures from owners of the nearly 40,000 licensed dogs living in the county.

After collecting 12,000 signatures, the group presented its proposal to the county park system's Board of Recreation Commissioners and municipal park system officials. Officials agreed that a dog park would offer many benefits to residents. They talked to other counties with successful parks about liability issues, rules, and regulations, before voting to approve funding for the estab-

lishment of an off-leash area in Monmouth County. The Thompson Park Dog Run opened on October 30, 1999, to enormous popularity.

Now that the park has opened, area dog owners will concentrate on forming a core group to help keep up the site and prevent potential problems. Just because dogs are allowed to run free does not mean that owners will not be responsible for their animals' actions. There are rules to be followed, guidelines to be maintained. “Public education for dog owners will be critical to the park's success,” notes one of the organizers. The park itself provides a terrific venue for teaching people to be responsible dog owners. Members of the local dog community have already held a “Park Do's and Don'ts” seminar and plan to host future programs there.



sharing expenses with the city can be a great public relations tool. It shows officials that you are committed to the project, will help foster good community relations and may increase your chance for the park's approval.

Depending on your situation, you will have to determine how you will generate revenue for your budget. One possibility to consider is user fees – requiring all park users to pay an annual or daily fee. Permits could be obtained from the city or town or through the park association. Fund-raisers such as a dog wash or concession sale at a local dog show can also help to generate money to cover expenses and maintenance costs. Finally, consider soliciting town and city sources. By convincing elected officials that there is wide support for a dog park among taxpayers and voters, you may help encourage funding for the park.

Solicit the input and seek the approval of significant organizations in your community. Meet with the proposed park's neighbors before talking to city hall. As soon as someone brings up a concern, address it and try to come up with a solution. With a little good will and cooperation, neighborhood differences can usually be resolved.



OK, you've gathered your resources. Where do you go from here?

Create a proposal. Your well-prepared presentation will include your mission statement and goals, and should address issues such as location, funding, maintenance and enforcement. Committee members will be expected to establish and enforce reasonable health and safety rules for the park, and these should be included in the proposal as well. Suggestions for these guidelines can be found in the “Rules and Regulations” section of this brochure. A good proposal will also do the following:

Demonstrate need. Do this by gathering statistics on the dogs and the people in your community.

- How many dogs would use a dog park?
- What are the demographics of the people in your city?
- Who currently uses city parks – and who doesn't? Downplay the “dog factor” and emphasize people issues. Dogs don't pay taxes or vote.





Demonstrate support. In many communities, organizers found that a simply worded request, circulated on a petition, helped convince city officials that there was indeed both a need and widespread public support for a responsibly run dog park.

- Place petition gatherers at supermarkets, pet-supply stores and other high-traffic areas.

SUCCESS STORY #2

Sarasota County, Florida

Sarasota County is the proud home to two successful “paw parks,” thanks in part to some active AKC®-affiliated dog club members.

One long-time club member chaired the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee that approved the opening of the 17th Street Paw Park last year. The chairman and his rescued Greyhound participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that attracted the attention of enthusiastic dog owners, media and city officials alike. The overwhelming success of the 17th Street Paw Park led to the creation of a second

off-leash area at Woodmere Park in Venice, Florida. In support of the move, the Greater Venice Florida Dog Club donated a decorative sign to mark the new paw park’s location.

In the last year, county officials from across the nation have contacted the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department regarding their success in developing and maintaining paw parks. Based on the positive response community residents have had to the parks, both off-leash areas will continue to serve as models for dog groups in the future.



- Enlist the support of local veterinarians, groomers, dog walkers, and others who have a real interest in seeing a community filled with healthy, well-socialized dogs. Involve them in gathering petitions, writing letters to the editor of local papers and generally spreading the word.
- Organize local residents to contact their community representatives, parks department officials, and media in the form of letters, e-mails, and phone calls, asking for their support.
- Consider sending press releases to local media, explaining how the community will benefit from a dog park and providing information about the success of existing parks in other areas.
- You'll need to get the neighbors' approval, too. Explain your proposal to them, as well as the ways that a dog park will benefit them, and ask them to sign a separate petition stating that they are willing to have the park in their neighborhood.

