



Dog park rules and education checklist

- All dogs must be registered. Preference will be given to residents of West Torrens.
- Strictly NO foster greyhounds are allowed to participate. The event is focussed on greyhounds that have been adopted and have a muzzle exemption.
- Strictly NO other dog breeds in the dog park during the event including X-breeds and dogs that may live with greyhounds.
- ALL dogs are to remain on leash at the beginning of the event. An Authorised Officer will let you know when you may let your dog off-leash.
- We require greyhounds to be initially muzzled (if you do not hold an exemption) until the greyhound enters the park. Owners should only remove muzzles if the dog is calm, acknowledging they do so at their own risk.
- You are required to maintain constant supervision of your dog throughout the entire event. If your dog becomes excited, nervous or overwhelmed (etc) please put it back on leash it is until calm. Only dogs that are calm are to be allowed off-leash.
- If owners aren't paying attention to their own dogs, council officers have the right to ask you to leave.
- Strictly NO toys or other activities may be used that may excite your dog or others.
- Dogs must wear a collar or harness at all times in the dog park. This is to ensure you can get your dog under effective control and clip back on leash if necessary.
- Dogs must be leashed all times when outside of this event.
- Owners should bring water supply and poo bags for their dogs.
- All attendees to the dog park must acknowledge when registering that they are bringing their dogs at their own risk. Organisers of this event cannot be held responsible for any injuries or disease the dog may contract as a result of attending.

We ask that you are respectful and courteous of others while at the dog park. Owners must take full responsibility for their dogs, otherwise council officers may ask you to leave.

Tips to make your visit enjoyable

We are excited to offer you this off-leash greyhound event. To help things run smoothly, we have Authorised Officers at each event to provide guidance and support. These officers are authorised under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and have undertaken dog behaviour and bite prevention training. As such, we're looking forward to working with you to deliver an event that is safe and fun for everyone. As with many things in life, planning and prevention are often synonymous with success. Here are a few tips that you may find useful.

Before

- Ensure your dog's vaccinations are up to date.
- Never feed your dog just before or just after exercise as this can cause gastric torsion (twisted stomach), which is painful and can be fatal if left untreated. Signs to look for include bloating, restlessness and vomiting. This is a veterinary emergency. Consider feeding your dog a smaller meal than usual - given at least an hour before the event.
- Please ensure your records in the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) register are complete, including secondary contact names and phone numbers, muzzle status etc. If your details are not up to date, please reach out.

- Strictly NO balls or toys during the event.
- BYO leash, muzzle and dog jacket.

On arrival

- Ensure your dog(s) remains on leash all times when getting it out of the car and heading to the park.
- Be mindful of other dogs in the area, including other greyhounds that may be feeling a little anxious or overwhelmed and need some extra space.
- Dogs must wear a collar or harness at all times in the dog park.
- We recommend that if your dog is unsure, timid or shy, that you take it into the dog park initially leashed and muzzled (unless exempt) to see how it copes.

During

- Maintain constant observation of your dog and ensure it is under effective control (verbal command or leash).
- Monitor your dog's behaviour and emotional state - see more below.
- Greyhounds are prone to getting (very) excited. For this reason, strictly NO toys (balls etc) are to be used during the event.
- Monitor your dog's temperature throughout the event - see below for more.

Greyhounds have very little body fat and, therefore, are prone to cold stress. If your greyhound is shivering and its ears are cold to touch, your dog is likely feeling the cold. If the temperature is below 15°C, a dog coat is essential. It may be you need to remove their coat (then put it back on, then off again...) a few times throughout the session as they heat up and cool down.

After rigorous exercise and/or in summer, dogs (particularly greyhounds) can become heat stressed easily. Signs include: excessive panting, tongue hanging out (wide or shaped like a soup ladle) or it may be drinking excessively. If you notice this your dog requires immediate intervention.

Some options for managing this include:

- removing your dog's coat
- putting them on lead until they cool down
- taking cover under shade
- running cool water over their body.

Alternatively, you may need to put your dog back into an airconditioned vehicle and leave early. If not managed appropriately, heat stress can be fatal in dogs.

Greyhounds all have their own personalities and preferences. Some may feel anxious or overwhelmed when surrounded by other dogs; others can become aroused and boisterous. Most problematic behaviours in greyhounds are founded in fear, anxiety and the uncertainty of an unfamiliar environment. This is partially due to genetics and often exacerbated by their early upbringing - including a lack of socialisation appropriate to a household or general environment. Greyhounds that are showing signs of distress should be kept on lead until they are comfortable.

Greyhounds are also bred and trained to express certain traits. One of these is to run as a pack and chase. Running around a little is ok, however if a chase commences, an Authorised Officer will likely ask that some/all dogs be placed back on leash until the energy levels drop to a safe and manageable level. Often this on leash period is only a couple of minutes before the dogs can be off leash again - however this is contingent. It may be that an Authorised Officer requests that you keep your dog on leash for a longer period or even asks you to leave.