

## **Entering and Exiting the Park**

Refrain from opening the outside gate if the inside gate is open. This consideration will prevent the possibility of both gates being open at the same time, which would allow dogs to escape. Park gates must remain closed at all times, except during entry and exit.

If another dog and handler occupy the double-gated transition area, then be patient and wait to proceed until the transition area is empty. This will eliminate the likelihood of runaway dogs or tangles.

Handlers may take dogs off leash in the double-gated transition area, before entering the off-leash park. Do not leave a leash on your dog in the park as some dogs feel threatened if leashed in the presence of unleashed dogs. Outside of the park and transition area, dogs must be on a leash at all times, this includes the parking lot.

Immediately after entering the park through the double-gated transition area, close the gate and move your dog away from the entrance quickly. It is common for groups of dogs to welcome new park visitors, so moving away from the fence and gate prevents your dog from feeling cornered or threatened.

The dog park has two separate areas to accommodate larger dogs or smaller and older dogs. The gates are clearly marked and viewable from the transition area. Please observe these guidelines when using the park.

## **Tips for First Time Visitors**

First time visits to a dog park can be stressful for dogs and owners. Consider visiting the park during non-peak times to lessen the anxiety.

Before entering the park, consider walking your dog (on a leash) along the outside of the fence to see how they react and to develop their confidence.

Be patient and watchful! It takes time for a dog to adjust to the excitement, energy level and notion that other dogs share this neutral environment.

Use caution when permitting curious dogs to greet your dog, both in and outside the dog park.

If your dog displays continual aggressive or mounting behavior (2 or more incidents per visit), leash and remove him/her from the situation.

If your dog inflicts injury, give your name and telephone number to the other owner before leaving the park.

Do not wait to collect your dog's waste as all eyes will be on you!

Fill any holes your dog digs.

Consider keeping your first visit to the dog park short to minimize stress. Leaving early, while your dog is having a good time, will make it more likely that your dog will be excited to return.