Doylestown Dog Park



Doylestown Dog Park

Manual & Application

Doylestown Township 425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

https://www.doylestownpa.org/departments/parks-recreation/dog-park/

01.2027

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Registration Requirements

Veterinary Records: A current copy of veterinary vaccination records is required at time of registration. Upload your records to your MyRec household account, email them to dogpark@doylestownpa.org, fax them to 215-348-8729, or drop off a copy at 425 Wells Road, Doylestown. Membership renewals do not require updated veterinary records. However, your dog's vaccinations must be kept current, and if the Township requests proof, you will have 24 hours to provide it or your membership will be suspended and your key fob deactivated.

- **DHPP:** DHPP is a core vaccine administered to immunize your dog against (D) distemper, (H) hepatitis, (P) parainfluenza and (P) parvovirus.

- **Rabies:** PA Code (16.41. Rabies Vaccination Required) states, "A person living in this Commonwealth owning or keeping a dog or cat over 3 months of age shall have the dog or cat vaccinated against rabies under the act and this chapter."

- **Canine Bordetella:** Bordetella, also known as kennel cough, is a highly contagious upper respiratory condition that affects a high number of dogs. Canine Bordetella is spread from dog to dog. It is often passed when there is a high number of dogs in one contained area, such as with boarding kennels, shelters, obedience classes, dog parks and dog day care facilities. Infected dogs are not permitted in the dog park.

SEX: Male dogs are required to be neutered. Female dogs are not permitted in the park while in heat.

HEALTH: All dogs must be in good health. Owners will certify that their dog(s) is(are) in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition which could potentially jeopardize other dogs/persons.

PA Dog License: In accordance with Pennsylvania State law all dogs are required to have a current license.

Orientation Quiz: All household members who will use the park must watch the Dog Park Orientation Video and pass the orientation quiz.

How Do I Join the Doylestown Dog Park?

Your key fob will be ready once we have all three: ✓ your documents ✓ your passing quiz ✓ your payment.

Step 1. Create your household profile on MyRec

Create your account at https://doylestownpa.myrec.com/. Already have one? Just log in. Add each dog as a household member, and opt in to email notifications for Dog Park updates and closures. *What happens next: You'll use this account to upload documents, pay, and renew each year*

Step 2. Submit your required documents

Submit your Membership Application (completed, initialed, and signed), PA dog license, and vaccination records (Rabies, DHPP/DHLPP, and Bordetella). The application is on pages 16–19 of this manual, and a fillable PDF is available at https://www.doylestownpa.org/departments/parks-

recreation/dog-park/. Upload your documents to your MyRec household, email them to dogpark@doylestownpa.org, fax them to 215-348-8729, or drop off copies at 425 Wells Road, Doylestown.
What happens next: We'll review your documents and contact you if anything is missing or expired.

It is the sole responsibility of the owner to keep license and veterinary records current for all registered dogs. If requested, current license and veterinary records are due to Doylestown Township within 24 hours. Failure to comply will result in deactivation of your key fob (without refund) until current information is received.

Step 3. Complete online orientation

The success of the Doylestown Dog Park is due in part to our mandatory education requirement for all park users. Many dog parks require only vaccinations, while the Doylestown Dog Park also requires a dog license and completion of our orientation.

Watch the Dog Park Orientation Video https://shr.pn/DPOrientation, which covers park rules, member responsibilities, and dog behavior you may see at the park. Then take the orientation quiz at https://shr.pn/DPQuiz. Every adult in your household who will use the park must watch the video and pass the quiz individually, and you can retake the quiz as many times as you need.

What happens next: When you pass, our staff is notified automatically. There's no need to send us your score.

We also highly recommend watching *Doylestown Dog Park: Dog Behavior & Dog Park Best Practices* https://shr.pn/DPBestPractices, presented by dog trainer and Dog Park volunteer Susie Danzis. It covers how to read dog body language, spot the difference between healthy play and trouble, and step in safely when needed.

Step 4. Pay your membership fee

Pay using any of these options:

- Online through MyRec
- By phone with a credit card: call 215-348-9915
- On your application, by including your credit card information
- In person with a credit card, cash, or check at the Community Recreation Center, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown
- By mail, with a check payable to Doylestown Township, sent to 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

Please don't email credit card information. See Park Fees (page 3) for membership rates.

Step 5. Pick up your key fob

Once we have your documents, passing quiz, and payment, we'll call or email you when your key fob is ready for pickup, usually within two business days. Pick it up at the Community Recreation Center, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, during open hours: Monday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM o Tuesday–Thursday 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM o Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM o Saturday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

What happens next: Your fob is activated and ready to use when you pick it up.

Step 6. Enjoy the Doylestown Dog Park!

The Doylestown Dog Park is a 3-acre fenced area at Turk Park where dogs can play off leash. It is open to registered members only and is located at 1082 Almshouse Road, Warrington, PA 18976.

