



# Lower Makefield Township Parks and Recreation

## Dog Park Policy

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# Registration Requirements

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**Veterinary Records:** A current copy of veterinary vaccination records is required at time of registration. Thereafter, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure an up-to-date copy of all required shot records is forwarded annually. You may bring a copy of your pet's veterinary records, have them faxed to 215-348-8729, or have them emailed to [dogpark@lmt.org](mailto:dogpark@lmt.org)

- **DHPP:** DHPP is a yearly vaccine administered to immunize your dog against (D) distemper, (H) hepatitis, (P) parainfluenza and (P) parvovirus.
- **Rabies:** PA Code (16.41. Rabies Vaccination Required) states, "A person living in this Commonwealth owning or keeping a dog or cat over 3 months of age shall have the dog or cat vaccinated against rabies under the act and this chapter."
- **Canine Bordetella:** Bordetella, also known as kennel cough, is a highly contagious upper respiratory condition that affects a high number of dogs. Canine Bordetella is spread from dog to dog. It is often passed when there is a high number of dogs in one contained area, such as with boarding kennels, shelters, obedience classes, dog parks and dog day care facilities. Infected dogs are not permitted in the dog park.

**SEX:** Male dogs are required to be neutered. Female dogs are not permitted in the park while in heat.

**HEALTH:** All dogs must be in good health. Owners will certify that their dog(s) is(are) in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition which could potentially jeopardize other dogs/persons.

**PA Dog License:** In accordance with Pennsylvania State law all dogs are required to have a current license.

**Orientation Certificate:** Obtained after completing an orientation class.

## Step 1 - Attend a mandatory orientation session.

The success of the Lower Makefield Dog Park is due in part to the unique mandatory education session that is required for all park users. Many dog parks require only vaccinations to participate, while the Lower Makefield Dog Park requires a dog license, vaccinations and attendance at an education session. We believe that our requirements result in a better educated participant who understands their responsibility as a dog park user. Our Lower Makefield Township Animal Control Officer will review the park rules and operating hours, responsibilities of the users, behaviors you may observe in your and/or other dogs while at the dog park and the registration process. A multimedia presentation will show new members what to expect from dogs and people at the parks. After the session, you will be given an attendance certificate (required for registration) and application packet.

All household members that will use the park are required to attend the orientation. You will not be registering or providing payment for dog membership at the orientation session. The orientation schedule (dates, times, locations) can be found at [register.communitypass.net/lowermakefield](http://register.communitypass.net/lowermakefield)

## Step 2 - Obtain a current dog license and vaccinations.

Current licenses and up-to-date vaccination records are required for each dog (see page 3). You will need to submit written proof (copies) of these items when you register for a dog park membership. It is the sole responsibility of the owner to ensure that license and veterinary records are kept current for all registered dogs. Failure to comply will result in deactivation of your key fob (without refund) until current information is received.

## Step 3 - Register at the Lower Makefield Township Administrative Office.

The Lower Makefield Township Administrative Office is located at 1100 Edgewood Rd, Yardley PA, 19067. Registration hours are 9:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. You will need to bring the orientation attendance certificate you received at the education session, proof of dog license and proof of vaccinations.

## Step 4 – Enjoy the Lower Makefield Dog Park!

For additional questions, contact the Lower Makefield Township 267-274-1105.

To refresh your memory on the tips discussed by the trainer at your orientation, download the orientation handouts and other helpful resources at [lmt.org/government/departments/parks-recreation/the-lmt-dog-park/](http://lmt.org/government/departments/parks-recreation/the-lmt-dog-park/)

## Park Fees

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Payment may be made by check, cash or credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover). You will be issued a key fob that will allow you and your dog access to the park.

