

TIPS FOR SAFELY USING OFF LEASH DOG AREA

3.7.7 Removal of Pet Waste. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit, or allow such a dog to leave feces in any public or private property of someone other than that of the dog's owner or keeper within the Town of Needham, without the approval of said property owner. Any person having custody and control of a dog in any such area shall carry with him or her proper equipment for the removal of feces. For purposes of this section, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces. No person shall leave or dispose of said feces in any catch basin, drainage structure, waterway or on any public property or street except in a trash receptacle.

3.7.8 Off-Leash Areas. The Town may authorize an area or areas to be used as off-leash areas for dogs licensed in the Town of Needham for which a separate fee will be assessed and for which the Board of Selectmen may, from time to time, establish regulations for use. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit or allow such dog to use the off leash area without the proper license or in violation of such regulations.

1. Take it slowly. Consider coming to the dog park with your dog and staying outside the fence the first time. Let your dog get used to the idea that this is a place to come play with other dogs. If they are pulling to get in there, then consider giving it a try. If their tail is between their legs, just watch this time.

2. Take it slowly. Don't allow you or your dog to have a negative first visit. When your dog first comes through the gate, there may well be a bunch of dogs that want to come over and say hello. This can be intimidating for your dog. Stay close to them and put yourself between the other dogs and your dog if you can.

3. Watch your dog. If their tail is between the legs, they are uncomfortable. If they are getting chased by more than one dog and keep looking back over their shoulders, they are uncomfortable. If they are getting rolled multiple times by a chasing dog or dogs, and can't seem to turn the tables, they are uncomfortable. Go get them and remove them from the situation until they are ready to try again. Take them out of the park for a few minutes if they need it. Stay close to them so they know you are with them.

4. Watch your dog's body language. If they are showing signs of being over stimulated or aggressive in any way, remove them from the situation. Most fights can be avoided.

5. Watch your dog. If your dog goes to the bathroom, it is your responsibility to clean it up.

6. Watch your dog. Don't assume that everyone else is watching their dogs.

It is fun to chat with your friends and neighbors but your first job is to make sure your dog is enjoying their experience at the dog park.

This is a learning experience for your dog but once they get it, they will love coming to play with their friends.

TOWN OF NEEDHAM OFF LEASH DOG AREA

RULES AND TIPS FOR USING THE OFF LEASH DOG AREA



LOCATION:

End of Pine Street (off Central Avenue) next to Needham Community Farm.

Additional Resources:

www.needhamma.gov

www.needhamdogpark.org

Needham Animal Control:
(781) 444-1212

Town of Needham Recreational Off Leash Dog Area

All dogs must be in compliance with the following rules:

1. Only dogs with up-to-date Needham dog license may use the Needham Dog Recreational Area.
2. All dogs must be wearing a collar with identification and an up-to-date Needham dog license.
3. All dogs must be on-leash until they are inside the off-leash area.
4. All dogs must be under voice control at all times.
5. All dogs must be spayed/neutered.
6. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccine.

All dog companions must be in compliance with the following rules:

7. Users must be respectful of the operations of the Needham Community Farm.
8. Users must carry an appropriate leash with them at all times.
9. Users must carry dog waste removal bag with them at all times.
10. Users must clean up immediately after their dogs and remove all pet waste and other trash from the area after every visit (trash barrels will be provided at the site).
11. Users must ensure that all dogs are within sight and under voice control at all times.
12. Users must remain in the fenced in area while their dogs are using the area.
13. Users must prevent their dogs from digging any holes and immediately fill in any hole they may dig.

Incidents and Violations:

14. All users agree that the use of the Needham Dog Recreational Area is at their own risk and that the Town of Needham shall not be held liable for any injury or mishap which occurs while the area is in use.
15. Owners are legally responsible and liable for their dogs and any injuries or destruction caused by them.
16. Users are required to immediately report all bites and significant incidents to the Needham Animal Control Officer at (781) 444-1212.
17. Violation of these rules may result in removal of privileges to use the Needham Dog Recreational Area.

NEEDHAM GENERAL BY-LAWS SECTION 3.7 DOG REGULATIONS

3.7.1 Use of Leashes. No person shall allow a dog owned or kept by her/him to go beyond the confines of the property of the owner or keeper unless the dog is held firmly on a leash.

3.7.2 Disturbing the Peace. No person shall own or keep within the Town any dog which bites, excessively barks or howls or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, or endangers the safety of any person, domesticated animal or farm animal.

3.7.3 Complaints. The animal control officer is hereby authorized to seek a complaint against the owner or keeper of a dog who is found to have violated the provisions of sub-sections 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6, 3.7.7, or 3.7.8 for which the following penalties shall be imposed:

1. First Offense – twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
2. Each Subsequent Offense – fifty dollars (\$50.00)

3.7.4 Restraint of Dogs. In addition to the foregoing penalties, the animal control officer is also authorized and empowered to muzzle or restrain a dog, or to order the owner or keeper of a dog to muzzle or restrain a dog, pending a hearing before the Board of Selectmen as hereinafter provided, when the animal control officer finds that a dog has bitten or threatened any person or domesticated or farm animal, or has chased any vehicle upon any way open to public travel in the Town, or the owner had violated the provisions of section 3.7 more than three times in any calendar year. The owner or keeper of any dog that has been ordered to be restrained or muzzled under the provisions of section 3.7 may request in writing to the Board of Selectmen that the animal control officer vacate such order.

3.7.5 Uncontrollable Dogs. In addition to any other statutory authority contained in M.G.L. Chapter 140, the animal control officer may, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, enter a complaint before the Board of Selectmen to obtain an order to control or dispose of a dog found to be uncontrollable, or whose owner or keeper is unresponsive to any other penalties contained in Section 3.7.

3.7.6 Restricted Areas. No person shall allow a dog, other than a service dog, owned or kept by him or her, whether leashed or unleashed, to trespass on Memorial Park or DeFazio Park.