To refresh your memory, you can rewatch the Dog Park Orientation Video https://shr.pn/DPOrientation and *Dog Behavior & Dog Park Best Practices* https://shr.pn/DPBestPractices, anytime.

Questions about where you are in the process? Call 215-348-9915 or email dogpark@doylestownpa.org.

Annual Membership Fees
(valid for one year from date of issue)

Resident Members (Doylestown Township/Borough) up to 2 dogs:		
	Membership	$55.00
	Senior (65+)	$50.00
	Additional dog(s)	$15.00 each
Non-Residents (all others) up to 2 dogs:		
	Membership	$65.00
	Senior (65+)	$60.00
	Additional dog(s)	$20.00 each
Replacement of Lost Key Fob		$25.00 each
Additional Fob		$20.00 (1 per household)

Park Fees

Payment may be made online through MyRec, by phone, on your application, in person, or by mail (see Step 4 above). Credit cards accepted: MasterCard, Visa, and Discover. Once payment is received, your key fob can be picked up at the Community Recreation Center during open hours.

Memberships are based on a 12-month period, but the fixed-price membership is calculated using a reduced 10-month rate. This accounts for potential closures of the Dog Park, such as repairs, weather-related concerns, or other unforeseen circumstances.

The Township reserves the right to increase membership fees if deemed necessary.
No refunds will be issued for memberships, regardless of circumstances.

Dog Park Rules

1. Off-leash dog area hours: **sunrise to dusk** (no earlier than 6 am and no later than 9 pm).
2. All users must be registered with the Doylestown Township Department of Parks & Recreation to receive an access key fob to utilize the dog park. Access key fobs are non-transferable.
3. Guests ages 14 and older may visit when accompanied by a member, with no more than 2 guests per member. Members are fully responsible for their guests' actions, and guests must follow all Dog Park rules. Guest dogs are not permitted.
4. Use of the dog park is at your own risk. The owner of any dog(s) assumes all liability for damages or injuries caused by the member's dog(s) to any person or dog while utilizing the park.

5. Dogs must be on a leash when entering and exiting the dog park. Dogs are to remain leashed outside the dog park.
6. The dog park is divided into separate fenced-in areas. Dogs weighing **29 lbs and under** must use the small dog area. Dogs weighing **30 lbs and over** must use the large dog area. Dogs are limited to use of their designated area only, even if the other area is empty.
7. **Owners must accompany and monitor dogs closely**. Dogs must be in view of and under voice command of their owners at all times.
8. All dogs entering the dog park must be healthy, vaccinated according to the current requirements of the Doylestown Township Dog Park, and wear a collar displaying their current rabies tag and dog license as required by Pennsylvania law.
9. Dogs showing aggression or fear towards people or other animals must be removed from the dog park immediately.
10. Female dogs in heat and unneutered male dogs may not enter the park.
11. Puppies must be at least 6 months old and vaccinated according to the current requirements of the Doylestown Township Dog Park to enter.
12. Owners must clean up after their dog(s) and place waste in appropriate receptacles.
13. No more than **two dogs per member** are permitted at one time.
14. Prong, pinch, choke, spike, or electric training collars are not permitted in the off-leash dog area.
15. Stop your dog from digging and fill in any holes.
16. Please be considerate and do not allow excessive barking.
17. The park may not be used for any private use or gain which includes, but is not limited to, instruction/training activities or events of any kind without the written approval of the Doylestown Township Parks & Recreation Department.
18. Parking is provided at the lot adjacent to Almshouse Road, not at Warrington Township Park next door, nor on the service road leading to the Dog Park. The service roadway is for accessible parking only (vehicles with a disability placard or license plate).
19. No smoking, food, alcohol, or glass containers are permitted in the dog park.
20. No treats, dog food, or special dog toys are permitted in the park. Please take all personal items with you when you leave.
21. No children under the age of 14 are allowed inside the dog park, including the pavilion. Children and guests ages 14–17 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult member.
22. Members are expected to police themselves and be civil and respectful of others. Dogs, like people, have different energy levels, and owners are responsible for removing their dog or giving other dogs space. If your dog has a conflict with another dog, avoid going to the park at the same time as that dog. Should a fight or bite incident occur, call 911 for the police. For police non-emergencies, call 215-348-4201.
23. Failure to comply with the above rules will lead to suspension or revocation of membership.

Any rules are subject to change without notice as deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of both humans and dogs.

Preparing for Your First Visit

Prepare for your dog's first visit by exploring the dog park without your dog. Enter the off-leash area, walk around, and feel free to ask questions of anyone in the park. Then, when you bring your dog for the first time, you will be prepared to guide your dog appropriately and are less likely to walk into surprises.

The first time your dog comes to the park, try to visit at a relatively quiet time of day so that your dog can experience this new place without being overwhelmed by potential playmates. Most parks experience peak usage early in the morning, after work hours on weekdays and at midday on weekends; regular users of the Doylestown Dog Park can tell you when it tends to be most busy or quiet.

