

# Safety Tips & Injury Prevention



Never hang over fences or put your hands through fence openings to touch a dog, even one you know.

Avoid rough games such as tug-of-war, jumping up for toys/food, and wrestling - all could lead to injury if the game gets out of hand.

Never tease or hit a dog or pull ears, tail or feet and let sleeping/eating dogs alone!

Leave dogs with puppies alone. Some mother dogs may get very protective.

If an unknown dog approaches you, remain calm and quiet. Stand still and do not look the dog directly in the eyes. If you are boring, there is a good chance the dog will move on. Ultimately it is the owner who determines how safe their dog will be!

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# Contact Information



## Licensing and Fees

Dog licenses are issued by the Department of Health's (DOH) Animal services program. Dog owners must show proof that their pets have had rabies and distemper shots and renew their dog's license each year. Get more information about licensing requirements, fees, and procedures by calling (877) 672-2174, visiting the **DOH Service Center at 899 North Capitol Street, NE.**, or on the web at: [www.doh.dc.gov/node/164952](http://www.doh.dc.gov/node/164952)

## Vaccinations

District law requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies and distemper by four (4) months of age and be kept current. Call DOH at (202) 535-2323, or for more information visit: [www.doh.dc.gov/node/165152](http://www.doh.dc.gov/node/165152)

## Animal Bites

Please report all animal bites by calling DC Animal Control at (202) 576-6664.

# DOGS IN THE DISTRICT

Important Information for District Residents and Dog Owners



Brought to you by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation

1250 U Street, NW, 2nd floor  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: (202) 673-7647  
Fax: (202) 673-2087  
TTY: 711  
Email: [dpr@dc.gov](mailto:dpr@dc.gov)



# What does the law say?



## Leash Requirement & Prohibited Areas

Under the Animal Control Act, all dogs on any public space in the District, other than in a dog park designated by DPR, must be firmly secured by a leash at all times. DPR dog parks are designated by signage approved by DPR, and do not include fenced-in or open areas meant for other uses.

**Except for service dogs, all dogs are prohibited on children's play areas and on ball fields.**

*With the District's increasing dog population, it's important to have the latest information about responsible dog ownership and how your pet impacts our environment and others.*

# It's the Law!



**Pick up after your dog**  
**Fines \$150 - \$2,000**

Dog waste transmits diseases, attracts rats, kills grass, and pollutes waterways. Use a bag to pick up your dog's waste and then dispose of it in a trash can.



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## What are the consequences?

Each person who violates **DC's leash laws** shall pay a fine not to exceed **\$25** for the first violation, **\$50** for the second violation occurring within a 24-month period, and **\$100** for each subsequent violation occurring within a 24-month period. Additionally, civil charges can be filed if a dog injures a person while at large, lack of knowledge of the dog's vicious propensity standing alone shall not absolve the owner from a finding of negligence.

# DPR Dog Parks



## DC Department of Parks & Recreation Dog Park Locations:

(Ward 3) **Chevy Chase** • 41st & Livingston, NW  
(Ward 2) **Francis** • 25th & M Streets, NW  
(Ward 1) **Gage Eckington** • 286 V Street, NW  
(Ward 3) **Guy Mason** • 3100 Calvert Street, NW  
(Ward 6) **Kingsman** • 14th & Kingsman Street, NE  
(Ward 5) **Langdon** • 2901 20th Street, NE  
(Ward 6) **Lansburgh** • M St & Delaware Ave, SW  
(Ward 3) **Newark** • 39th & Newark Street, NW  
(Ward 2) **S Street** • 17th & S Street, NW  
(Ward 2) **Shaw** • 11th & Rhode Island, NW  
(Ward 4) **Upshur** • 4300 Arkansas Ave, NW  
(Ward 1) **Walter Pierce** • 20th & Calvert St, NW

For more information, please email:  
[dpr.dogparks@dc.gov](mailto:dpr.dogparks@dc.gov)