Dog Park Etiquette/Guidelines

For most dog owners, going to the dog park is a fun way to let your dog get exercise while socializing with other dogs. In order to keep The Villages dog parks fun for all visitors, we all need to be mindful of proper dog etiquette when we visit.

Once you and your dog get to the dog parks, it may be tempting to just stand back and watch all the activity while your dog runs around. Everybody will have a much more rewarding time if you observe some basic etiquette for visiting the dog parks. Many of the suggestions below are more common sense than anything but should be heeded.

Following this etiquette will make the dog parks better places for all who visit.

➢ Never leave your dog unattended and always keep your attention on your dog.
➢ Phone calls, emails, and iPhone games or apps should be kept to a minimum so your focus can always remain on your dog.
➢ Always clean up after your dog. The Villages dog parks all have poop bags so please use them and dispose of properly.
➢ Responsible parties must prevent dogs from digging within the dog parks and immediately refill any holes.
➢ If you see trash, debris or anything else that's out of place, pick it up or put it back so none of the visitors or dogs gets injured.
➢ Keep your dog on-leash until you get to the off-leash area. This is not just respectful to other park users; it's much safer for your dog.
➢ Close all gates to the dog park after entering or exiting.
➢ Don't scold or touch someone else's dog. You wouldn't want them to do that to your dog.
➢ Be friendly with other dog owners. It's more enjoyable if everyone is nice to each other.
➢ Always observe all the rules posted at your local dog park.
➢ If you see anything that needs attention please contact the regional recreation center that has oversight of the specific dog park. Mulberry Grove Dog Park, 259-6040; Paradise Dog Park, 753-0637; Brinson-Perry Dog Park, 750-2488; Atlas Canine Recreation Park, 674-8400.

For more information visit www.districtgov.org or call 352.674.1800