



## **Pit Bull Rescue Central Dog Park Policy Position Statement**

Pit Bull Rescue Central (PBRC) does not support any form of breed specific restrictions, bans, rules, or legislation. Breed specific policies are ineffective and unfair to responsible dog owners. The more effective way to protect communities from dangerous dogs is through non-breed specific policies that address individual owner responsibility.

While PBRC recommends to pit bull owners that they do not bring their dogs to off-leash dog parks, we believe that it should be up to each individual responsible owner to decide whether a dog park is right for their dog, regardless of breed.

Pit Bull Rescue Central recommends the following non-breed specific rules for off-leash dog parks:

- All dogs should be up-to-date on vaccines and free of parasites.
- Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- No female dogs in heat should be allowed in the off-leash park.
- Dogs should wear flat collars or harnesses only (remove pinch collars, choke chains, head collars, and other no-pull devices).
- Closely supervise children at all times.
- Stay with your dog and pay attention to your dog's behavior at all times. If your dog is acting inappropriately or other dogs around him/her seem uncomfortable, remove your dog from the group.
- Keep your dog's leash with you at all times.
- Dogs that exhibit dangerous or aggressive behavior, biting or fighting are not allowed. If a dog acts aggressively, it should be immediately removed from the park.
- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.

In addition, dog parks should post and distribute educational materials acknowledging that dog parks are not appropriate for all dogs (regardless of breed) and to help responsible owners determine whether a dog park is right for their dog. This should include information on breeds that have a history of not getting along with other dogs, and information on stress signals and canine body language.

### **Information on Stress/Calming Signals in Dogs:**

<http://www.canis.no/rugaas/onearticle.php?artid=1>

### **An Overview of Types of Aggressive Behavior in Dogs:**

[http://www.k9aggression.com/Aggression/aggression\\_types.html](http://www.k9aggression.com/Aggression/aggression_types.html)

### **Warning Signs of Inter-Dog Aggression:**

<http://dvm.adv100.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=17521>

### **Tips on Off-Leash Dog Training:**

<http://www.perfectpaws.com/offleash.html>

<http://www.perfectpaws.com/recall.html>

