

THE DOWNSIDE OF DOG PARKS



Not all fun and games. ♥

KNOW THE RISKS, AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES.



A SAFE DOG IS A HAPPY DOG! ♥

1

ILLNESS EXPOSURE

Dogs can pick up illnesses like kennel cough, parasites, or viruses from shared water bowls, waste, or close contact with other dogs.



7

INJURIES TO PEOPLE

People can get knocked over, run into, scratched, or injured by dogs running at high speed, especially children or older adults.



2

RISK OF FIGHTS

Not all dogs play appropriately. Rough play, bullying, or aggressive behavior can lead to injuries or fear issues.



8

RESOURCE GUARDING

Toys, treats, balls, or even owners can trigger guarding behavior between dogs.



3

BAD HABITS

Dogs may learn unwanted behaviors such as jumping, ignoring recalls, excessive barking, or rude greetings from other dogs.



9

NOT IDEAL FOR PUPPIES

Young puppies may be overwhelmed or exposed to disease before vaccinations are complete.



4

OVERSTIMULATION

Some dogs become anxious, reactive, or overly excited in busy dog park environments.



10

LACK OF SUPERVISION

Some owners may be distracted or not intervene when problems start.



5

UNVACCINATED OR POORLY TRAINED DOGS

You can't always know if other owners are responsible about vaccines, supervision, or behavior management.



11

CAN WORSEN REACTIVITY

For some dogs, chaotic off-leash interactions can increase frustration or leash reactivity over time.



6

INJURY RISKS FOR DOGS

Running, rough play, holes in the ground, or poorly maintained equipment can cause strains, cuts, or joint injuries.



12

SIZE MISMATCHES & CLEANLINESS ISSUES

Large and small dogs playing together can cause injuries. Mud, standing water, heat, and waste buildup can create unhealthy conditions.



Be informed.
Be prepared.
Be responsible. ♥

Your dog's safety—and the safety of others—starts with you.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



SCENIC WALKS & HIKES



TRAINING CLASSES



ENRICHMENT AT HOME



ONE-ON-ONE PLAY DATES