







# Dog Walker's **-** Guide **-**

NORTH VANCOUVER DISTRICT PARKS

Learn more about where dogs can go, where they can't go—and why. It's all about sharing our parks and keeping the environment and water clean for all creatures.

## It's better for everyone if your dog is on a leash

It's important to always have your dog on leash unless you're in a designated off-leash area

Please have your dog on a leash at the beginning and end of a walk, even at off-leash areas. Dogs must be on a leash in all greenbelts and smaller parks.

# Not everyone loves your dog as much

As strange as it might seem to a dog lover, some people don't care for dogs or are afraid of them. Whether it's because they might accidentally injure them or just put muddy paws on their new jeans, it's not neighbourly to allow your dog to jump up on a stranger.

Even if it means keeping your dog on-leash at all times, it's important to yield the right-of-way to other trail users and keep your dog close to you and under control as others pass by. Give your dog some one-on-one time and self-limit the number of dogs being walked to a maximum of three at any

### Horse sense

To keep both dogs and people safe, remember to yield the right-of-way to equestrians. Say hello so that riders know you are there, and keep your dog close to you, quiet and under control as horses pass by.

# Respect the park, its plants & wildlife

Always ensure that you and your dog stay on the trail and never allow your dog near wildlife, in creeks or in ponds. Don't allow

dogs to dig holes or cause damage.

### Your dog loves the trails, but they might not love your dog

Trail walking/running with dogs can be great for both human and dog health, but please remember a few things which will help protect our beautiful natural environment and your dog's well-being.

#### Keeping your dog healthy on the trail

Choose a hike to match your dog's ability—tiny pups and small dogs might not be able to keep up with you. Carry water for both you and your dog—water from streams, ponds or puddles is not always available or

Speaking of water, keep your dog out of creeks, streams and away from shorelines. Swift moving currents can be dangerous. Dogs that consume raw salmon and trout run the risk of infection from bacteria that some fish carry, including a parasitic trematode worm that can cause death in infected dogs. As well, don't let your dog eat plants, which may include noxious weeds, such as foxtail. When you've finished a hike, check for wood ticks, especially after being in the mountains in spring. Ticks can carry a variety of diseases that dogs can catch, including lyme disease. Check and treat your dog's foot pads for injury. Your dog's foot pads might not be used to hard and rocky, or gravel surfaces. Avoid natural hazards by staying on the trails and keeping your dog on

Always stay on the trail—both you and your dog. Never allow your dog near wildlife, in creeks, streams, or ponds. Respect the variety of animals—including deer, birds, fish, frogs and salamanders—that make the parks

Never allow dogs to dig holes or cause damage to trails, forest, or shorelines.

**Myrtle Park** 

# Cates Park / Whey-ah-Wichen **Princess Park**



# Pick up what your pup puts down

What's worse than a sneaker tread full of poop? Keeping parks clean and fresh makes them more enjoyable for everyone, so always bring a litter bag and pick up after your pet. Make sure that you find a trash can, too—leaving the bag for someone else to deal with just plain stinks.

Bridgman, Seylynn,

Lynn Canyon & Inter River Parks

### MYTH: Dog poop is fertilizer

WRONG! Dog poop or urine is not a fertilizer. It's full of bacteria, nitrogen and salts which don't dissolve and can be very harmful to plants, aquatic life, and humans. Since dogs are meat eaters, their feces can carry pathogens including coliform bacteria, salmonella, and giardia which can contaminate soil and water (and make people sick). We know you are careful to pick up after your dog, but that may not collect all the material and some parasites can linger in the soil for years.

This can put young children at risk if they come in contact with contaminated playground surfacing or grass. Active sports participants may also be at risk if a dog is allowed to poop or urinate near or on a sportsfield. Persons utilizing hand-activated wheel chairs may also be at risk.

And finally, coliform bacteria can stay active and leach into our storm water and then into our streams and rivers and finally into the ocean. This is not healthy for our natural environment and ocean shoreline areas where people may catch or gather seafood. We need to keep these waters and areas healthy for our communities.

### **FACT**: Horse poop is different

Horses are herbivores (eat grasses and plants). Their manure (in small amounts) is organic and biodegradable, and tends to dissolve quickly. Horse manure does not contain the contaminates, bacteria, and salts that dog poop does.

# Nothing shows you care like a license and some shots

If you own a dog, you are required to have a license. Aside from the legal requirement, the benefits include having a much better chance of getting your dog returned if it gets lost. Your dog's vaccinations should also be up to date to help it avoid harmful illness and, possibly, expensive time at the vet's. You can purchase a license at District Hall or at the Animal Welfare Shelter (call 604-990-3711 for more information).



Some places are not meant for four-legged friends

### DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED

Playgrounds Spray pools Picnic areas Playing fields

Fitness circuits Running tracks Golf courses **Bowling greens** Tennis courts

And anywhere else where signage indicates that dogs are not permitted. Certified Guide Dogs exempt.