



Recognizing the Signs of a Potential Dog Fight

Posture: A dog's body language can communicate fear, hostility or submission. Learn to read and respond to your own dog's body language and be alert for the body language of other dogs.

Packing: More than two or three dogs packed together can lead to trouble.

Possession: Whether it's you, a ball/toy, or a treat most dogs will protect what is theirs. Do not offer food to a dog other than your own. Fairfax County rules state FOOD is prohibited.

Provoking: If your dog is continuously annoying another dog or demanding another dog's attention, it's time to remove your dog from the situation by putting them in time-out.

Use training methods to help your dog as they need guidance from you – particularly the "come" command and "leave it" command.

Pay close attention to your dog and be aware of where he/she is and what they are doing at all times. Cell phones are a distraction and it is best if it is not your primary focus while visiting.

Stay close enough to control or protect your dog if an issue arises. Keep a collar or harness on your dog at all times so you have something to grab if needed.

When all else fails, just leave the park. Take a walk around the outside of the park away from the fence.

Most importantly always remember.....

Your dog is your personal property. If a fight with injury occurs, **you must trade contact information.**

A Brief History of Westgrove Park

Westgrove Dog Park occupies a site which was home to a water treatment plant until 1986. When the plant closed, the surplus property was transferred to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to be developed into parkland to serve the surrounding community.

For about 30 years, the property was undeveloped and it became a popular spot for nearby residents to informally exercise their dogs. In 2010, a group of those residents formed the Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness (Westgrove P.A.C.K.) to have a portion of the property established as a formal Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA).

In August 2012, the Westgrove OLDA received interim approval and quickly became one of the most popular parks in the Mount Vernon District, attracting dozens of new dog owners.

Since 2012 the P.A.C.K. has raised over \$50,000 with grants and park user contributions to cover improvements – such as water and shade – and yearly operational expenses for this unique natural turf dog park.

The Westgrove dog community has taken on the cost of natural turf maintenance and improvement and made it possible for the park to maintain a natural turf surface. Working together, Westgrove P.A.C.K. and the FCPA are making our dog park a model for 21st century local recreation.



Your Guide to Westgrove Dog Park

www.westgrovepack.org



6801 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, VA 22307
westgrovepack@gmail.com



Why are dog parks important?

Dog parks benefit both dog owners and non-owners alike by:

- Providing a legal recreational outlet for dog owners who want to exercise and socialize their dogs in a safe, leash-free environment.
- Allowing people with limited mobility to exercise their dogs in a safe, accessible place.
- Bringing people together to promote a greater sense of community.

How does the Westgrove Dog Park work?

For the safety of all dogs and humans:

- **NO** Children under the age of 9 yrs old.
- **NO** Food (human or dog); including treats, bones and edible toys.
- **NO** Dogs barking incessantly.
- **NO** Dogs under 4 months of age.
- **NO** Female dogs in heat.
- **NO** Animals other than dogs.
- **NO** Glass containers.

Though smoking is not prohibited, we kindly ask that you do so outside the fenced area and dispose of cigarette butts safely in a trash can.

Common Sense - Common Courtesy

Owners are expected to know:

- **ALWAYS CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG!** If you see unattended dog waste, do a good turn and clean it up – whether it's from your dog or not. Please take a moment to walk around (1) time before you leave and pick up poop. Keeping our park waste fee protects our dogs from disease and the environment from contamination.
- Maintain voice control over your dog and keep your dog in sight at all times so you are ready to intervene at the first sign of aggression (from your dog or another dog).
- You are responsible for the conduct of your dog and liable for injury caused by your dog to other persons, dogs or property.
- Don't cause a traffic jam at the gate! When arriving or leaving the park, wait for other dogs and their owners to clear the corralled entrance area.
- Close all gates when entering and exiting the park.
- Keep your dog on a leash when leaving or returning to your car. Unleashed dogs that run along the outside of the fence create stress for dogs inside the fence.
- Help your dog be a good neighbor. Keep him away from the entrance when other dogs enter.
- Leash and remove your dog at the first sign of aggression toward people or other dogs.

- Bring no more than two dogs to the park. This limit is set by County regulations.
- Make sure your dog is licensed and up-to-date on his shots before taking him to the park.
- No dog handlers under 16 allowed in the park. No children under 9 ever.
- Do not bring your dog to the park if he/she is ill, injured or in heat.
- Do not bring your puppy to the park until he is 4 months old and has all appropriate vaccinations. (If in doubt, ask your vet).
- Do not let your dog dig holes in the dirt. If he does, you are responsible for filling the hole.



 Find us on
Facebook
Westgrove P.A.C.K.

Online: www.westgrovepack.org
Email: westgrovepack@gmail.com