When you arrive, stand outside the fence and watch the dogs inside the off-leash area for a few minutes before you enter it. Ask yourself the following questions before deciding to enter:

- Does your dog already know any of the dogs in the park?
- Are they playing in a manner that is comfortable for your dog?
- Does your dog look keen to enter or reluctant?

If your dog seems afraid or reluctant to enter, remember that it is better to leave and come back at another time rather than set your dog up for trouble on the first visit. If you decide to enter the off-leash area proceed through the double-gated entrance as described in the section **Entering and Exiting the Park (below):**

- Be aware that dogs that are already in the larger fenced-in area will likely gather around the gate to ''meet and greet'' your dog.
- Allow your dog to remain in the enclosed area for a few minutes until the other dogs' retreat from the entrance area.
- When you AND your dog feel comfortable, open the second gate and let your unleashed dog enter the play area (leashed dogs tend to become frightened or defensive if suddenly surrounded by other dogs).
- Close the second gate behind you and follow your dog into the play area.

Dog Park Closure

In the case of snow, ice, flooding, etc., please be patient, as you may not have immediate access to the park following a storm. Doylestown Township staff will first clear the main roads and thoroughfares within the Township, then the Bike & Hike Paths, and lastly the park system, which includes the Dog Park.

There may be other times that require a Dog Park closure. Please stay ''opted in'' to email notifications in your MyRec account so you get these notices and don't waste a trip to the Dog Park.

Entering & Exiting the Dog Park

Before entering, assess how many dogs are already playing in the park, the intensity of the play, and whether their owners are paying attention. Does this look like an appropriate situation for your dog? If not, come back at another time. If you decide to go in, please put away your cell phone so it doesn't distract your attention from your dog.

The entry and exit to both the ''Large'' and ''Small'' off-leash areas are double-gated. If someone is entering or exiting in front of you, wait until the area is clear and both gates are secure before entering. Do not enter or exit as a group.

Inside the park, keep moving. Dogs tend to play more when their owners are in motion; an owner standing or sitting in one place makes it more likely for a dog to guard the surrounding space. While

your dog plays, stay engaged: call your dog periodically, praise and reward, and then say, ''Go play!'' to put play on cue. Have your dog take occasional breaks from play to make over-arousal less likely. Many dogs pay close attention to who is entering a dog park, and sometimes dogs will bunch up at the entryway as another dog is entering. If an entering dog is swarmed and feels threatened, a fight can erupt. The person inside the entryway should wait until the dogs disperse, or until the owners inside the off-leash area call their dogs away from the gate, before letting their dog(s) in.

If another dog owner is not following the posted rules, politely approach that person and ask for cooperation. It may be more comfortable to ask another dog owner to come with you. You are the only person responsible for your dog's safety and well-being, and all members are responsible for the well-being of the park.

When you leave, leash your dog in the double-gated vestibule before returning to the lobby area. Afterward, think your experience over: What did your dog learn? What did you learn?

The Doylestown Township Dog Park is divided into two (2) separate off-leash areas, providing maximum safety for your dog. The third section is designed as a rotation and/or events area. When entering and exiting designated areas, close the gates securely behind you and your dog(s). Open or tied-back gates defeat the purpose of the security provided. Anyone found leaving gates open, tied back, or unlatched will have their membership/key fob suspended (1st offense) or revoked (2nd offense) without a refund.

Service gates are located outside of the park and provide access for Township maintenance. They are not intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, please notify the Township immediately at 215-348-9915 or call the police non-emergency line at 215-348-4201. Do not enter the off-leash areas through the service/emergency gates, as these gates do not provide the control needed to safely enter or exit the park, and dogs already in the off-leash area might escape.

Entering the Park

The outer entry gate is electronic, and your access key fob is required to enter. **The lobby/pavilion area is a communal space, and dogs must be leashed at all times in this area.**

Entering the Off-Leash Area (designated entrance)

1. Before opening the outer gate, check that the inner gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are in the vestibule area.
2. Open the outer gate and enter the vestibule with your dog on leash. Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.
3. Remove your dog's leash.
   Note: Having a dog on a leash when meeting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble. A leashed dog may feel vulnerable and fearful, as well as protective of their owner. Tension on the leash also pulls a dog into a chest-out, raised-up pose that can look aggressive and cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened.
4. Remain in the vestibule while you observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area. If the behavior is friendly and the area is not congested, carefully open the inner gate and enter. Move forward into the park; do not stand at the gate.
5. If your dog's or other dogs' behavior is unfriendly, put the leash back on your dog and leave through the exit gate.

Members already inside the off-leash area are required to move their dog(s) away from the gate for an entering dog.

Exiting the Off-Leash Area (designated exit)

1. Before you open the inner gate, check that the outer gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are trying to leave with you.
2. Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule. Close the inner gate and make sure the latch is secure.
3. Securely leash your dog, open the outer gate, and exit the vestibule into the lobby/pavilion area.
4. Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.