<b>Annual Membership Fees</b> <b><u>(valid for one year from date of issue)</u></b>	
<b>Resident Members (Lower Makefield Township) up to two dogs:</b>	
Membership -1 <sup>st</sup> Dog	\$35.00
Additional dog(s)	\$15.00 each
<b>Non-Residents (all others)</b>	
Membership – 1 <sup>st</sup> Dog	\$50.00
Additional dog(s)	\$15.00 each
<b>Replacement of Lost Key Fob</b>	\$5.00 each

## Dog Park Rules

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1. Off-leash dog area hours: Sunrise to sunset
2. All users must be registered with the Lower Makefield Township Department of Parks & Recreation to receive an access key fob to utilize the dog park. Access key fobs are non-transferrable.
3. Dogs must be on a leash when entering and exiting the dog park. Dogs are to remain leashed outside the dog park.
4. Owners must accompany and monitor dogs closely. Dogs must be in view of and under voice command of their owners at all times.
5. No smoking, food, alcohol, or glass containers are permitted in the dog park.
6. No treats, food, or special dog toys are permitted in the park.
7. Dogs showing aggression or fear towards people or other animals must be removed from the dog park immediately.
8. All dogs entering the dog park must be healthy, vaccinated according to the current requirements of the LMT Dog Park, and wear a collar displaying their current rabies tag and dog license as required by Pennsylvania law.
9. Female dogs in heat and unneutered male dogs may not enter the park.
10. Puppies must be at least (6) months old and vaccinated according to the current requirements of the LMT Dog Park to enter.
11. No children under the age of 14 are allowed inside the dog park. Children ages 14-17 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.
12. Owners must clean up after their dog(s) and place in appropriate receptacles.
13. Use of the dog park is at your own risk. The owner of any dog(s) assumes all liability for damages or injuries suffered by any person or dog by the member's dog(s) while utilizing the off-leash dog area.
14. No more than two dogs per member are permitted at one time.
15. Pronged, pinch, choke, spike, or electric training collars are not permitted in the off-leash dog area.
16. Stop your dog from digging and fill in any holes.

17. The dog park is divided into separate fenced-in areas. Dogs weighing less than 25lb must use the small dog area. Dogs weighing over 35lb must use the large dog area. The owner of dogs weighing 26lb – 34lb may choose the appropriate area, small or large, for their dog.
18. Please be considerate and do not allow nuisance excessive barking.
19. The park may not be used for any private use or gain which includes, but is not limited to, instruction/training activities or events of any kind without the written approval of the Lower Makefield Township Parks & Recreation Department.
20. In case of emergency call 911. For police non-emergencies call 215-493-4011.
21. All or any rules are subject to change without notice as deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of both humans and dogs.
22. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in revocation of your membership.

These rules have been put in place for the safety of both dog and owner.

Please refer to pages 10 – 11 for what is considered a reportable incident and the process that follows.

## Preparing for your first visit

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Prepare for your dog's first visit by exploring the dog park without your dog. Enter the off-leash area, walk around, and feel free to ask questions of anyone in the park. Then, when you bring your dog for the first time, you will be prepared to guide your dog appropriately and less likely to walk into surprises.

The first time your dog comes to the park, try to visit at a relatively quiet time of day so that your dog can experience this new place without being overwhelmed by potential playmates. Most parks experience peak usage early in the morning, after work hours on weekdays and at midday on weekends; regular users of the Lower Makefield Dog Park can tell you when it tends to be most busy or quiet.

When you arrive, stand outside the fence and watch the dogs inside the off-leash area for a few minutes before you enter it.

Ask yourself the following questions before deciding to enter:

- Does your dog already know any of the dogs in the park?
- Are they playing in a manner that is comfortable for your dog?
- Does your dog look keen to enter or reluctant?

If your dog seems afraid or reluctant to enter, remember that it is better to leave and come back at another time rather than set your dog up for trouble on the first visit. If you decide to enter the off-leash area proceed through the double-gated entrance as described in the section Entering and Exiting the Park (page 9).

- Be aware that dogs that are already in the larger fenced-in area will likely gather around the gate to “meet and greet” your dog.
- Allow your dog to remain in the enclosed area for a few minutes until the other dogs’ retreat from the entrance area.
- When you AND your dog feels comfortable, open the second gate and let your unleashed dog enter the play area (leashed dogs tend to become frightened or defensive if suddenly surrounded by other dogs).
- Close the second gate behind you and follow your dog into the play area.