Get to know local officials – your city council members and the director of your department of parks and recreation. Attend meetings, join them at fund-raisers. Find out what they need from you to move the dog park forward. To help you get started, the AKC's Government Relations Department can provide you with brochures offering tips on working with government officials.



When you're ready, request a hearing with city government to discuss your proposal. Have two or three carefully selected, knowledgeable and articulate members of your group present your plan, clearly expressing its many benefits to the community and calmly addressing any concerns. Be prepared to deal with a range of concerns, including the risk of dog fights, dog bites, noise level, parking and traffic needs, liability issues, and maintenance. Explain why some of these are nonissues – the park's dogs, for example, will be well-socialized and therefore less likely to fight, bite, and cause accidents in the community. Have a plan to address legitimate issues, like traffic and noise.

Be patient and flexible. Dealing with city government is rarely a quick process, but don't give up! Follow through with continued letters and e-mails, and be willing to work toward compromise.

SUCCESS STORY #3

Sausalito, California

In early 1991, the City of Sausalito passed a law requiring dogs to be leashed at all times within the city limits. After receiving a citation and fine for walking her dog Remington without a leash, one owner led a citizen group that worked with the city council, the parks and recreation department and the Marin Humane Society to establish a dedicated enclosed area where the dogs of Sausalito could be off leash.

During that summer volunteers raised funds to fence a 1.3 acre area in the Martin Luther King School area, located on the north side of Sausalito, to be used as a dedicated dog park. In November 1991, the "Remington Dog Park" was officially opened with a gala ribbon cutting attended by city council members, local citizens, and their dog companions.

Although the city provides utilities, including water, electricity, and garbage removal, the park has been maintained by its users since the opening. Regularly scheduled work parties cut the grass as

well as maintain and improve the grounds.

Improvements to the park in excess of \$36,000 to date have been made through donations solely from park users. In addition to original fencing the park now has lighting, a storage shed, a riding lawnmower, picnic tables, benches, a dog drinking-water area, and a "scooper" cleaning station.

The park is the home of champion show dogs as well as mixed breeds. Dog owners have adopted over 30 "rescue" dogs. Many owners now have two dogs as a result of this program.

Having received the highest rating of "4 Paws" in The California Dog Lover's Companion, the Sausalito Dog Park is now used by over 300 dogs per day. From sunup to sundown, dogs of all ages, sizes, and types can be seen romping in the park, chasing a never ending supply of tennis balls, simply lying at their masters' feet under a picnic table or on top of the picnic table demanding face-to-face attention.

(See also www.dogpark-sausalito.com.)





SUCCESS STORY #4

Tallahassee, Florida

Members of the Ochlockonee River Kennel Club are always looking for ways to give back to their community, so when the opportunity came to help with the establishment of a dog park in Tallahassee, they jumped at the chance.

The group had long realized how important it was for dog owners to have a place where they could socialize with others and let their dogs run or play Frisbee. At the same time, their community was facing problems at a nearby city park where owners were permitting their dogs to illegally roam off-leash. The solution seemed simple -build a dog park! A public committee was formed, and an ORKC board member volunteered to serve on behalf of the dog community.

While the city of Tallahassee was

receptive to the idea, it was clear that little could be done without funds for fencing, pooper-scoopers, and the like. ORKC, which donates to various organizations every year, soon agreed to give the city the \$4,000 that would be needed to fence the two-acre park. Other clubs and fanciers followed suit, donating money for watering holes, cleanup facilities, shade trees, and benches. The city even donated old fire hydrants to add to the fun.

The park has been extremely popular since its opening in the summer of 1999, and city officials, who originally agreed to open the park on a trial basis only, are now enthusiastic about developing more. Members of the ORKC are pleased to have had a helping hand in the park's establishment and see it as a great opportunity to increase awareness of responsible dog ownership.

Congratulations – they approved it! Now what?

Your efforts have been successful, and development of the dog park is moving forward. Now is the time to thank everyone who helped bring the park to fruition, including volunteers, government officials, and community residents. As a result of everyone’s hard work, many dog owners will soon have a new opportunity to enjoy their canine companions! Be sure to share this good news with the AKC’s Government Relations Department so we can pass it on to others.

The key to future and continued success of the dog park will lie in responsible park-association members and park users who strictly enforce the rules. For the most part, this will mean getting people to clean up after their dogs, quiet excessive barking and curtail any aggressive behavior. Occasionally larger issues may arise, and it will be up to you to help settle disputes in a responsive, flexible manner.

