



## Hatfield Township's Dog Park

Saturday, June 6, 2009  
Hatfield Community Park

9:00 a.m.

### Welcome and "The Unhooking of the Leash"

*Scott Brown, President, Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners  
with assistance from  
Wayne Rutter, Chairman, Hatfield Township Parks and Recreation Board  
Nancy Stock, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Kelly Krager, Good Owner Trainer*

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### Open House

*Thanks to Kelly Krager, Karen Miller, Jennifer MacMinn, Ed Schweitzer & Tina Sowicz  
for roving among guests to support and encourage Good Owner strategies*

Additional Support Provided By:

*Moyer Indoor Outdoor — Goodie Bag Handouts  
North Penn Water Authority — Bottled Water  
Del. Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue & Almost Home — Info Tables  
Hatfield Township Public Works Staff — Major Construction and Maintenance Work  
Hatfield Township, in partnership with Pa. Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources — Project Funding*

### WHAT'S NEXT:

Join other dog-owner teams in special classes designed to enhance your instincts and skills as a Good Owner. We are pleased to be able to continue May's *Intro To Dog Park Classes* with a new series in June.

### Dog Park Fun 'n Games

Good owner trainer Kelly Krager uses fun and games to teach dog-owner teams basic obedience skills useful in environments where distractions abound (this Dog Park, for example!!) Take one, or take any number. Classes rain or shine. If we cancel due to extreme bad weather, a refund or credit will be issued.

**Session Dates:** I. Sunday, June 7. II. Saturday, June 13. III. Sunday, June 21. IV. Saturday, June 27  
**Time:** 10 to 11 a.m. **Place:** The Dog Park within the Hatfield Community Park **Fee:** \$15 per session  
**Information and Registration:** 215 855 0900 or [www.hatfieldtownship.org](http://www.hatfieldtownship.org)

## **New Dog Park “Frequently Asked Questions”**

*Please also see the complete set of rules governing the use of the Dog Park, posted at the main entrance into the facility and in each double-gated entrance-exit area.*

### ***May I leave my dog at the Dog Park and go elsewhere?***

No. Every dog must be under the supervision of an attentive guardian at least 16 years of age. Being keenly aware of your dog’s mood, activities and location within the park at all times is key to a well-functioning facility.

### ***Which area should we use: “Tender Dog” or “Bold Dog”?***

The “Tender Dog” area is meant for dogs that are shy, young, small, nervous, elderly, recovering from injury, or solitary. There is a flyer with good tips on making the distinction on the literature display rack. In addition, “tender dog” owners may expect someone with a “bold dog”, who is in the “tender dog” area, to yield to them promptly upon request.

### ***There is an aggressive dog in the Dog Park and I want to be in there with my dog, too. What should I do?***

The rules of Dog Park use require a dog to be re-leashed and removed by its owner at the first sign of aggression. First, be sure you are not mislabeling boisterous behavior for aggressive behavior. Certain growls and barks and sniffing and nosing actions are normal, not aggressive. Options thereafter include: (1) staying close to your dog and away from the suspect dog upon entry; (2) using the Tender Dog area until the suspect dog leaves, if appropriate; (3) walking your dog on leash around the outside fence perimeter – you can observe the suspect dog and/or let your dog meet theirs through the fence; or (4) leaving and returning another time.

### ***Will the police or the Township enforce the rules of Dog Park use?***

Township staff will not be involved in everyday matters. Those using the park are expected to create a positive climate by practicing Good Owner techniques and following the rules. Should an incident occur, involved parties should trade name, address, phone numbers and vaccination records with each other and navigate the incident through resolution.

### ***What is considered “an emergency” for calling 911?***

Serious fights, clearly aggressive or dangerous behavior by a dog or a bite to a person are examples of incidents reaching the level of a 911 call. You must provide information about the offending person or dog to the officer responding. A license plate number will help for instances where no further information could be obtained.

*(over)*

***Will you be placing benches inside the Dog Park?***

No. Bench seating creates opportunity for reading, socializing or relaxing, three activities that will divert your attention from your dog.