## Every Visit

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Before entering, assess how many dogs are already playing in the park, the intensity of the play, and whether their owners are paying attention. Does this look like an appropriate situation for your dog? If not, come back at

another time. If you decide to go in, please turn off your cell phone so that it cannot distract your attention from your dog.

The entry and exit to both the "Large" and "Small" off-leash areas are double-gated. If someone is entering/exiting in front of you, wait until the area is clear and both gates are secure before entering. Do not enter or exit as a group.

Inside the park, keep moving. Dogs tend to play more when their owners are in motion; An owner standing or sitting in one place makes it more likely for a dog to guard the surrounding space. While your dog plays, stay engaged: call your dog periodically, praise and reward, and then say, "Go play!" to put what he is going to do on your queue. Have your dog take occasional breaks from play to make over-arousal less likely. Many dogs pay acute attention to who is entering a dog park, and sometimes dogs will bunch up at the entryway as another is entering. If an entering dog is swarmed and feels threatened, a fight can erupt. The person inside the entryway should wait until the dogs disperse or the owners inside the off-leash area call their dogs away from the gate before allowing the dog(s) in.

If another dog owner is not following the posted rules, politely approach that person and ask for cooperation. It may be more comfortable if you ask another dog owner to accompany you. You are the only person who is responsible for your dog's safety and well-being, and all members are responsible for the well-being of the park. When you leave, leash your dog in the double-gated vestibule before returning to the lobby area. Afterward, think your experience over: What did your dog learn? What did you learn?

The Lower Makefield Township Dog Park is divided into two (2) separate off-leash areas, providing maximum safety for your dog. The third section is designed as a rotation and/or events area. When entering and exiting designated areas close the gates securely behind you and your dog(s). Open or tied back gates defeat the purpose of the security provided. Anyone found leaving the gates open, tied back or unlatched will have their membership/key fob suspended (1<sup>st</sup> offense) or membership/key fob revoked (2<sup>nd</sup> offense) without a refund. Service gates are located on the outside of the park. These gates provide access for the Township's maintenance. They are not intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, please notify the Township immediately at 267-274-1105 or call police at 267-274-1150. Do not enter the off-leash areas through the service/emergency gates as these gates do not provide sufficient control necessary for safely entering or exiting the park. Additionally, dogs already in the off-leash area might escape as you enter the park through these unauthorized service gates.

## Entering the Park

The outer entry gate is electronic and the use of the access key fob is required to enter. The lobby/pavilion area is a communal area and dogs must be leashed always in this space.

### Entering the Off-Leash Area (designated entrance)

1. Before opening the outer gate, check to be sure that the inner gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are in the vestibule area.
2. Open the outer gate and enter the vestibule with the dog on-leash. Close the outer main gate and check that it is properly secured.
3. Remove the dog's leash. Note: Having a dog on a leash when confronting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble. A leashed dog may feel vulnerable and fearful, as well as protective of their owner. Tugging on the leash puts a dog at a disadvantage with other dogs. The dog is restrained but placed in a chest-out, raised-up aggressive pose that can cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened.
4. Remain in the vestibule while you observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area. If the behavior is friendly, and the area is not congested, carefully open the inner gate and enter – move forward into the park, do not stand at the gate.
5. If your or other dog's behavior is unfriendly, put the leash back on your dog and remove them from the area through the exit gate.

### Exiting the Off-Leash Area (designated exit)

1. Before you open the inner gate, please check to be sure that the outer gate is properly closed and that any other dogs are not trying to leave with you.
2. Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule. Close the inner gate properly and ensure that the latch is secure.
3. Place a leash securely on the dog, open the outer gate and exit from the vestibule into the main lobby.

4. Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.

## Exiting the Park

1. The lobby/pavilion area is a communal area and dogs must be leashed at all times in this space.
2. Before opening the park exit gate, check to be sure there are no loose dogs that may escape while you exit.
3. Be sure to check and make sure the gate is closed and secure after you exit the park.

