



Charlee Bear
Dog treats with a healthy purpose

DOG PARKS

Dog Parks - A chance for our dogs to teach us about life!

One of the greatest gifts of sharing your life with a dog is seeing the pure joy of your pup running through a field or encountering a doggie friend with wagging tail. Dogs run with total joy in the moment loving every scent and sight they feel. After a good romp they sleep in peaceful bliss. Sometimes you can see their paws moving in their sleep as if they reliving, in their dreams, the joy of running. An older dog can take a slow stroll and seem to be tuned in to every scent and the warmth of the sun with no need to hurry to get anywhere in particular. Dog parks are a chance for well-trained dogs to experience off leash freedom. Dog parks are a chance for us to learn from our dogs about the pure joy of life's simple pleasures.

Dog Parks - Exercise, Fun, Friends

An exciting trend is sweeping the country. Local communities and dog owners are working together and creating dog parks - safe places for dogs to run, play, socialize and just plain have fun in the great outdoors.

What you and your pooch needs to know before you go!!

Dog parks can be amazingly fun places. However, they can be an unsafe place if owners bring unruly, untrained and unsocialized dogs. As owners, it is our responsibility to ensure our dogs are well trained and will interact well with others before we allow our dogs to play off leash in a park.

How do you know if your pooch is a good candidate for off leash play in a park?

- Is your dog well versed in the basic signals, such as come, sit, down and stay?
- Is your dog reliable with these signals around distractions such as other dogs and people?
- Is your pup polite around people of all ages, shapes and sizes?
- Is your dog polite with other dogs of all ages and breeds?
- Is your dog current on all vaccinations?
- Is your dog licensed?
- Do you have the appropriate park license?

If you can answer yes to these questions, you are ready to go have FUN!!



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Biggest Benefit-Dogs

Most people agree... off-leash exercise in a safe environment is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, benefit of dog parks. Most animal behaviorists and trainers agree that a lack of exercise is a primary cause of behavioral problems in dogs. While many people believe taking their pups on a mile or two walk on-leash is sufficient exercise, from a dogs perspective this is just scratching the surface of what many may need.

Off-leash exercise allows dogs to romp, sniff, run, walk and play at their own pace, engaging both the dog's body and mind. Simply put, few activities are as good for a dog as off-leash romps.

Another key benefit of dog parks is the chance for dogs to play and socialize with other dogs. Few activities are as tiring for dogs as playing with other dogs. Remember to make sure your dog is polite with other dogs before going to the park. After a visit to the park, you are almost guaranteed to have a very tired and happy pup.

Biggest Benefits-People

Dogs are not the only ones who benefit from dog parks. Dog owners do too. The benefits for people are many and include:

- Having fun watching your dog at play
- Exercising with your pup as you hike around the park
- Interacting with other dog people, sharing laughs and fun
- Having a tired, well-exercised dog at the end of the visit
- Experiencing reduced problem behaviors in your pet that can be attributed to the lack of exercise

Dog Park Etiquette (practicing good dog park manners)

Ok, you've got a well-socialized, polite pooch. Your dog knows all the basic signals, is current on vaccinations, and is licensed to be at the park. Now it's time to head to the park.

There are a few rules you should know and follow to make sure everyone has a great time:

- Read the park rules and obey them. Each park can have its own set of rules. It's your responsibility to know them and follow them.
- Never leave your dog unattended. They are your responsibility and it's important to make sure your dog is safe. This is also true if you bring children.
- Make sure your dog is not acting unruly with other dogs or people. If they are, take them home immediately so as to not ruin the safety or park experience for others.
- Clean up after your dog! Many parks provide items to pick up after your pets. However, make sure to keep baggies in your pocket or tied around your leash so you always have one available.



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- Keep your dog up-to-date on all veterinary care. If you have a young dog [4 months or younger], it's too early to take them to the park. As such a young age, they will not have all the necessary health care to play safely with other animals.
- Don't bring a female dog in season. This can lead to a wide variety of problems.
- Keep your dog safe and make sure they are on-leash until you get to the off-leash area.
- Don't let your pup crowd the entrance area of the park when other dogs are entering. This makes it hard for other owners to enter the park and your dog can escape out of the fenced safe are.

Dog parks are a wonderful new trend. Make sure your pup is friendly and well socialized and make sure to obey the park rules. With a little help from all owners, we can help the trend continue to grow. It's important to remember that dog parks are a privilege, not a right. Follow the rules of the park and you'll both have a blast! And remember to reward your pups with plenty of love and Charlee Bear treats.