Maintenance will be another important consideration. In some areas, park associations work in conjunction with local kennel clubs and parks department officials to organize volunteer “park cleanup” days. Kennel clubs and other dog organizations may also be willing to donate funds for future supplies of scoopers, trash bags, and cans.

The development of a successful dog park requires a great deal of planning and effort. But your involvement and dedication will hopefully lead to the ultimate reward – the joy of creating and maintaining a special place where dogs and their families can run, romp and socialize.



REMINGTON DOG PARK

HOURS

6:30AM–8PM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 6:30AM–9PM

BARK–FREE ZONE

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE. NOISE FROM THE PARK IS A NUISANCE TO OUR NEIGHBORS. DOGS THAT BARK PERSISTENTLY MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES.

UNATTENDED DOGS WILL BE IMPOUNDED

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE DOG PARK WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

CALL THE
MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY
883–4621

TO REPORT A DOG PROBLEM
OR LOST PET.

Dog Park Design:

The Ideal Dog Park Should Include . . .

- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high chain-link fence. Preferably, the fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooper-scooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- If space allows, it is preferable to provide separate areas for small and large dogs. This will enable large dog owners to allow their pets to run more freely, while protecting smaller dogs who may not be suited to the enthusiastic play of larger breeds.
- Signs that specify park hours and rules.
- Parking close to the site.



A double-gated entry prevents dogs from escaping.



Rules and Regulations

Members of a dog park committee should establish and enforce reasonable health and safety rules for the park, such as the following:

- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.
- Puppies and dogs must be properly licensed, inoculated, and healthy.
- Animals should wear a collar and ID tags at all times.
- Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- Dogs showing aggression toward people or other animals will be removed from the park. Animals who exhibit a history of aggressive behavior will not be permitted to enter.
- Puppies using the park must be at least four months old.
- Owners should not leave their dogs unattended or allowed out of sight. If young children are permitted in the dog park, they too should be under constant supervision.
- Dogs in heat will not be allowed inside the park.
- Owners must carry a leash at all times. Dogs should be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park.
- Violators will be subject to removal from the park and suspension of park privileges.

REMINGTON DOG PARK RULES

1. Dogs must NEVER be left unattended.
2. All dogs must wear a current license.
3. Owners are required to clean up after their dogs.
4. Unruly dogs are not allowed.
5. Female dogs "in heat" are not allowed in the Dog Park area.

Marin Humane Society 883-4621



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

AKC® Web Site: www.akc.org

For more information, contact
the Government Relations Department

Phone: 919-816-3720

Fax: 919-816-4275

E-Mail: doglaw@akc.org

Photos of Remington Dog Park, Sausalito, CA, by Vicky Cook

Attachment 8

Center for Disease Control information



Dogs

Overview

Diseases

Prevention

More Information

Many studies show the health benefits of dog ownership. Dogs not only provide comfort and companionship, but several studies have found that dogs decrease stress and promote relaxation. Dogs have positive impacts on nearly all life stages. They influence social, emotional, and cognitive development in children, promote an active lifestyle, and have even been able to detect oncoming epileptic seizures or the presence of certain cancers. But for all the positive benefits of keeping dogs, pet owners should be aware that dogs can carry germs that make people sick.

Although germs from dogs rarely spread to people, they might cause a variety of illnesses, ranging from minor skin infections to serious disease. To protect yourself and your family from getting sick:

- Seek routine veterinary care for your pet and
- Always [wash your hands](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) (<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>) and the hands of children with running water and soap after contact with dogs, their stool, and their food.

By providing your pet with routine veterinary care and some simple health tips, you are less likely to get sick from touching, petting, or owning dogs in the United States.

Click the tabs above for more information about choosing dogs, a list of diseases people can get from dogs, and information on how to keep yourself and your pet dogs healthy.



Page last reviewed: July 14, 2016

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) ([/ncezid/dw-index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dw-index.html))

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) ([/ncezid/dgmg/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dgmg/index.html))



Dogs

Overview

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The most common diseases associated with dogs that can cause human illness are:

Campylobacteriosis (*Campylobacter* spp.)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/campylobacter/>)

Campylobacter spreads through contaminated food (meat and eggs), water, or contact with stool of infected animals. Dogs infected with *Campylobacter* might show no signs of illness at all or might have diarrhea and a slight fever.