Exiting the Park

1. Keep your dog leashed at all times in the lobby/pavilion area, since it is a communal space.
2. Before opening the park exit gate, check that there are no loose dogs that could escape while you exit.
3. After you exit the park, make sure the gate is closed and secure.

Dog Park Etiquette

Not all dogs are dog park dogs!
If your dog has a history of aggression toward other dogs or humans, becomes stressed in a group of dogs, or guards things that are of high value to him (toys, sticks), he may not be the best candidate for dog park socialization.

Keep it positive!
If your dog is unfamiliar with the dog park setting, make sure his first few visits are positive and fun! This may mean going at off-peak times (Monday–Friday between 10 am and 3 pm, or the last hour before dusk). Once you are sure your dog can handle the rigors of a dog park, you may want to introduce him at peak times.

Be present at the dog park.
When you are at the park, always keep your eyes on your dog! Watching for signs of stress or bullying, giving your dog a time out if he is becoming overstimulated, and knowing when to go home for the day all come from watching every move your dog makes at the park. Sure, you can still socialize with all your new dog-people friends, but remember to keep one eye on your pooch at all times!

Mind your comings and goings!
Entering and exiting the dog park can be hot buttons for many dogs. Leashed dogs, when surrounded by loose dogs, can feel threatened and vulnerable and may lash out. Practice proper entrance and exit techniques by following our double-gate policy.

Know when your dog has had enough.
Your dog's behavior and body language will tell you when it's time to go! If you see any signs that your dog is tired or has had enough for one day, be proactive: give your dog a time out by taking him for a walk outside the park, or head home for the day and come back another time.

Be proactive!
Everyone knows their dog is pretty much the most wonderful dog in the whole park. But even if your dog is not the instigator, if you think your dog is in danger of having a bad experience at the park, be proactive. Always talk to people respectfully, and know when it is better to simply remove your dog from the situation before an accident happens.

Understanding Canine Body Language

Understanding Canine Body Language
Appropriate – You're OK!

- Butt sniffing and loose tail and body language
- Wide, circular tail wagging
- Play bows
- Butt bumps
- Playful vocalization
- Brief, fair, and harmless disagreements or corrections

Calming Signals – Meant to Defuse Tension. Recognize Them and React Appropriately.

- Averting eye contact
- Lip-licking, chewing
- Submissive urination
- Going belly up
- Tail between the legs

Aggression vs. Correction
There are times when a dog will correct another dog for something he deems inappropriate. This is totally normal and nonaggressive, and it teaches young dogs important lessons about canine social structure and body language. A fair correction starts mild, escalates only if needed, and results in no harm to the dog being corrected. If your dog is over-correcting, it may be time for a time out.

Signs of an appropriate correction:

- Stiff body posture and piloerection or whale eye (hair on shoulders and rump stands up, and you can see the whites of the eyes)
- Loud woofs or snarks directed at one dog
- Muzzle punching or lunging that does no harm to the other dog
- Usually happens once, and then the argument is over

Inappropriate or Rude – Time for a Time Out or Maybe Time to Go!

- Hard stares and face-offs
- One dog chasing, pinning, targeting, or not letting up on another dog
- A group of dogs mobbing an individual dog

When It's Time to Go!
An important part of being a dog park member is recognizing when it's time for your dog to end the visit for the day. If your dog shows any of the following behaviors, it may be time to leave and come back later:

- Stiff body posture and piloerection (hair on shoulders and rump standing straight up)
- Repeated correcting of other dogs, sometimes over very minor things
- Targeting, bullying, or stalking individual dogs
- Fearfulness that does not subside
- Prey drive

Breaking Up a Dog Fight
Dog fights happen! If a fight breaks out, keep your cool so you don't escalate the situation. Collect loose dogs who are not part of the fight to prevent mobbing.

- Start by making a loud noise, such as clapping your hands or shouting "No!", or by throwing water on the fighting dogs.
- Do not grab dogs by their collars, necks, or faces, to avoid a redirected bite.
- One person should grab each dog's rear legs and pull the dog out of the fight, wheelbarrow-style. (Remember: 1 person per dog.)
- Remove fighting dogs from the park for the day.

See Fights (page 11) for more detail.

Healthy Play

Dogs nip while they play, chase, slam each other with their shoulders and hips, lie on top of each other, mount each other, and "fence" with their teeth. It can look scary and confusing to human beings, but it is how dogs have fun. The same behaviors, however, can be carried to the point of rudeness and bullying. The following questions can help dog owners sort good, healthy fun from abusive or bullying play:

- Do both dogs look happy most of the time?
- Are their tails, mouths, and movements loose and relaxed (having fun), or are they tight and stiff (not so fun)?
- Is one dog asking for space or trying to get away, and the other dog is not allowing it? (See the "Stress Signals" section.)
- Is the play edgy, hard-hitting, or causing fear for any participants?
- Is there healthy give and take in the play? Over a few minutes, does the dog who was on top take a turn on the bottom, or does the chaser become the chased?
- Is the play fluid, moving from one activity to another, or are the dogs "stuck"?
- Are two or more dogs ganging up on another dog who looks stressed?
- Is it becoming so intense that "snarks" and "scuffles" are happening?

