

Thornberry Off-Leash Dog Park Rules

Draft 1

March 21, 2006

Rules regarding who may use the park

1. Owners must obtain a park permit for each dog who will visit the park and must sign a release of liability form.
2. Permits will not be sold for dogs under the age of 3 months. *Note: it seems that most places use 4 months, some use 3 months. I prefer the lower age so as to get the dogs into the park sooner. Did we not discuss this and come up with something during our meeting at Anne's house? I forget...*
3. A permit will not be issued to any dog who has been declared dangerous by the City of Iowa City (other entities – can we get that information?) or is otherwise known by the City (or other entity) to be a vicious or dangerous dog. *Note: Beth will talk to Misha about the feasibility of this*
4. Owners must present proof of current vaccination against rabies for each dog for whom a permit is being issued *Note: we could also require distemper/parvo, bordetella as CR dog park does, but I'm not necessarily in favor of that....*
5. Dogs who are aggressive to other dogs or to people are not allowed in the park.
6. Dogs who are ill should not be brought to the park until a veterinarian has verified that the dog does not have a contagious disease.
7. Female dogs in heat are not allowed in the park.
8. The small dog yard is reserved for dogs under 15 inches at the shoulder and under 25 pounds. Small dogs are welcome to use the all yards at the park, but owners should be aware that it is possible for small dogs to be accidentally injured by larger dogs. *Note: the numbers above are just suggestions. What do others think?*
9. Each dog must be accompanied by a responsible person at least 18 years of age. *Note: the age here is up for discussion*
10. Each adult may have no more than 2 dogs in the park at a time.
11. Children under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. *Note: the age here is up for discussion – but if we require each dog to be with an adult, then there should be no kids in the park without adults, so this age goes with #9, above.*

Rules regarding park etiquette

1. Each dog must have a park permit.
2. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Plastic, biodegradable bags are provided at the park. All dog waste should be deposited in the in-ground waste tank in the park entry area.
3. Owners must carry a leash for each dog at all times while in the park.
4. Dogs must be under their owner's visual contact and voice control at all times.
5. Wheeled vehicles (bicycles, wagons, roller blades, skateboards, etc.) are not allowed in the park. Exceptions to this are wheelchairs and strollers.
6. No food is allowed in the park except for small training treats.
7. All pinch, choke, and spike collars must be removed from dogs prior to entering the dog park. *Note: this is a safety issue in that dogs can get caught in these collars while playing.*

Thornberry Off-Leash Dog Park Rules

Draft 1

March 21, 2006

8. No electronic training devices will be allowed in the park. *Note: I'm not sure that I really like this one, but wanted to have some discussion of it. Maybe allow these in the training yard only?*
9. Each dog must be leashed when not in the park. This includes all areas outside of the double-gated entry areas, including the entry area and parking lot.
10. Aggressive dog behavior is not allowed. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behaviors must be leashed and removed from the park immediately. Aggressive behavior and injuries caused by dogs should be reported to Iowa City Animal Care and Control.
11. Owners should discourage dogs from excessive barking.
12. Children will be expected to behave in an appropriate manner. This includes no running, no chasing dogs, and no petting other dogs unless permission is granted by that dog's owner.
13. Owners should discourage dogs from digging. Owners should repair turf damaged by their dogs. *Note: This might not be a rule as much as a guidance?*
14. Dominating behavior such as humping, staring, and bullying should be discouraged by owners. *Note: This might not be a rule as much as a guidance?*

Parks also have rules about no firearms, no alcohol, etc. I suggest that we could add something such as "All other city park rules apply" to cover these.