## Basic Guidelines:

### **Not all dogs are dog park dogs!**

If your dog has a history of aggression towards any other dogs or humans, becomes stressed in a group of dogs, or guards' things that are of high value to him (toys, sticks), he may not be the best candidate for dog park socialization.

### **Keep it positive!**

If your dog is unfamiliar with the dog park setting, make sure his first few times at the dog park are positive and fun! This may mean going at off-peak times (Monday-Friday between 10am and 3pm or after 7:30pm on any day). Once you are sure that your dog can successfully handle the rigors of a dog park, you may want to introduce him at peak times.

### **Be present at the dog park.**

When you are at the park, always have your eyes on your dog! Watching for signs of stress or bullying, giving your dog time outs if they are becoming overstimulated, and knowing when to go home for the day all come from watching every move your dog makes at the park. Sure, you can still socialize with all your new dog people friends, but remember to keep one eye on your pooch at all times!

### **Mind your comings and goings!**

Entering and exiting the dog park can be hot buttons for many dogs. Leashed dogs, when surrounded by loose dogs can feel threatened and vulnerable and may lash out. Practice proper entrance and exit techniques by utilizing our double-gate policy.

### **Know when your dog has had enough.**

You will notice through your dog's behavior and body language when it's time to go! If you see any signs that your dog is tired or has had enough for one day, be proactive and give your dog a time out by taking him for a walk outside the park, or go home for the day and come back the next day.

### **Be proactive!**

Everyone knows that their dog is pretty much the most wonderful dog in the whole park. But even if your dog is not the instigator, if you think that your dog is in danger of having a bad experience at the park, be proactive about the situation. Always talk to people respectfully, and know when it is better to simply remove your dog from the situation before an accident happens.

## Understanding canine body language

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### **Aggression vs. Correction:**

There are times when a dog will correct another dog for something he deems inappropriate. This is totally normal, nonaggressive, and is good for teaching young dogs important lessons about canine social structure and body language. Appropriate corrections generally escalate in severity and result in no harm being done to the correctee. If your dog is over-correcting, it may be time to give a time out.

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection or whale eye. (Hair on shoulders and butt stand up and you see the whites of eyes)
- Loud woofs or snarks directed at an individual
- Muzzle punching or lunging resulting in no harm being done to the correctee
- Normally done once and the argument is over

### **When it's time to go!**

An important part of being a member of the dog park is recognizing when it is time for your dog to end their dog park session for the day. If your dog is exhibiting any of the following behaviors, it may be time to leave the park and come back later:

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection (hair on shoulders and butt standing straight up)
- Repeated correcting of other dogs, sometimes over very benign instances
- Targeting, bullying, or stalking individual dogs
- Fearfulness which does not subside
- Prey drive

### **Breaking Up a Dog Fight:**

Dog fights happen! It is important when in a dog park to keep your cool if a fight breaks out so as not to escalate the situation. Collect loose dogs who are not part of the fight to prevent mobbing.

- Start by making a loud noise such as clapping your hands or shouting "No!", or throwing water on the fighting dogs.
- Do not grab dogs by collars or necks/faces to avoid a redirected bite.
- One person should grab each dog from the hips, pinching the loose skin between their belly and legs, and pull out of the fight, wheelbarrow-style. (Remember: 1 person per dog)
- Remove fighting dogs from the park for the day.

