

Welcome to the Roma Dog Park

The Roma Dog Park is a designated space for responsible dog owners to enjoy, providing a venue to exercise and socialise their dogs.

Dogs may run off-leash, under voice control in this fenced area.



Why have dog parks?

Dog parks should complement other opportunities for dog owners to exercise and socialise with their dogs.

Here are a few benefits of dog parks:

- Dogs and their owners can be separate from other people who don't want to interact with dogs
- They provide a meeting place or activity hub for people and communities
- They encourage people to exercise with their dogs
- They provide the elderly and dog owners with disabilities with an accessible and safe place to exercise their companions
- They provide unit dwellers or people living on small allotments a place to exercise their dog
- They provide a venue that encourages dog to dog socialisation
- They can provide an environment where advice is exchanged on dog management and where responsible dog ownership is encouraged
- They provide a focal point for community education and training programs, and can help avoid potential conflict between dogs and other activities in parks.

Dog Park Rules and Helpful Hints

- **Keep your dog on a leash until you get into the off-leash area.** This is not only considerate to other users, it is much safer for your dog and is required by law.
- **Always be careful when entering and leaving the dog park.** Ensure other dogs don't get out.
- **Always clean up after your dog.**
- **Avoid bringing young children to the off-leash park.** Some dogs in the park may not be familiar with children.
- **Avoid bringing toys and food into the enclosure.** Dogs can be possessive of their toys and treats.
- **Young puppies that have not completed their vaccinations should not be in the dog park.** Puppies do not have a fully developed immune system. They may not be strong enough to cope with rough play and should be socialised through positive structured puppy classes.
- **Only healthy dogs should attend dog parks.** If your dog is unwell, don't put other dogs in the park at risk or expose your dog to further infections. Unvaccinated dogs or females in season should not attend off-leash dog parks.
- **Ensure your dog is registered and microchipped.** Regulated dangerous, menacing or restricted dogs are not permitted in Council's off-leash dog park.
- **Not all dogs are suited to playing in a dog park.** Only confident, well trained, well socialised and tolerant dogs should attend. A dog that has not been socialised when young will rarely enjoy encountering lots of new dogs and people. Dogs that are fearful, aggressive or have behavioural issues should not be taken into the enclosure.
- **Educate yourself on the signs of healthy play and how to read and respond to your dog's body language.** This will allow you to respond effectively and intervene if necessary to keep your dog safe.
- **You are responsible for your dog's behaviour.** As a dog owner, you are responsible for keeping your dog under effective control at all times. Off-leash does not mean out of control. Your dog should come when called and should not attack or worry a person or other dog. Keep an eye on your dog at all times and have your leash handy. Leave the park if you are concerned about your dog's behaviour or safety.
- **Am I responsible for dog attacks?** You may be liable through civil action for injury to a person or animal as a result of an attack by your dog. Council investigates all reported dog attacks and penalties may be imposed.

ROMA DOG PARK



Benefits of exercising your dog

The good news is that keeping your dog healthy, happy and out of trouble with daily exercise is a lot of fun and provides many benefits!

- Keeps your dog physically fit - reduces obesity and stress on your dog's joints
- Provides opportunities for socialisation with other dogs and people
- Provides mental stimulation which is essential for your dog's wellbeing
- Strengthens your bond or relationship with your dog
- Reduces stress, frustration and boredom for your dog and induces fatigue which helps to reduce or eliminate common behaviour problems (i.e. digging, excessive barking, chewing and hyperactivity)
- Is good for you too! It provides an opportunity to improve your physical and mental fitness as well!

Walking your dog safely

Regardless of when you walk, you are responsible for your dogs safety. Remember that accidents do happen and often they can be prevented.

Here are some tips on walking safely with your dog.

- Always have your dog on a leash, unless you are in a designated off-leash area
- Remember, accidents can happen so it is vitally important to make sure your pet is identified with a microchip and ID tag. This also enables your pet to be returned to you if they were to get lost
- For the comfort and safety of others, make sure your pet is well-trained, desexed and that you clean up after them
- Never let your dog leave your sight or outrun the sound of your voice.