If the play is not balanced, comfortable, and clearly happy for all parties, the dogs' owners need to redirect the dogs' activities, settle the offending dogs down with a time out from play (preferably outside the off-leash area), or take some dogs home.

Mounting

Mounting is a form of dog play that can be especially volatile, even if the dogs are well matched in size and physical condition. Mounting is not necessarily about reproduction or dominance, but it can be a request for attention, an invitation to play, or a way for an overexcited dog to discharge energy. The problem is that some dogs are intolerant of mounting, and so it can trigger fights. Because mounted dogs often react to an innocent dog standing in front of them rather than to the one on top, the behavior can pose risks for surrounding dogs. If your dog tends to mount, teach an "off" cue and intervene. Better yet, learn to see the behavior coming and redirect your dog before another dog is stressed by it.

Stress Signals

Depending on context, some perfectly ordinary dog behaviors can also indicate stress. Some of these behaviors discharge energy that is building up, and some signal "I'm not looking for trouble!" If you see combinations of the following in social situations, look for what may be stressing your dog. If the stressors don't shift and you can't positively influence your dog's experience, take your dog out of the park.

Signals that may indicate stress, discomfort, or an effort to avoid conflict include:

- Increased activity
- Marking territory
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Shaking off
- Sniffing the ground
- Looking directly away from a perceived threat
- Lip- or nose-licking
- Front paw lift
- Approaching slowly and in an arc
- Sitting or lying down
- Blinking
- Sneezing
- Slow, careful movements

Signals that request or demand greater distance from another dog include:

- Staring
- Growling
- Snarking
- Ears flat against the head (uneasy) or erect and forward (confident)
- Tension in the body and face
- Muscle ridges in the face
- Stalking or a very erect, up-on-toes stance
- Hair up on the back (can also indicate excitement)
- Urination and ground scratching
- Tail up over the back or straight
- Tail wagging only at the tip
- A brief look-away or turn-away at a tense moment

Again, many of these behaviors have multiple meanings, so the trick is to know your dog and read the whole dog in context. If Daisy has one paw raised and her ears back, and she glances away from a dog approaching her, she's probably feeling uneasy. If she has one paw raised and her ears forward as you head to the cookie jar, she's probably thinking, "You rock, Mom, and I'll do anything for a cookie!" If you think Daisy is expressing discomfort at the dog park but then her body language loosens up and she goes back to playing freely, no problem. But if she keeps expressing stress or a need for space, it's probably time to go home.

Resource Guarding

Some dogs are very protective of things they value. The resources a dog may guard can include food or treats, toys, their owners ("my hunter, my driver, my ball thrower," etc.), doorways, and more—even feces or holes! Early signs of resource guarding include hovering in a particular space or over a toy, lip licking (indicating stress), flared whiskers, curling the lip, and freezing as another dog approaches. If your dog appears to be resource guarding, remove the resource if possible. If that isn't possible or doesn't help, take him out of the park before he begins lunging at others or a fight erupts, and come back at a quieter time. If someone else's dog is resource guarding, move your dog away from him, put away anything that seems to trigger the dog's guarding, point out the aggressive behavior to the other owner, or leave.

Snarks and Scuffles

Just as tempers flare on a playground or basketball court, so do they in a dog park. When a dog nips or bumps too hard, another dog may respond by saying, "Hey, you jerk! That hurt!" That is the meaning of a "snark": a vocalization that sounds like a combined snarl and bark. A "scuffle" sounds like a fight but ends just as quickly as it started. If your dog has just had a scuffle, a time out may be a good idea. If there are repeated snarks or scuffles, it may be time to head home for the day and consider whether that particular group of playmates is healthy for your dog.

Fights

If handlers are on the ball, they will stop rude play or bullying before fights break out. What do you do, though, if a fight erupts?

No dog with a history of fighting is permitted at the dog park. Children ages 14–17 who visit the dog park with a member must be told ahead of time to walk calmly away from any fighting dogs, even their own. They should not run, scream, or get involved. Shrieking children can trigger tragic behavior from dogs.

Anyone interfering in a fight is at risk of being bitten. Highly aroused dogs do not always know what they are biting. If a person restrains one dog, the other dog might keep attacking, provoking the restrained dog to bite the person holding him. Continued screaming or shouting can escalate tensions and bring more dogs into the fray, although a single sharp, sudden noise can sometimes interrupt a fight. If someone has been knocked down near the fight, or the dogs are badly mismatched, it can be almost impossible to stand back.

