

HOW TO TELL IF YOUR DOG IS ENJOYING THE DOG PARK

Does Your Dog Want To Be Here?



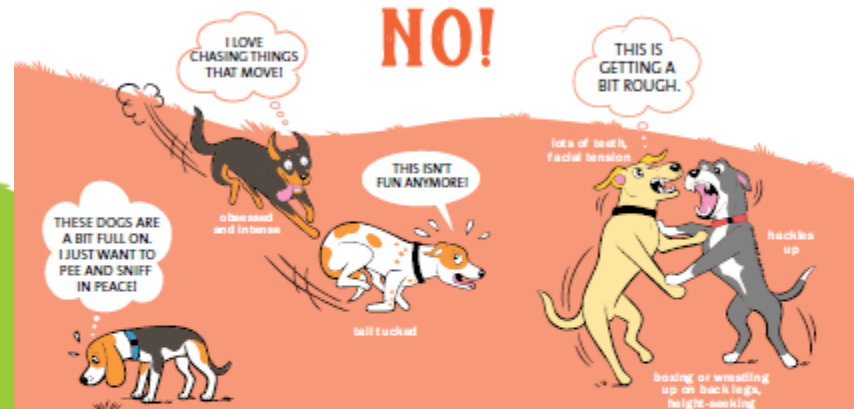
Great! Stay A While!

Appropriate and polite dog play includes lots of short breaks for sniffs, drinks or laying down so dogs don't become overly boisterous or hyper-stimulated.

Ensure your dog gets a chance to relax in good company too!

If you're not sure whether your dog is enjoying himself here, or you're worried about the behaviour of another dog, take your dog out of the dog park to give him a break. Not all dogs are social butterflies, some prefer the company of a few good friends instead.

Does Your Dog Want To Be Here?



Why Not Try Some Different Activities?

Long explorative walks along a trail or outside of the dog park

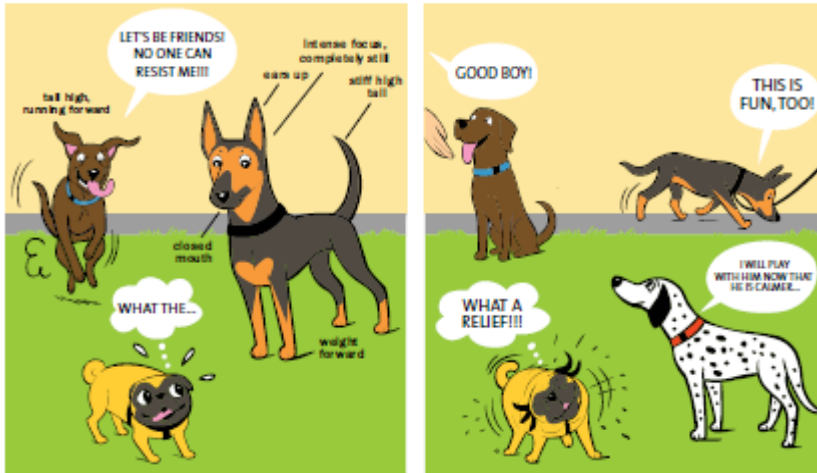
Attend the park at a time where there are less dogs, or where the other dogs' play styles match your dog's

How about a bit of training?

Sniffy walks along the beach or linear park

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Is Your Dog A PUSHY POLLY?



Ensure your dog gives other dogs a chance to enter the park safely and calmly. Watch all interactions regarding your dog.

Move your dog out of the park if they are being pushy. If you know your dog has a tendency to become pushy in play, interrupt interactions frequently by putting them on lead and taking them for a calming walk outside of the park.

All dogs and owners have a right to enjoy the park feeling safe and comfortable. Sometimes dogs need your help to learn how to play appropriately.

Is Your Dog A NERVOUS NELLY?



Fearful dogs need more space and more time to acclimatise. You may find that the dog park isn't the best place to help build your dog's confidence as other dogs can be uncontrollable or unpredictable. Better to take confidence building patiently and calmly – you'll find the more positive experiences your dog has the more confidence they will gain. Continuously putting them in situations they can't cope with will only exacerbate their fear (no – they don't need to just 'toughen up' – behaviour, development and dog play is complex and dynamic – it's not that simple).

SIGNS IN SITU ON PARK FENCING:

