

In addition to the official Franklin Dog Park Rules, here are some other items for consideration that may help to make your visit to the dog park a success.

First time users should consider planning an initial visit during an off-peak time period. Ask questions of those people inside the dog park about how to ease your dog's stress over entering for the first time. At times the dog park will become quite crowded. If you are not sure how your dog will react, don't put pressure on your dog by forcing it into what it may perceive to be a threatening situation. Instead come back at a time when it may be less crowded.

When entering or leaving the off-leash area, do not enter the double-gated transition area if there is already someone in that area. This will eliminate the possibility of both gates being open at the same time.

Place your dog off leash into the transition area before entering the unleashed area. Dogs can feel threatened if they are leashed in the presence of unleashed dogs.

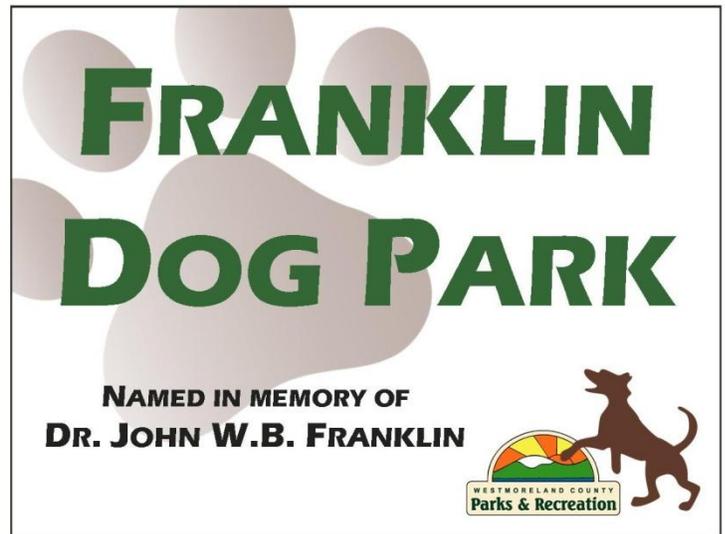
Quickly move away from the entrance area as you enter the dog park. This will help to disperse the group of dogs that may come over to welcome your dog to the park. Move away from the fences so your dog will not feel cornered or threatened. This will lessen the problem caused when several off leash dogs come over to greet the new arrival, perhaps overwhelming the newly arriving dog.

If you are entering the park and a group of dogs is located just inside the fence you may want to wait until they move away or break up before you enter the fenced area.

One of our primary goals is to socialize our dogs and teach them to have good manners. We should practice what we preach and always be considerate of others. This will help YOUR dog park to be an enjoyable, healthy, educational experience for both you and your dog.

If any dog becomes aggressive or disruptive, the responsible handler must remove the dog from the fenced area until socialization measures can be undertaken.

Please do not allow your dog to bully others or have fun at the expense of another dog's comfort. Interrupt. Take a break to calm down. A bully is one who crashes around without paying attention to what other dogs are communicating.



ALWAYS SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP!! This is the complaint heard most often from opponents of dog parks. Bags are provided, so please use them! Also, please help with "Orphan Poop". You will occasionally miss some of your dog's poop and our continued use of this public amenity will depend on our control of this issue.

Keep your dog leashed at all times while outside the fenced dog park area. Even if your dog is under perfect control, many non-dog people have fears and any dog off-leash outside the fenced area violates the County Park's Leash Ordinance.

Please clean up YOUR park! Trash, paper, tobacco products, or anything that is left on the ground may end up in a dog's mouth. Before you drop anything on the ground ask yourself "Would I want my dog to eat this?" We must all work to keep our park clean.

All dog handlers must provide proof of current vaccinations. Your dog must have a collar that displays a current license, vaccination tag and ID tag. If your dog does not have proof of a rabies vaccination and license you will be asked to leave the park.



Please note that choke, prong, pinch, spike and electronic collars are not permitted inside the off leash area. Each of these collar types can result in injury to its wearer, another dog, or a person depending on the situation. If a choke collar gets caught on something its wearer can become choked. Some dogs, while playing, like to softly bite the back of another dog's neck. Dogs wearing prong collars receive a much stronger bite during this type of play while those wearing spiked collars can cause injury to other dogs.

Be a responsible dog handler. If your dog has a contagious condition stay away from the dog park until a vet has said that your dog is no longer a danger to other dogs. Legally, only a rabies vaccination is required to enter the park; however, you may wish to consult with your veterinarian to get advice on other vaccinations such as Bordetella (Kennel Cough), Distemper, Parvo, etc. And please don't forget heartworm.

Each handler/owner is legally responsible for his or her dog, and the County of Westmoreland will assume no responsibility for any injuries to humans or animals; therefore each handler is responsible for the supervision of his or her animal. All handlers must remain in the dog park and within view of their dogs at all times.

No children under the age of 16 are permitted unless accompanied by an adult and closely supervised at all times. While it is not recommended, children are welcome; however, child's play is not. This is a playground for dogs, not children. Be sure to teach your child how to behave properly in a dog park environment. Playful, unsupervised children and playful unleashed dogs mixed together could result in injury.

Please understand that this area is provided for dogs to interact with other dogs and that your child could be considered an interruption in dog play. If you choose to bring your child within the dog park, you should SUPERVISE VERY CLOSELY! Teach your child proper dog park behavior. Children should not run around, scream, pick up or wave sticks, or approach animals they do not know.

Many dogs will be experiencing the off-leash environment for the first time and may not be used to the experience. Please watch your dog very closely. If your dog acts aggressively, please put your dog on a leash immediately and let the animal "cool down". It takes time for a new dog to become comfortable with the fact that other dogs all share the neutral environment. Keep in mind that everyone at the dog park wants the same thing – socialized dogs that can have fun together. If you are not sure how your dog will react, try to come to the dog park when few other dogs are there to keep the intimidation level as low as possible. You may wish to keep your first visit to the dog park rather short to minimize the stress on your dog. Leaving early when your dog is having a good time will make it more likely that your dog will want to return for subsequent visits.

No bare feet please! Some types of worms can enter your body through the soles of your feet. Perhaps not every dog in the dog park is worm free.

Please be alert and pay attention at all times as there will likely be groups of dogs running around the park and having fun. People standing around are obstructions. A dog being chased may try to run its pursuer into a person in order to gain an advantage. Please STAY ALERT!



Do not bring any type of food, either human or dog food, or pet treats, into the off-leash area. A normally well-behaved dog can jump at or lunge for food when hungry. Also never give any food or treats to a dog without checking with the owner first to be sure it would be permissible. Some dogs have food allergies and that treat may make a dog ill.

The Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation wants to make YOUR dog park a success. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns please call 724-830-3950 or email us at parksinfo@co.westmoreland.pa.us