If you feel you must intervene in a serious fight, here are some options, listed from safest to least safe:

- Use water: spray the dogs with a squirt bottle or throw a container of water on them.
- Startle the dogs with a sudden loud noise, such as a whistle, an air horn, or clanging metal.
- Throw coats or blankets over the dogs.
- Use Direct Stop, a citronella-based spray for dogs.
- Have the owners simultaneously lift each fighting dog's tail.
- Have each owner grab their dog's rear legs, lift the back feet off the ground, and pull the dogs apart, wheelbarrow-style.

Once the fight stops:

- Release the dogs' legs immediately, to avoid getting bitten yourself, and keep the dogs separated.
- Lead the dogs away from one another and follow the instructions in ''After a Fight,'' below.

After a Fight

Put each of the dogs involved in the fight on leash, check them for injuries, and decide whether veterinary care is needed. As after a car accident, calmly exchange relevant information with the other dog owner(s), especially if there is an injury. Remove the dogs from the park one at a time. Even dogs that did not join the fight are likely to be extremely aroused, and their owners are advised to call it a day too.

If a person or dog was bitten, call the police (911 for emergencies, or 215-348-4201 for non-emergencies) and notify the Township at 215-348-9915. All bites must be reported. See **Incident Report** for the Township's Zero Tolerance Policy for Dog Bites.

Afterward, individually or together, review what went wrong: What could have been done to keep the dogs' interaction from escalating to a fight? Why didn't anyone see the fight brewing and step in earlier?

Pennsylvania Dog Laws

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer or may be purchased online.
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damage caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered, or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance anywhere dogs could easily eat it, whether on your own property or elsewhere.
- Dogs and cats three months of age or older must have a current rabies vaccination.
- It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture who is enforcing dog laws.

The Dog Law Enforcement Office

The Dog Law Enforcement Office, through the PA Department of Agriculture, is responsible for ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Office also regulates activities involving dogs classified as dangerous and oversees annual licensing and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

The Office's responsibilities include:

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
- Providing educational services about dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

Dog Law Enforcement Offices Contact Information:

Bucks County Dog Warden
Verna North
610-909-5707

Region VII: *(Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties)*
Megan Horse, Supervisor
1015 Bridge Road
Collegeville, PA 19426
Region: 610-489-1003, Office: 717-418-0284

Incident Report

When an incident occurs at the Dog Park, dog owners should follow the posted rules. If you would like to make the Township aware of an incident or an ongoing dog park situation, please complete the Dog Park Incident Report Form found at https://www.doylestownpa.org/departments/parks-recreation/dog-park/ and email it to dogpark@doylestownpa.org or drop it off at 425 Wells Road.

The Incident Report helps us document incidents and take appropriate action regarding Dog Park membership.

If a person or dog is bitten

Call the police: 911 for emergencies, or 215-348-4201 for non-emergencies. Bites are handled by the police, not the Township. After contacting the police, please also notify the Township at 215-348-9915 or dogpark@doylestownpa.org, so we can take action regarding the biting dog's Dog Park membership.

What to report to the Township

- Dog bites (after contacting the police)
- Children under 14 in the dog park, or guests ages 14–17 without a member
- Failure to follow Dog Park rules
- Disruptive or abusive behavior toward people and/or dogs

If repeated offenses of the same violation are reported, a full review will be initiated.

Zero Tolerance Policy for Dog Bites

1. **Access Deactivation:** The biting dog owner's access fob will be immediately deactivated pending review of the incident.
2. **Suspension and Possible Revocation of Membership:** Any incident involving a dog bite is subject to immediate suspension and possible revocation of the member's Dog Park access and privileges.
3. **Reinstatement:** At the sole discretion of the Township, the member may be required to rewatch the orientation video and retake the orientation quiz as a condition of possible reinstatement.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Doylestown Township
425 Wells Road, Doylestown
o Phone: 215-348-9915

Doylestown Township Police
425 Wells Road, Doylestown
o Emergency: 911
o Phone: 215-348-4201

Emergency Veterinary Services (suggestions)

Bucks County Veterinary Emergency Trauma Services (Bucks County V.E.T.S.)
978 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18944
215-918-2200
Available 2-10pm Weekends Only

Quakertown Veterinary Clinic
2250 N. Old Bethlehem Pike
Quakertown, PA 18951
215-536-6245
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Blue Pearl, Langhorne
2010 W. Cabot Blvd., Suite D
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-750-7884
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Blue Pearl, Levittown
301 Veterans Highway
Levittown, PA 19056
215-750-7884
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Metropolitan Veterinary Associates
2626 Van Buren Ave
Norristown, PA 19403
610-666-1050
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

Renewal of Annual Membership

Tracking Your Expiration Date

Each member is responsible for tracking their own membership expiration date. To find yours, log into your MyRec account and go to Household > Registrations > Memberships, then scroll down.

Vaccines and Dog License

Doylestown Township does not require members to submit updated vaccination records or County dog license information at the time of renewal. However, Pennsylvania law still requires all dog owners to keep their dogs' vaccinations and dog licenses current.