Most people who become sick with campylobacteriosis will have diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever within 2-5 days after exposure to the organism. *Campylobacter* can cause serious life-threatening infections in infants, older persons, and those with weakened immune systems.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/campylobacter/>) >

Dog Tapeworm (*Dipylidium*

caninum) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/dipylidium/index.html>)

The dog tapeworm is a parasite spread to dogs, cats, and people through the ingestion of infected fleas. This parasite is common but rarely causes illness in pets or people. Infections with *Dipylidium caninum* can sometimes be detected by finding rice-like segments of the tapeworm crawling near the anus or in fresh bowel movements. In severe infections, pets can lose weight and have mild diarrhea.

In people, children are more commonly infected but don't usually show signs of disease. The best way to prevent infection in pets is to control the flea population in the environment.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/dipylidium/index.html>) >

Hookworm (Zoonotic) (*Ancylostoma caninum*,

Ancylostoma braziliense, *Uncinaria stenocephala*) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/zoonotichookworm/>)

Dog hookworms are tiny worms that can spread through contact with contaminated soil or sand. Dogs can also become infected with hookworms through accidentally ingesting the parasite from the environment or through their mother's milk or colostrum. Young puppies are most often affected and might have dark, bloody stool and anemia. Severe infections in some puppies can lead to death.

People become infected with dog hookworms while walking barefoot, kneeling, or sitting on ground contaminated with stool of infected animals. Hookworm larvae enter the top layers of skin and cause an itchy reaction called cutaneous larva migrans. A red squiggly line might appear where the larvae have migrated under the skin. Symptoms usually resolve without medical treatment in 4-6 weeks.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/zoonotichookworm/>) >

Rabies (<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies>)

Rabies, a fatal neurologic disease in animals and people, is caused by a virus. Animals and people are most commonly infected through bites from rabid animals. Infected dogs might have a variety of signs, but most often have a sudden behavioral change and progressive paralysis. Rabies is prevented by vaccination.

The first symptoms in people can start days to months after exposure and include generalized weakness, fever, and headache. Within a few days symptoms will progress to confusion, anxiety, behavioral changes, and delirium. If you have been bitten by a dog or other animal and feel that there is a risk for rabies, contact your health care provider right away. Once symptoms appear, it is almost always too late for treatment.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies>) >

Roundworm (*Toxocara* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxocariasis/index.html>)

Toxocara roundworms cause a parasitic disease known as toxocariasis. Dogs and people can become infected by accidentally swallowing roundworm eggs from the environment. In addition, larval worms can cross through the placenta, milk, or colostrum of a mother dog, passing the infection to her puppies. Infected puppies usually do not develop and grow well and might have a pot-bellied appearance.

In people, children are most often affected with roundworm. There are two forms of the disease in people. Ocular larva migrans happens when the larvae invade the retina and cause inflammation, scarring, and possibly blindness. Visceral larva migrans occurs when the larvae invade parts of the body, such as the liver, lung, or central nervous system.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxocariasis/index.html>) >

Less common diseases associated with dogs that can cause human illness are:

Brucellosis (*Bruceella* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/index.html>)

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that affects the ability of animals to reproduce. The disease can be transmitted to humans through contact with recently aborted tissue from infected animals or consumption of unpasteurized (raw) milk. Dogs that are infected might have decreased appetite, weight loss, behavioral changes, and lack of energy, but most dogs infected with brucellosis show no signs of illness. Brucellosis affects the reproductive organs and can cause early-term deaths of developing puppies.

People who are infected with brucellosis will usually become sick within 6-8 weeks of exposure. Sick people will have flu-like symptoms that last 2-4 weeks. Sometimes brucellosis can become a chronic illness that can be difficult to treat.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/index.html>) >

Capnocytophaga spp.

Many species of *Capnocytophaga* bacteria live in the mouths of dogs and cats. These bacteria do not make dogs or cats sick.

Rarely, *Capnocytophaga* can spread to people through bites, scratches, or close contact from a dog or cat and cause illness. Most people who have contact with a dog or cat do not become sick. People with weakened immune systems who have difficulty fighting off infections (for example, people with cancer or those taking certain medications such as steroids) are at greater risk of becoming ill.

More >

Cryptosporidiosis (*Cryptosporidium* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>)

Cryptosporidium is a parasitic disease that is transmitted through contaminated food or water from an infected person or animal.

Cryptosporidium illness in dogs is rarely seen, but they can carry the germ without showing any signs of illness.

Cryptosporidium can cause profuse, watery diarrhea with cramping, abdominal pain, and nausea in both animals and people. Illness in people is usually self-limiting and lasts only 2-4 days, but can become severe in people with weakened immune systems.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>) >

Echinococcosis (*Echinococcus* spp.)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/echinococcosis/>)

Echinococcosis is a parasitic disease caused by eating or drinking food and water contaminated with a specific type of tapeworm eggs or through contact with an infected animal. Dogs become infected by eating tissue of an infected animal. Dogs rarely show any signs of disease, but if they are infected with a large number of worms, dogs can have diarrhea and enteritis.

Although *Echinococcus* invades many different organs of the body, most people who are infected with the disease will not have any signs of illness for years. Symptoms start when the slow-growing cysts become large enough to press on the organs they have invaded. The tapeworms grow slowly in several different organs of the body, most commonly the liver and lungs.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/echinococcosis/>) >

Ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia* spp.)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/ehrlichiosis/>)

Ehrlichiosis is a bacterial disease that affects animals and people and is transmitted by ticks. Dogs show variable signs that include depression, loss of stamina, stiffness and reluctance to walk, and coughing.

People show similar signs and symptoms, which include fever, headache, chills, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/ehrlichiosis/\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/ehrlichiosis/)

Giardiasis (*Giardia* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/>)

Giardia is a parasite that causes diarrhea in animals and people. *Giardia* is transmitted to animals and people through food or water contaminated with stool.

Symptoms in animals and people include diarrhea, greasy stools, and dehydration. People can also have abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms can last 1-2 weeks.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/)

Leishmaniasis (*Leishmania* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/leishmaniasis/index.html>)

Leishmaniasis is a protozoan disease of people and animals. It is transmitted by sandflies and is uncommon in North America. The two forms of the disease are visceral and cutaneous. The cutaneous form of leishmaniasis is most common in people and appears as one or more painless ulcers on the skin. Visceral leishmaniasis is less common and is characterized by fever, weight loss, enlarged spleen, and anemia. Dogs can develop both forms at the same time and have a variety of symptoms.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/leishmaniasis/index.html\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/leishmaniasis/index.html)

Leptospirosis (*Leptospira* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/>)

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of people and animals that is transmitted through contaminated water and urine or other body fluids from an infected animal. It is difficult to detect early stages of leptospirosis in animals, but the disease can lead to kidney and liver failure if left untreated.

People who become infected with leptospirosis might not have any signs of the disease. Others will have nonspecific flu-like signs within 2-7 days after exposure. These symptoms usually resolve without medical treatment, but can reappear and lead to more severe disease.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/)

Lyme Disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) (<http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/>)

Lyme disease is a bacterial disease of people and animals transmitted by ticks. In dogs the most common signs of illness of Lyme disease are lameness, fever, reluctance to eat, lack of energy, and enlarged lymph nodes, with or without swollen, painful joints.

Infected people will typically have a red "bull's eye" rash at the site of the tick bite that appears about 7 days after being bitten. Flu-like symptoms quickly follow the rash. If not treated, this disease can spread to other parts of the body and cause symptoms such as arthritis and loss of facial muscle tone (Bell's palsy). Lyme disease can be fatal.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/)

MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) (<http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/>)

Staphylococcus aureus is a common type of bacteria that is normally found on the skin of people and animals. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is the same bacterium that has become resistant to some antibiotics. Dogs and other animals often can carry MRSA without being sick, but MRSA can cause a variety of infections, including of the skin, respiratory tract, and urinary tract.

MRSA can be transmitted back and forth between people and animals through direct contact. In people, MRSA most often causes skin infections that can range from mild to severe. If left untreated, MRSA can spread to the bloodstream or lungs and cause life-threatening infections.