### **Appropriate - You're Ok!**

- Butt sniffing and loose tail and body language
- Wide, circular tail wagging
- Play bows
- Butt bumps
- Playful vocalization
- Brief, fair, and harmless disagreements or corrections

### **Calming Signals - Meant to Diffuse Tension, Recognize and React Appropriately.**

- Averting eye contact
- Lip-licking, chewing
- Submissive urination
- Going belly up
- Tail between the legs

### **Inappropriate or Rude - Time for a Time Out or Maybe Time to Go!**

- Hard stares and face-offs
- One dog chasing, pinning, targeting, or not letting up on another dog
- A group of dogs mobbing an individual dog

## **Healthy Play**

Dogs nip while they play, chase, slam each other with their shoulders and hips, lie on top of each other, mount each other, and "fence" with their teeth. It can look scary and confusing to human beings, but it is how dogs have fun. The same behaviors, however, can be carried to the point of rudeness and bullying. The following questions can help dog owners sort good, healthy fun from abusive or bullying play:

- Do both dogs look happy most of the time?
- Are their tails, mouths, and movements loose and relaxed (having fun), or are they tight and stiff (not so fun)?
- Is one dog asking for space or trying to get away and the other dog is not allowing it? (See "Stress Signals" section)
- Is the play edgy, hard-hitting, or causing fear for any participants?
- Is there healthy give and take in the play? Over a few minutes, does the dog who was on top take a turn on the bottom, or does the chaser become the chased?
- Is the play fluid, moving from one activity to another, or are the dogs "stuck?"

- Are two or more dogs ganging up on another who looks stressed?
- Is it becoming so intense that “snarks” and “scuffles” are happening?

If the play is not balanced, comfortable, and clearly happy for all parties, the dogs' owners need to redirect the dogs' activities, settle the offending dogs down with a time out from play (preferably outside the off-leash area), take some dogs home.

## Mounting

Mounting is a form of dog play that can be especially volatile, even if the dogs are well matched in size and physical condition. Mounting is not necessarily about reproduction or dominance, but can be a request for attention, an invitation to play, or a way for an overexcited dog to discharge energy. The problem is that some dogs are intolerant of mounting, and so it can trigger fights. Because mounted dogs often react to an innocent dog standing in front of them rather than to the one on top, the behavior can pose risks for surrounding dogs. If your dog tends to mount, teach an “off” cue and intervene. Better yet, learn to see the behavior coming and redirect your dog before another one is stressed by it.

## Stress Signals

Depending on context, some perfectly mundane dog behaviors can also indicate stress. Some of these behaviors discharge energy that is building up, and some signal that “I’m not looking for trouble!” If you see combinations of the following in social situations, look for what may be stressing your dog. If the stressors do not shift and you cannot positively influence your dog’s experience, take your dog out of the park.

### Signals that may indicate stress, discomfort, or an effort to avoid conflict include:

- Increased activity
- Marking territory
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Shaking off
- Sniffing the ground
- Looking directly away from a perceived threat
- Lip- or nose-licking
- Front paw lift
- Approaching slowly and in an arc
- Sitting or lying down
- Blinking
- Sneezing
- Slow, careful movements

### Signals that request or demand greater distance from another dog include:

- Staring
- Growling
- Snarking
- Ears flat against head (uneasy) or erect and forward (confident)
- Tension in body and face
- Muscle ridges in face
- Stalking or very erect, up-on-toes stance
- Hair up on back (can also indicate excitement)
- Urination and ground scratching
- Tail up over back or straight
- Tail wagging only at tip
- A brief look-away or turn-away at a tense moment

Again, many of these behaviors have multiple meanings, and so the trick is to know your dog and read the whole dog in context. If Daisy has one paw raised and her ears back, and she glances away from a dog approaching her, then she’s probably feeling uneasy. If she has one paw raised and her ears forward as you head to the cookie jar, then she’s probably thinking, “You rock, Mom, and I’ll do anything for a cookie!” If you think Daisy is expressing discomfort at the dog park but then her body language loosens up and she goes back to playing freely, no problem—but if she keeps expressing stress or a need for space, it’s probably time to go home.

## Resource Guarding

Some dogs are very protective of objects they value. The resources a dog may guard can be food (including training treats), toys, their owners (“my hunter, my driver, my ball thrower,” etc.), doorways, and

more—even feces or holes! Early signs of resource guarding could include hovering in a particular space or over a toy, lip licking (indicating stress), flared whiskers, curling the lip, and freezing as another dog approaches. If your dog appears to be resource guarding, remove the resource, if possible. If that is not possible or does not help, take him/her out of the park before they begin lunging at others or a fight erupts, and come back at a quieter time. If someone else's dog is resource guarding, move your dog away from him, put away anything that seems to arouse the dog's guarding impulse, point out aggressive behavior to the other owner, or leave.

