

Dr. John's Safety Check List

There are dangers here at the park that can be avoided if preventative measures are taken.

- ✓ Physical injuries like bite wounds and musculoskeletal (muscle pulls, broken bones, torn ligaments) injuries can be prevented by observing the dogs in the park. The park is less busy in the mornings and on weekdays. This is a good time for new patrons to get a feel for this type of activity.
Some dogs are too dominant to play in an interactive setting, while very passive dogs can be an accident waiting to happen.
- ✓ Many contagious diseases are preventable by routine vaccination. Distemper, Adenovirus, Leptosporosis, Bordetella and most importantly, Parvo and Rabies, should be current for park goers. Some studies show that the Bordetella vaccine is only effective for six months; therefore, you may want to consider vaccinating for it biannually instead of annually.
Leptosporosis is on the rise in Ohio. It is spread through water and can be passed on to dogs from raccoons. If you are here early in the morning, make sure that the water is fresh. And if you are here at dusk, please dump the water.
- ✓ Annual or semi-annual stool samples should be screened for intestinal parasites. This will also prevent contamination of the park's soil. Always pick up your dog's stools to ensure that the park stays clean and disease free.
- ✓ Heartworms are passed to dogs from infected mosquitoes. Heartworm prevention is highly recommended. It protects against heartworms, roundworms, and hookworms. Some preventions protect against whipworms as well.

I hope that you have an enjoyable and healthy experience at the Gahanna Dog Park.

Sincerely,

*John L. Worman, D.V.M.
Gahanna Animal Hospital*