

NOLA City Bark Rules

- Dogs must be spayed or neutered, at least 6 months old, healthy, heartworm negative, and up to date on the following vaccines: Rabies, DHLPP, and Bordetella. Dogs must be collared with current rabies tags. Proof of vaccination required for initial permit and renewal applications.
- Entrance to park with active key card only. Permit holders are prohibited from allowing anyone into the park without a working key card. Please contact 504-483-9377 or nolacitybark@nocp.org regarding any issues with cards
- Owners must remove their dog immediately from the dog park at the first sign of aggressive behavior. Dogs are not allowed to disturb, harass or interfere with wildlife, other visitors, or staff on site.
- Owners/handlers must immediately clean up after their dog(s) and properly dispose of waste. Additionally, the owner/handler is responsible for destruction caused by their dog, which includes the responsibility of filling in any holes the dog digs while in the park.
- Dog park permits are only issued to adults 18 years of age or older. The permit holder must be the person to accompany the dog to the park. Children younger than 8 years old are not allowed inside the dog park; Children 8 years old – 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult member and should not engage with others' dogs unless permission is granted by the owner.
- Limit of three dogs per household at one time within the fenced dog park area.
- Owners/handlers must remain inside of fenced area, with leash in hand, and within view and voice control of their dogs at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash until inside the double-gated entry. Enter the first gate with the leash on and remove it prior to entering the second gate. Do the reverse when leaving.
- Only small (under 25 lbs.) or special needs dogs are allowed to use the small dog park. For safety reasons, it is strongly advised that dogs weighing less than 15 lbs. remain in the small dog park.
- The following items are prohibited within the fenced dog park area:
 - Spike, choke, electric, or prong collars.
 - Dog treats, rawhide chews, human food or glass containers.
 - Dog toys with the exception of balls or Frisbees.
 - Football, baseball, soccer, rugby and volleyballs, bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, drones, strollers, or scooters.
 - Tobacco, vapor products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, weapons or firearms
 - Clothing that contains discriminatory or inflammatory language against a protected group/class

Safety Recommendations

In case of a fight

Sometimes, despite your best efforts to monitor playtime, dogs get into fights. These scuffles often look and sound ferocious. The dogs might growl fiercely, snarl at each other, bark, snap and show their teeth. Most dog fights don't result in injury to either dog. Even so, if a fight lasts more than a few seconds, the dogs' pet parents should separate them. Doing this can be dangerous. If you grab a dog who's in the middle of fighting with another dog, he/she might startle and reflexively whip around to bite you.

To reduce the likelihood of injury to all parties, follow these guidelines:

- Prevent fights from happening in the first place by actively watching dogs during play. If you think things are starting to look a little tense, end play by calling your dog to come.
- Plan ahead. Remember that most dog fights are noisy but harmless. If you stay calm and try not to show fear, you'll be able to separate two fighting dogs more safely and efficiently.
- Try non-physical interventions first to break up a fight:
 - Clap and yell or blow a shrill whistle
 - Spray the dogs with a citronella spray that is safe for dogs.
 - Spray with a hose if one is handy.
- Separate them as a last resort. If you've briefly tried (3 seconds or so) the interventions listed above but the dogs are still fighting, you and the other dog's owner should approach the dogs together. Separate them at the same time. Both of you should take hold of your dog's back legs at the very top just under the hips, right where the legs connect to the body. (Avoid grabbing the dogs lower on their legs, such as by their knees, ankles, or paws. Doing so could cause them serious injury.) Like you'd lift a wheelbarrow, lift your dog's back end under his hips so that his back legs come off the ground, and move backwards away from the other dog. As soon as you can, turn your dog away from the other dog.
- DO NOT grab your dog by the collar. It seems like the natural thing to do, but it might startle your dog and cause her to turn and bite you. This kind of bite is like a reflex that is done without thinking. Many pet parents get bitten this way—even when their dogs haven't shown any signs of aggression in the past.
- LEAVE THE PARK. Put both dogs on leashes after the fight and leave. Avoid giving the dogs another chance to fight.

What to do in the event of an incident with injury while in the dog park:

1. Exchange contact information if can be done safely
2. Note the time, date, breed of dog, and owner contact information.
3. Leave the park immediately.
4. Report the incident to the City Bark office by calling 504-483-9377 or emailing nolacitybark@nocp.org. Outside of business hours contact City Park Police at 504-421-9307
5. In the case of grievous injury to yourself or pet, contact 911 to give report to New Orleans Animal Control.