[More \(http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/\) >](http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/)

Pasteurellosis (*Pasteurella* spp.) (<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/224920-overview>)

Pasteurellosis is a bacterial disease associated with animal bites and scratches. *Pasteurella* is a normal bacterium that lives in the mouths of healthy dogs. The bacteria do not typically make dogs sick; however, dogs can develop abscesses or skin infections in places where they were scratched or bitten by another animal.

Pasteurella is found in 50% of patients with infected dog bite wounds. *Pasteurella* can cause painful wound and skin infections. In more severe cases, it can cause widespread infection and might even affect the nervous system.

More (<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/224920-overview>) >

Plague (*Yersinia pestis*) (<http://www.cdc.gov/plague/>)

Plague is a bacterial disease in animals and people that can lead to serious illness if left untreated. Dogs are unlikely to develop clinical disease if infected.

People most often become infected through flea bites or from contact with body fluids of infected animals. An example is a hunter skinning an infected rabbit or other animal. Bubonic plague is the most common form; symptoms include sudden onset of high fever, chills, headache, malaise, and swollen lymph nodes. The other two forms of plague, septicemic and pneumonic, cause more severe disease.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/plague/>) >

Ringworm (*Microsporium canis*)

Ringworm is a condition caused by a fungus that can infect skin, hair, and nails of both people and animals. Ringworm is transmitted from animals to people through direct contact with an infected animal's skin or hair. Puppies are most commonly affected and can have circular areas of hair loss anywhere on the body.

Ringworm infections in people can appear on almost any area of the body. These infections are usually itchy. Redness, scaling, cracking of the skin, or a ring-shaped rash may occur. If the infection involves the scalp or beard, hair may fall out. Infected nails become discolored or thick and may possibly crumble.

More >

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (*Rickettsia rickettsii*) (<http://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html>)

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is a bacterial disease transmitted to dogs and people by ticks. Dogs show a variety of symptoms similar to those in people, including fever, lameness, coughing, vomiting and diarrhea, and swelling of the face or extremities.

People start showing signs 2-14 days after exposure; these may include fever, rash, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and muscle pain. RMSF can develop into a serious illness if not promptly treated.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html>) >

Salmonellosis (*Salmonella* spp.) (<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>)

Salmonella spreads to people through contaminated food (eggs and meat) or contact with stool of certain animals including dogs. *Salmonella* infections have been linked to some brands of dry dog food, treats, and chew toys like pig ears and to "raw food" diets for dogs. While it usually doesn't make the dogs sick, *Salmonella* can cause serious illness when it is passed to people.

People exposed to *Salmonella* might have diarrhea, vomiting, fever, or abdominal cramps. Infants, elderly persons, and those with weakened immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>) >

Sarcoptic Mange (*Sarcoptes scabiei*), also known as Mange (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>)

Sarcoptic mange is a parasitic skin disease that is caused by a tiny mite. Mange is transmitted between animals through close contact. In dogs, the mite causes severe itching and self-inflicted wounds from scratching.

People can't become infested with the canine version of sarcoptic mange, but they can have a minor local reaction from the mites if they come in contact with an infested dog.

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>) >

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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (</ncezid/dw-index.html>)

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) (</ncezid/dgmq/index.html>)

Dogs

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Tips for preventing dog-associated diseases

Before choosing a dog

Choosing a dog

Housing your dog

Monitor your pet's health

Dog bites

Preventing dog bites

What to do if you are bitten or scratched by a dog

Healthy habits

CDC recommends hand washing whenever you play or work with dogs.

- [Wash your hands \(http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) with soap and running water after contact with dogs, dog saliva, or dog stool. Be sure to assist children with handwashing. Thoroughly washing hands will reduce the risk of disease transmission to people.
- Avoid bites and scratches from dogs. Dog bites might become seriously infected or might be a source of rabies. Be cautious with unfamiliar animals. Approach dogs with care, even if they seem friendly.
- Pick up and dispose of dog stools, especially in areas where children might play. Cleaning up after your dog will help keep the area clean and reduce the risk of spreading disease to people or other animals.
- Visit your veterinarian for routine evaluation and care to keep your dog healthy and to prevent infectious diseases.



Person washing their hands with soap and water.

