

## Most common mistakes in Dog Parks

Dog Parks are a great Idea, but is it the right choice for your dog? Is your dog is well behaved and socialized? What do you know about other peoples dog?

Here some mistakes people make in a dog park:



**FOOD** – Food is a NO. By bringing food, human or dog food into the park can start a dogfight. Lot's of dogs have food aggression, or dogs begging or stealing food, which can upset other dogs.

**CHILDREN** – these parks are specifically for dogs, not a playground for kids. Dogs playing and running around can knock down, small kids. Also running and screaming kids can cause aggression in some dogs. One reason, they are frightened of the kids behavior, or they see the running kids as a prey.

**EXCITEMENT** – coming to the park, with the dogs pulling, with the owner not having control over their dog, is not a good sign for entering the park. Going to the dog park does not replace the walk. Draining some of the dog's energy is a good start before enter the park in a calm and proper manner.



**WATCH** – sitting in the dog park and have coffee time or reading a book is not the way you should act in the park. Watch your dog all the time. Call your dog once a while, make sure he pays still attention to you. Watch other dogs, if bad behavior in other dogs occur, leave the park in a calm manner. Some of these signs you might look for are growling or snarling, staring eyes, upright ears, short and sharp motion with the Tail. Head extend forward and

lowered, lips drawn back.

**DOG FRIENDLY OR NOT** – If you are not sure if your dog is dog friendly or maybe dog aggressive, do not find out by going in a dog park. Walk your dog on Leash outside the park with the fence between your dog and the dogs inside the park. Is your dog is acting friendly? Then start by going inside with fewer dogs in the park. Watch your dog's body posture, is he tense with tight facial expression or relaxed, like blinking eyes, drawn back ears shows the dog is friendly or fear.



Follow the rules in the park, that way your dog and other dogs can have fun and avoid dogfights. Some dog parks posted the rules in a park, sadly most parks don't. So far I personal saw only one Dog Park, where there are park rangers and rules listed at the

entry. This dog park is on Oahu, Hawaii, Hui 'Ilio Hawai'i, in Hawai'i Kai. So be a responsible dog owner!