



For Immediate Release  
February 18, 2016

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer  
540.432.8931  
[MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov](mailto:MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov)

## City Reminds Residents of Rules at Dog Park

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg’s Parks and Recreation Department reminds residents of the rules and policies at the Smithland Road Dog Park.

Since opening, this facility has been popular for dogs of all sizes and due to its popularity the city wants to ensure pet owners are practicing safe habits. In the coming weeks, staff will be checking park visitors for a valid dog license and proof of rabies vaccination.

### All dog handlers must:

- Be responsible for the behavior of their dog(s), not bring more than two dogs to the park, and have a leash for each of their dogs.
- Provide proof of a dog license and rabies vaccination.
- Not allow any children under the age of 12 in the fenced area and supervise their children at all times.
- Clean up after their dog and properly dispose of the waste with the bags and receptacles provided.
- Make sure all gates are closed at all times.
- Refrain from bringing human or pet food inside the park along with tobacco products and glass containers.
- Remove your dog at first sign of aggression, sickness, nuisance behavior, or continuous barking. Dogs with fleas, ticks, or internal/external parasites should not be at the park.

### All dogs must:

- Be at least four months of age and be neutered/spayed.
- Be leashed before entering and exiting fenced area.
- Be accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age.
- Not dig holes and handlers must fill holes if they are dug.

**-MORE-**

**PRESS RELEASE: CITY REMINDS RESIDENTS OF RULES AT DOG PARK**  
**PAGE 2**

All dog bites or scratches shall be reported to Animal Control immediately by calling 540-437-2670.

Additional information on the Smithland Road Dog Park is available at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/dog-park](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/dog-park). We want everyone to have a dog gone good time!

***The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department** manages 12 parks, Dream Come True Playground and numerous other playgrounds, a skate park, bike trails, soccer complex, softball and baseball fields, a dog park, and two pools. The largest park in the City of Harrisonburg is Hillendale Park that encompasses 74 acres. More information about the parks can be found online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/parks-recreation](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/parks-recreation).*



###