

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DOG PARKS

*Polo Grounds County Park,
2255 Huntington Dr., Aptos*

*Pinto Lake County Park,
757 Green Valley Rd., Watsonville*



Dog parks can be a great place for you and your dog to enjoy, but there are rules to follow and etiquette to respect.

Use the poop bag dispensers and pick up after your pet.

Obey the **Leash Law** until you have brought your dog inside the enclosed dog park area.

Dogs must be at least 4 months old.

Dogs must be vaccinated, and you should carry your dog's rabies certificate with you.

Please exercise caution when bringing small children inside the dog park.

Don't pick up another dog without the owner's consent.

Don't bring an aggressive or unsocialized dog into the dog park area.

Please, no dogs in heat.

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF _____
PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

A DOG OWNER'S GUIDE



**to enjoying
the parks of
Santa Cruz County**

**Santa Cruz County
Department of Parks, Open Space
and Cultural Services**

979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-454-7901
www.scparks.com

WHY SHOULD YOU BOTHER TO LEASH YOUR DOG?

IT'S THE LAW!

The fines for an unleashed dog can be over \$240, depending on the charges that may be included for violation of one or more of the following:

- Dog is not on a leash;
- Dog harasses, kills or maims deer, birds, or other wildlife protected by law;
- Requirements for licensing, vaccination, and display of tags not followed;
- Dog is not spayed or neutered;
- Dog waste not properly disposed of.

LEASHING YOUR DOG CAN HELP PREVENT A VARIETY OF ISSUES!

- An unleashed dog may dart into traffic causing an accident.



Fact:

Unleashed dogs cause over 1,500 car accidents and fatalities per year. Drivers trying to avoid hitting an unleashed dog end up paying the price simply because the dog was not responsibly handled.

- Dogs trespass from the park onto private property.

- Protects you from costly medical bills, should your dog harm a child or jump up on a frail or elderly person, causing injury.
- Fighting with other dogs; a loose dog can be difficult to restrain.
- Court bills: lawsuits can arise from a dog biting someone and it may be required that the dog be euthanized.
- Protects the environment from dogs harassing, killing or maiming wildlife.
- A dog may be lost or stolen.
- It's the right thing to do! While an owner likes their dog, others may not.



Leashed dogs are allowed in all county parks and beaches, **except for Quail Hollow Ranch and Scott Creek Beach**. These areas have sensitive habitats and dogs are prohibited.

To prevent children from coming into contact with feces and urine, **dogs are not allowed in playground areas or athletic fields**.

For information about the many animal services provided in Santa Cruz County please call the Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority at (831) 454-7303.

THE 3 SIMPLE RULES = IT'S THE LAW!

1 - License Your Dog

License your dog for your dog's protection. If an Animal Control Officer finds a licensed dog, they have a commitment to reunite the owner with the dog. A license tells an officer that a dog has a home and is not a stray.

2 - Leash Your Dog

Leashing your dog protects everyone, and can help prevent many problems and costly bills. Dogs must be leashed in all County-owned parks and beaches, unless the dog is in a specified, fenced dog area.

3 - Leave No Unpleasant Waste

Always carry a dog bag; dog waste is your responsibility. When you fail to clean up after your dog, it affects the experience of other park visitors and their pets. The waste left may have parasites that can spread disease to other dogs and to people. We all know what an unpleasant experience it is to step in dog waste! Left on the ground, dog waste can be transported by rain and washed into storm drains. Remember, storm drains are not connected to any type of treatment plant and flow directly into our streams, lakes, and bays.

Put the pieces together and follow the rules!

