

## MAKING THIS A GREAT YEAR FOR OUR DOGS AND OUR DOG PARK

### “What the heck? More rules and etiquette?”

**We strive to maintain a beautiful and enjoyable park for both dogs and their humans.** You may be new to the park or a long time member enjoying our sense of community, safety and happiness. The following have been presented to every new member and are on our website (saddlebrookedogpark.com). At first, they may appear strict and even unnecessary to you. However, they have been established over the years to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for members, and similar rules are used by other successful dog parks. The reason is simple: **our goal is to keep everyone and their dogs safe, healthy and happy.**

Below are the rules and explanations of the importance of each rule.

**1. SaddleBrooke Dog Park (SBDP) is a private park for Members only and is attended at the Member’s own risk.**

*Our members can be confident that everyone know the rules, proper dog park etiquette, has a current rabies vaccination and agree that the use of the park is at the members’ own risk.*

**2. Members must follow ALL dog park rules.**

*Each of these rules has been developed over time and are often a result of an incident that has caused a dangerous situation for a member and their dog(s) resulting in reduced enjoyment of the SBDP. They also are similar to other well-run dog parks. When rules are not followed, the SBDP may require further training of a dog and owner, and possibly ban an owner and dog from using the park.*

**3. All dogs must have a current Rabies vaccination on file with the SBDP.**

*It is an Arizona State Law that all dogs must be vaccinated for Rabies. Members must provide vaccination certificates to the Membership Chairman. **While Rabies is the only vaccination we require, we highly recommend you keep all other vaccinations recommended by your veterinarian up to date.***

**4. A maximum of 3 dogs per member is allowed at any given time.**

*It is often difficult to keep track of the actions (and pooping) of multiple dogs as well as raising the risk of adverse incidents.*

**5. Sick, injured or dogs in heat are not permitted in the park at any time.**

**6. Members entering or leaving must wait until the ramp is clear.**

*Wait at the top of the entrance ramp if someone is coming, and wait in the dog park or de-leashing areas if someone is coming down the ramp to enter. This is a person and dog safety issue to avoid a dangerous situation, plus it is just polite to wait!*

**7. Do NOT enter, leave or remain in the park with your dog on a leash.**

*Remove your dog’s leash in the de-leashing area before entering the large or small-dog sides of the dog park. An exception is when training classes are being held in or near Riley’s Place or there has been an incident between dogs and the owner needs to control and remove a dog. Having your dog leashed inside the park may cause excitement by other dogs, the leash may cause you to fall, and trying to get the leash off when surrounded by other dogs is dangerous.*

**8. Do NOT allow your dog(s) to crowd the gate when another dog is attempting to enter**

***This behavior is the cause of MANY incidents and altercations!** This also applies to the gate from the sandy side to the large dog park. Please don’t be sitting as your dog(s) go to the gate to “greet” the dog(s) trying to get in. Instead, instruct your dog (or use a deterrent such as a water spray bottle often supplied near gates) to ask your dog(s) to back away from the gate door at least several feet. Even though you believe that your dog is friendly, you never know the mood or the fear that a dog entering may have*

about other dogs blocking their entrance. If you are entering and owners do not try to remove their dog(s) from crowding the gate, you have the right to call politely to the members to control their dog(s) and move them away from the entrance area.

**9. No excessive barking is permitted.**

*We must respect our neighborhood and leave this rule to your best judgment. If a member's dog is constantly barking and not just a few times while playing, you have the right to ask them to control and remove their dog.*

**10. No food or dog treats of any type are allowed in the SBDP.**

*Dog fights might occur and food may attract wildlife inside SBDP.*

**11. Members must pick up their dog's poop IMMEDIATELY and dispose of it in the waste container by the gate.**

*Occasionally we can be forgetful, or are socializing and might not see our dog pooping, but diseases can be easily transmitted to other dogs and wildlife. Be a **Good Citizen Poop Patroller** and before you leave walk around and look for wayward poop to pick up and keep our dog park safe!*

**12. Water bowls MUST remain by the water faucet and emptied if you are the last member to leave the park or the one who filled the bowl.**

*When members remove dog bowls from the faucet area, they often put them near their chairs, or bring their own water bowls placing them close by. Dogs may become territorial and serious incidents and injuries can occur when a dog protects its water bowl and/or owner. Also, when we have grass, bowls on the grass can kill it especially when left overnight. Additionally, diseases like Leptospirosis as well as mosquitoes breeding in standing water overnight are hazards, as are snakes and other wildlife seeking water.*

**13. Aggressive dogs must be controlled and removed immediately from the SBDP premises.**

*This may include snarling, growling with teeth showing, snapping, biting or other signs of negative behavior. Remember, dogs have moods and likes/dislikes too. It is better to remove your dog before an incident occurs especially if another member complains.*

**14. An INCIDENT REPORT FORM should be completed and submitted if a dog is involved in an altercation.**

*The form is on the webpage ([saddlebrookedogpark.com](http://saddlebrookedogpark.com)). Please fill out completely and email it. It's important to obtain witness(es) names and include them in the report. It then goes to the Chair of the Safety Committee. The Safety Committee takes into account all information, investigates and then makes their recommendation to the Board. If a person is bitten, the County Animal Control must be involved and will conduct their investigation.*

**15. No arguing or cursing is permitted in the dog park and must be reported to the SaddleBrooke Patrol at the time of the incident.**

*Most member arguments are about a dog's behavior. If another member asks you to control your dog, please comply, and if you disagree, have a polite discussion about the situation and come to an agreement. If you see that your dog does not appear to like another dog, make arrangements with that owner to come at different times. Work it out with your fellow member in a polite discussion! We have had more member arguments than actual dog fights. Please be polite and talk to each other. **If an argument gets out of hand, or if threats are made, someone should call the SaddleBrooke Patrol (number is posted near the gates or de-leashing area).***

**THANK YOU FOR READING THIS AND MAKING 2021 A GREAT YEAR FOR OUR DOGS AND OUR DOG PARK!**

Compiled by Dr. Bonnie Buntain, Chair SBDP Safety Committee, with lots of review and editing help from the Safety Committee Members Linda Schweitzer and Terry Johnson; other members: Karen Brooks, Cathy Lee, Nadine McAfee, Becky Melzer, and the SBDP President Susan Williams and our Board.