## Snarks and Scuffles

Just as tempers flare on a playground or basketball court, so do they in a dog park. When a dog nips or bumps too hard, another dog may respond by saying, "Hey, you jerk! That hurt!" That is the meaning of a "snark," – a vocalization that sounds like a combined snarl and bark. A "scuffle," sounds like a fight but ends just as quickly as it started. If your dog has just had a scuffle, a time out may be advisable. If there are repeated snarks or scuffles, then it may be time to head home for the day and consider whether that particular group of playmates is healthy for your dog.

## Fights

If handlers are on the ball, they will preempt rude play or bullying before fights break out. What to do you do, though, if a fight erupts?

One option is to do nothing. Very few dogs fight to the death, and no dog with a history of serious fighting should be at the dog park in the first place. Age appropriate children (14-17) who visit the dog park with an adult must be instructed ahead of time to walk calmly away from any fighting dogs, even their own. Do not run or scream, and do not get involved. Shrieking children can trigger tragic behavior from dogs.

Anyone interfering in a fight is at risk of being bitten. Highly aroused dogs do not always know what they are biting. If a person restrains one dog, the other dog might continue aggressing, provoking the restrained dog to bite the person holding him. Screaming or shouting can escalate tensions and bring more dogs into the fray. If someone has been knocked down near the fight or the dogs are badly mismatched, it can be almost impossible to stand back. If you feel compelled to intervene in a serious fight, here are some options, listed in descending order of safety:

- Use water: a squirt water bottle or throw containers of water on the dogs.
- Startle the dogs with loud noise, such as a loud whistle, an air horn, or clanging metal.
- Throw coats or blankets over the dogs.
- Use Direct Stop, a citronella-based spray (for dogs).
- Owners can simultaneously lift the tail of each dog in the fight.
- Take the dog's back feet off the ground, Grab the rear legs and pull the dogs out of the fight.
- Release their legs the instant the fighting stops (to avoid getting bitten yourself) and keep the dogs separated.
- As soon as the fighting breaks, immediately lead the dogs away from one another and follow the instructions described in "After a Fight", below.

## After a Fight

Put each of the dogs involved in the fight on leash, check them for injuries, and assess whether veterinary care is appropriate. As after a car accident, calmly exchange relevant information with the other dog owner(s), especially if there is an injury. Remove the dogs from the park, one at a time. Even dogs that did not join the fight are likely to be extremely aroused, and their owners are advised to call it a day also. Individually or collectively, review and evaluate what went wrong: What could have been done to prevent the dogs' interaction from escalating to a fight? Why didn't people see the fight brewing and intervene earlier?

The Dog Law Enforcement Office through the PA Department of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Office also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

# Pennsylvania Dog Laws

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All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer.

- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- Owners of dogs and cats three months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination.
- It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

The Dog Law Enforcement Office is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
- Providing educational services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

## Dog Law Enforcement Office:

### **Bucks County**

Verna North  
215-257-2050

### **Region VII**

**(Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties)**

Kristen Penn, Supervisor

1015 Bridge Road

Collegeville, PA 19426

Region: 610-489-1003, Office: 717-957-4751

When an incident occurs at the Dog Park, dog owners should follow the posted rules. If an owner would like to file a formal report or make the Township aware of an ongoing dog park situation, the Incident Report form must be completed. The Incident Report will enable us to document occurrences and properly investigate and resolve the concerns of our dog owners.