***Is it permissible for people physically unable to stand for long periods of time to bring their own seating into the Park?***

Yes. Please take any seating you bring back home with you, each visit.

***Why are only two cans provided for dog waste?***

It is inefficient for the maintenance crew to empty many cans with only some waste in them, and a waste of resources to line many cans with liners that only hold a small amount of waste.

***Why doesn't the Township provide doggie waste bags?***

This creates a dependency by guests on the Township. Outfitting yourself with your own bags is far more practical, or just using the scoop alone with no bag at all. Guests are allowed to collect the waste in their own bags if getting over to the centrally-located scooper and can system is untimely. Guests may also work together to create a cooperative system for supplying "doggie waste bags". Bags for the needy are already being strategically tucked into the fencing for use by those forgetting theirs.

***May I bring a water bowl to keep here at the park?***

No. Communal water bowls can cause illness or parasites. Bottled water is available in the main entrance area for 50 cents. Find a private place for yourself and your dog and water your pet as needed on your own.

***May I bring treats?***

Food in the dog park during general public use is not allowed, as per the rules of the facility. Treats may be distributed during training classes by the coach.

***What are the most important things I can do to ensure a positive experience for myself and my dog in the Dog Park?***

Note the rules governing the Dog Park, prior to your first use. Take Good Owner Training to gain insight. Browse the literature display rack in the entrance building for tips on dog park etiquette and safety. Exercise your dog before you come to the park – a brisk walk on leash up and down Chestnut Street or on the new Chestnut Street Trail is a good warm-up habit just before coming in to the off-leash area. Stay alert to your dog's actions and moods the duration of your stay. Know when to leave. Leave the facility in as good or better condition as it was when you arrived.

# Rules of Dog Park Use

*The use of the Hatfield Township Dog Park is at your own risk. If you choose to use this park, you are agreeing that Hatfield Township and the Friends of Hatfield Township Dog Park shall have no liability for injury to your person or your pet, or for damage to your personal property, and that you shall abide by the following rules:*

1. Dog owners/handlers are responsible for any injuries or property damage caused by the dog(s) they bring to the Dog Park.
2. The Dog Park is for dogs, their owners/handlers and those accompanying them. No animals other than dogs allowed. No classes or events allowed unless authorized by Hatfield Township.
3. All dogs must be legally licensed, currently vaccinated and healthy. Proof of current rabies vaccination and license is required upon request by a representative of Hatfield Township. Tags are acceptable proof.
4. No dogs less than 5 months of age and no female dogs in heat allowed in the Dog Park.
5. All dogs must be accompanied at all times by their owners/handlers at least 16 years of age, who possess a valid driver's license or government-issued identification card. Children are permitted inside the Dog Park under the supervision of their parent or adult guardian. Humans will refrain from running or yelling in the Dog Park.
6. Dogs must be under control of their owner/handler and in view of their owner/handler at all times. Owner/handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times and remove their dog from the Dog Park at the first sign of aggression.
7. Dogs must be on the leash until they leave the main entrance foyer and enter the entry vestibule leading directly into the off-leash area. Close the main entrance foyer gate behind you before unleashing your dog. For the safety of your dog and other park visitors, no spiked collars, no prong or pinch collars and no metal chain collars allowed in the Dog Park
8. Owners/handlers must clean up all dog waste immediately, and dispose of it properly. Owners/handlers must stop dogs from digging, and fill any holes.
9. Maximum of 2 dogs per owner/handler allowed.
10. No food. No glass containers. Soft dog throw toys are allowed.
11. Hatfield Township has the authority to close the site or portions of the site for reasons that include maintenance, inclement weather/turf conditions and special use.
12. Hours are dawn to dusk. No smoking, no alcohol allowed. All other rules governing use of parks apply.

***Violators of these rules will lose dog park privileges.***

***For police emergencies: Call 911***

***For non-emergencies: Call the Hatfield Township Parks and Recreation Department: (215) 855-0900***