At random intervals, you may be asked to provide updated proof of vaccinations and County dog license. You will have 24 hours to submit these documents, or your membership will be suspended and your key fob deactivated.

New Dog(s)

Any new dog added to your account requires proof of current vaccinations and a County dog license.

Renewal Process

- **Renewal Timing:** You can renew your membership any time before it expires by logging into your MyRec account (https://doylestownpa.myrec.com) or by calling Doylestown Township Parks & Recreation at 215-348-9915.
- **Key Fob Reactivation:** After renewing online, email dogpark@doylestownpa.org or call 215-348-9915 to request that your key fob be reactivated. We'll call or email you once it's ready, usually within two business days.

We encourage all members to regularly check the status of their membership and make sure their dog(s) remain healthy and vaccinated in accordance with Pennsylvania law.

Doylestown Dog Park Membership Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____ **DOB:** _____ / _____ / _____

Residency (check one): ☐ Resident (Doylestown Township/Borough) - $55 **or** ☐ Non-Resident (all others) - $ 65

☐ Senior - 65+ (Doylestown Township/Borough) - $ 50 **or** ☐ Senior - 65+ (Non-Resident) - $ 60

Additional Dogs (over two): _____ @ $15/ea (R) / $20/ea (NR) • **Additional Key Fob (1/household):** _____ @ $20/ea

Address: _____ Municipality (for residency): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (c): _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Emer. Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Additional family members permitted to use access key fob ***(18 years of age and have passed Orientation Quiz)***

1) _____ DOB: _____ 3) _____ DOB: _____

2) _____ DOB: _____ 4) _____ DOB: _____

Use additional sheet for other dogs in same household (R - $15 ea. / NR - $20 ea.)

First Dog

Breed: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / _____ Weight (lbs.) _____

Name of Dog: _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Spayed/Neutered: ☐

Color(s): _____ Vet: _____

License #: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ / _____ Rabies #: Exp. Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Has this dog ever displayed any aggressive behavior toward another dog(s) or person(s)? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown

Has this dog ever received a Police or PA Dog Law citation? ☐ Unknown ☐ No ☐ Yes (reason) _____

Second Dog

Breed: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / _____ Weight (lbs.) _____

Name of Dog: _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Spayed/Neutered: ☐

Color(s): _____ Vet: _____

License #: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ / _____ Rabies #: Exp. Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Has this dog ever displayed any aggressive behavior toward another dog(s) or person(s)? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown

Has this dog ever received a Police or PA Dog Law citation? ☐ Unknown ☐ No ☐ Yes (reason) _____

Please do not email credit card information. Call 215-348-9915 or mail/drop off this form instead.

Payment method: ○ Check ○ Cash ○ Credit Card *(complete below):* ○ Visa ○ MasterCard ○ Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____ CVV # _____

Billing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cardholder signature _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only

☐ Orientation Quiz
☐ Signed Application & Waiver
☐ License
☐ Rabies # _____

☐ DHPP
☐ Bordetella
Fob #1 _____
Fob #2 _____

Application: ☐ New ☐ Renew = $ _____
Add'l Dogs: _____ @ $_____ = $ _____
Add'l Fob (1): _____ @ $_____ = $ _____
TOTAL = $ _____

Member Agreement – Rules & Responsibilities

Please read this page carefully, initial and sign. This page is required to be submitted with your registration materials.

_____ I have watched the Dog Park Orientation Video and passed the orientation quiz, and all household members listed on my application who will use the park have done the same.

_____ I have received, read and understand the Doylestown Dog Park Manual in its entirety and agree to abide by all rules and park etiquette as established. I understand that failure to comply will result in suspension or revocation of my dog park membership without refund.

_____ I understand that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and dog(s) including but not limited to

- _____ Any and all damages caused to the park facility by my dog(s)
- _____ Any and all injuries caused by my dog to another person(s) and/or dog(s)

_____ I understand that any dog bite must be reported to the police and the Township, and that the Township's Zero Tolerance Policy may result in immediate fob deactivation and suspension or revocation of my membership.

_____ I understand and agree that it is solely my responsibility to keep my dog(s)' vaccinations and dog license current for as long as I maintain a Doylestown Dog Park membership. I understand that updated records are not required at renewal, but if the Township requests proof of current vaccinations or license, I must provide it within 24 hours. If I do not, my membership will be suspended and my access key fob deactivated until current records are received.

_____ I understand that key fobs are non-transferable and may only be used by the household members listed on my application.

_____ I understand that I may bring up to 2 guests ages 14 and older, that I must accompany them at all times, and that I am fully responsible for their actions. Guest dogs are not permitted.

_____ I understand that leaving gates open, tied back, or unlatched will result in suspension (1st offense) or revocation (2nd offense) of my membership without refund.

By signing below, I confirm I have read and agree to the statements above

_____

Name (print legibly)

_____

Signature

_____

Date

Doylestown Township reserves the right to suspend or revoke park privileges to any member who fails to follow park rules and etiquette or where it has been determined a member dog or dog owner is dangerous to others or is in violation of any applicable animal ordinances or regulations.

Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver

• Initial each section, sign and date •

Important Information

_____ Acceptance of the terms & conditions of this release and adherence to established Dog Park Rules & Regulations are conditions of membership and issuance of an access key fob, retention and renewal. Key Fobs are for use only by those listed on the application.

_____ You are solely responsible for supervising your dog and determining whether or not this is an appropriate activity to participate in. You must understand that you and others who accompany you are participating in this activity at your and their own risk (and risk of your dog). Dogs and members of varying degrees of skill, training and experience use this facility. You are solely responsible for determining if you and/or your dog are physically fit and/or adequately skilled to use this facility. It is always advisable, especially if you or your dog is pregnant, disabled in any way or recently suffered an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician or veterinarian before undertaking any dog training or exercise activity.

_____ When this Waiver & Release refers to "your dog," "my dog", or the "owner" of a dog, it includes you whether or not you are the legal owner of the dog, since you are the person responsible for the dog while using this facility.

Warning of Risk

_____ Dog activities are intended to provide a fun and rewarding experience for a dog and its owner/handler. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including death to the dog, its owner/handler or other persons or animals. Dogs are pack animals and when "off lead", even the best-trained dogs will act instinctively. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers associated with dog activities can be foreseen. Certain inherent risks include the propensity of any dog to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to you, another person or dog. Other risks include, but are not limited to, the inexperience, negligence or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or other animals; and actions by the dog due to fright, anger, stress, insect bites, or natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting. Other risks include the hazards associated with environmental and traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and all other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities.

_____ Should you attempt to break up a dog fight or restrain a dog, including but not limited to your dog, you may be attacked and severely mauled by your dog the other dog or attacked by another dog's owner/handler. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the The Township of Doylestown to guarantee absolute safety.

Assumption of Risk

_____ I hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate and use with my dog(s) the dog park ("Park") owned and operated by the Township of Doylestown. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present within the Park necessarily involves a risk of injury to me, any persons that accompany me, other people using the Park, my dog(s), and other dogs. I understand that these risks are entirely my responsibility and I expressly assume that responsibility knowingly and voluntarily. I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog's actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I further understand and assume the risk that all dogs in the Park may not have current vaccinations for bordetella, distemper, parvovirus, or rabies, all of which could result in injury to me, any individuals (including children) accompanying me, and my dog(s). I also understand that there are certain inherent risks, including the propensity of a dog to behave in a dangerous way. Additional risks include, but are not limited to: the inexperience or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movement, objects, persons, or other animals; dog fights, dog bites, and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences, plants in the area that may be poisonous to dogs or people; mosquitoes, ticks chiggers, fleas, or other insects that may be present; and wild animals, such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs that could be present in the Park, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s); slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities. I knowingly and voluntarily accept responsibility for all these risks in exchange for the privilege of using the Dog Park.

Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver (cont.)

_____ I further understand that no agents or employees of the Township of Doylestown will supervise the Park at any time and I therefore expressly assume responsibility for all risks associated with the Park as well as any fixtures and equipment that may be located there in an unsupervised manner.

Waiver and Release of all Claims and Indemnification Agreement

_____ I have carefully read this waiver and release and understand its contents. I have received/read the Doylestown Dog Park Application and Information Guide including the dog park rules and regulations, and agree by affixing my signature below to comply with those rules and regulations. I will also inform others that I may bring to the park (including children) of these rules and will ensure their compliance while using the park. My signature confirms that I am also not aware of any incidents in which my dog(s) has/have shown aggressive, fighting, or biting behavior towards people or other animals.

_____ I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog's actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ In signing this Waiver and Release, I do hereby agree to waive, relinquish, release and forever discharge the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, the Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park, and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, from any and all claims or causes of action for injuries, damages, loss, liability or expenses that I may have or which may accrue hereafter to me or any other person claiming through me or on my behalf and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I fully and forever release and discharge the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park, its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers, and others working on behalf of the Township from any and all negligent acts or omissions with regard to the Dog Park and intend to be legally bound by this Release.

_____ I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the Township of Doylestown, County of Bucks, the Borough of Doylestown, Friends of Doylestown Dog Park and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, and from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions, and expenses (including but not limited to court costs and attorney fees), occurring, growing out of, incident to, or resulting directly or indirectly from my use of this facility and surrounding area, including without limitation any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions and expenses on account of personal injury to or death of any person or animal, or damages to property of any person or entity.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, WARNING OF RISK, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS. IF THIS FORM IS RECEIVED ON-LINE OR VIA FAX, YOUR ONLINE OR FACSIMILE SIGNATURE SHALL SUBSTITUTE AND HAVE THE SAME LEGAL EFFECT AS AN ORIGINAL FORM SIGNATURE.

_____

Name (print legibly)

_____

Signature

_____

Date