Incident Report Forms can be obtained as follows:

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*Download:* [www.lmt.org](http://www.lmt.org)

*Pick Up:* Lower Makefield Township

1100 Edgewood Rd, Yardley PA 19067

*Mail:* To the above address

*E-Mail:* [dogpark@lmt.org](mailto:dogpark@lmt.org)

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## What is reportable and what will be reviewed

Violations that should be reported and will be automatically reviewed:

- Children under the age limit in the dog park
- Person bit by a dog
- Dog bitten requiring medical treatment
- Violations that can be reported and will be documented and investigated:
- Dog bitten with no medical treatment necessary
- Failure to abide by Dog Park rules
- Disruptive/abusive behavior to persons and/or dogs
- If repeated offenses of the same violation are reported, a full review will begin (see Procedure for Review below).

## Procedure for Review:

1. When a formal complaint is received and is eligible for review, the report will be distributed and reviewed by Lower Makefield Parks and Recreation Department, and brought to the Parks and Recreation Board.
2. If the incident resulted in serious harm to a person(s) or dog(s), the offending dog will be suspended pending outcome of formal review and final determination named in the incident.
3. The Parks and Recreation Board will discuss the incident and recommend a course of action, if any, to take. Actions may include but are not limited to: restricted use of the park, temporary or permanent bans on using the park, dog training, or testing requirements (e.g., Canine Good Citizen Test).
4. Any incidents where a person is bitten will be reported to the Lower Makefield Township Police and Animal Control Officer in accordance with the PA Dog Law. The PA Dog Laws shall supersede all other rules, regulations and guidelines.

The primary purpose of the Lower Makefield Dog Park rules is to protect our members and their dogs. The second is to provide an enjoyable experience for both humans and pets while in the Lower Makefield Dog Park. The safety of our members and pets is our priority so we may provide, within our ability, safety and peace of mind we need your assistance. Because our staff and/or Dog Park Advisory Board members cannot be present park at all times of operation, they depend on our members to follow the rules and to report incidents they have witnessed. In the event of an incident please complete the Incident Report Form and provide all relevant information with as much detail as possible so we can investigate appropriately. Please do not forget to provide your e-mail address so that we may contact you to follow-up, if necessary. Also, we will not sell or share your contact information. We will only use your e-mail address to contact you regarding an incident or other pertinent dog park information.

## Human Infractions (any member who chooses to disregard the dog park rules):

- Level 1 (first incident): Warning or dependent upon severity or number of infraction(s) level 2 consequences may be imposed.
- Level 2 (second incident): The key fob will be turned off immediately and the member must register and re-attend orientation. The key fob will remain deactivated and membership suspended until orientation has been completed and certificate of attendance submitted to the Township.
- Level 3 (third incident): Suspension or termination of membership dependent upon severity or number of infraction(s) as determined by recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board and final decision of the township.

## Dog Fights/Bites:

- If a member's dog is involved in an incident involving aggressive behavior one and/or all involved parties will have key fob use suspended pending investigation.
- All parties must submit an incident report. Witness statements will be solicited
- If determined that a specific dog initiated aggression with intent to cause harm and/or caused physical harm to another dog/human, membership will be terminated.
- Appeals must be requested in writing and scheduled to be heard at a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting.
- Members determined to be free of fault will have their renewal date extended for the same period the key fob had been de-activated for incident investigation.

**Lower Makefield Township**

1100 Edgewood Rd  
• Phone: 267-274-1105

**Lower Makefield Township Police**

1100 Edgewood Rd  
• Emergency: 911  
• Non-Emergency: 215-493-4011

**Bucks County Veterinary Emergency  
Trauma Services (Bucks County V.E.T.S.)**

978 Easton Road  
Warrington, PA 18944  
215-918-2200  
Available after 6:00pm daily, weekends & holidays

**Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center**

1900 West Old Lincoln Highway  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-750-7884  
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

**Gwynedd Veterinary Hospital & Emergency  
Services**

1615 West Point Pike  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
215-699-9294  
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

**Center for Animal Referral & Emergency Services**

2010 Cabot Blvd West, Suite D  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-750-2774  
Available 24 hours daily, weekends & holidays

**Red Bank Veterinary Hospital**

197 Hance Falls  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
732-747-3636  
Available