



Dogs Off-Leash 101

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In Toronto, according to Municipal Codes Chapter 349, Animals and 608, Parks **all dogs must be kept on a leash** whenever they are on any property other than their owner's - unless they are in designated dogs off-leash areas. There are social benefits to dogs (and their owners!) having space to run free within parks and other green spaces.

My dog is well-behaved. Why can't I let him off his leash in a park?

Dogs are welcome in parks, but must be on a leash unless in a designated off-leash area. Parks are shared spaces and everyone needs to be responsible and respectful of each other. Owners are responsible for their dog and any injuries or damage caused by any dog in their care.

Owners and dog walkers are responsible for ensuring that their dogs are under control.

What do I need to know to use the off-leash areas?

In order to use the designated off-leash areas, dog owners must have vaccinated and licensed their dogs. Dogs that are aggressive to humans, dogs with a history of biting, and other types of animals are not permitted in the off-leash areas. Dog training/electronic devices are not allowed.

I need a licence for my dog. Where can I get one?

Dog licences are \$25 (\$12.50 for seniors) for spayed or neutered dogs and can be obtained online, by calling **416-338-PETS (7387)**, by mail or in person at one of four animal shelters. Go to www.toronto.ca/petlicensing

Who enforces the rules regarding dogs off-leash?

Municipal Standards Officers, Animal Care and Control Officers and members of the Toronto Police Service have the authority to enforce rules around dogs.

Can I be fined for letting my dog off-leash in an area where they shouldn't be?

A fine of up to \$5,000 can be issued for allowing a dog to run off-leash except in a posted designated leash-free area.

Where can I find out where an off-leash park is in my area?

Off-leash dog parks are listed at toronto.ca/parks/dogs or by calling 311.

Code of Conduct for Off-Leash Areas

- Follow all signs and boundaries.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times except when in the designated off-leash area.
- Your dog must have a visible municipal licence.
- Keep your dogs in the off-leash area so that they don't trample or endanger plant material and other park resources.
- Do not let your dog chase wildlife.
- Poop and scoop your dog's waste and place in receptacle or take home for disposal.
- Keep dogs in sight and under control at all times.
- Do not leave dogs unattended while in off-leash area.
- Repair holes dug by the dogs under your control.

Are there some dogs that are not allowed in the off-leash area?

Dogs excluded from off-leash areas include:

- Dogs that are pitbulls as defined by the Dogs Owner's Liability Act
- Female dogs in heat
- Any dog that has been issued a muzzle order by the City of Toronto.

For more information, go to
toronto.ca/parks/dogs