Tips for preventing dog-associated diseases

Before choosing a dog

- Certain types of dog or puppy adoptions, like international pet adoption, might not be suitable for your family because of the risk for disease. This is particularly true if young children, pregnant women, or persons with weak immune systems are living in the household. Persons with weak immune systems may include the elderly or people with an illness such as diabetes or HIV/AIDS, or those undergoing chemotherapy.
- Research and learn how to properly care for your dog before purchase or adoption. Ask your veterinarian about the proper food, care, and environment that are best for the dog you are selecting.
- Be aware that dogs might shed *Campylobacter*, *Giardia*, hookworms, roundworms, and other germs in their stool. Plan to clean up after your pet frequently. [Wash your and your child's hands \(http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) thoroughly with soap and water after feeding or cleaning up behind dogs.

Choosing a dog

- Match a dog's attitude, temperament, size, and activity level with your family, your home, and the amount of time you have to spend with your pet.
- Pick a dog that is bright, alert, and playful. Dogs and puppies should have shiny, soft fur that is free of stool. Signs of illness in a dog include appearing sluggish or depressed, having diarrhea, abnormal breathing, and fluid running from its eyes or nose. Make sure to take your new dog or puppy to the veterinarian within a few days to a week after adoption for a health visit.
- If your dog becomes sick or dies soon after purchase or adoption, take your dog to the veterinarian promptly, and inform the pet store, breeder, or rescue organization about the pet's illness or death. Make sure to tell your veterinarian if the pet was adopted internationally. Thoroughly clean the area occupied by your pet, and consider waiting at least a few weeks before purchasing or adopting another pet.



Small dog.

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Housing your dog

- It is important that you provide a safe, warm, and comfortable environment for your dog to live in.
 - If your dog will be housed outside, provide shelter such as a doghouse for when it is cold or rainy and shade for when it is hot. Protecting your dog from the changes in weather will reduce stress and help keep it healthy.
- Make sure your dog has access to fresh, clean water every day.
- Consider fencing in your yard rather than tying your dog outside. A fence will not only give your pet room to play, but also will protect it from wild animals and reduce the risk of strangers interacting with your dog. Several studies have shown that dogs on a chain are more likely to bite than those in a fenced yard.
- If your dog is in a kennel, make sure to clean it regularly to prevent build-up of feces and possible spread of disease.



Dog in a fenced yard.

Monitor your pet's health

- Visit a veterinarian for routine evaluation and care to keep your dog healthy and prevent infectious diseases. Keeping your dog on a monthly preventative for fleas, heartworms, and other parasites, and up to date on vaccinations can help prevent certain diseases.
- Make sure to clean up any urine, feces, or vomit in the house immediately, and disinfect the area well. Use disposable gloves and make sure to [wash your hands](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) (<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>) thoroughly afterwards.
- Contact your veterinarian if you notice any signs of illness in your pet. Keep in mind that even a dog that appears healthy might spread germs to humans and other animals.



Veterinarian examining a dog.

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Dog bites

Preventing dog bites

About 4.5 million Americans receive dog bites each year, many of which require immediate medical attention. Young children 5 to 9 years old are most likely to be bitten by dogs, with boys being bitten more often than girls.

[Dog Bite Prevention \(http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/dog-bites/index.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/dog-bites/index.html).

Follow these tips to prevent dog bites.

What to do if you are bitten or scratched by a dog

Germs can be spread from dog bites and scratches, even if the wound does not seem deep or serious. If a bite from a dog occurs, you should—

- Wash wounds with warm soapy water immediately.



Dog in an aggressive stance showing teeth.

- Seek medical attention:
 - If you don't know if the dog has been vaccinated against rabies
 - If the dog appears sick or is acting strangely
 - If the wound is serious (uncontrolled bleeding, loss of function, extreme pain, muscle or bone exposure, etc.)
 - If the wound becomes red, painful, warm or swollen, or if you develop a fever
 - If it has been more than 5 years since your last tetanus shot
 - If you have any concerns about your or your child's health
- Report the bite to your local animal control or health department.
 - If possible, contact the owner and ensure the animal has a current rabies vaccination. You will need the rabies vaccine license number, name of the veterinarian that administered the vaccine, and the owner's name, address, and phone number.
- Due to the risk of rabies, ensure that the dog is seen by a veterinarian and contact your local health department if it becomes sick or dies within 10 days of the bite.

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (</ncezid/dw-index.html>)

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) (</ncezid/dgmq/index.html>)