## Off Leash Dog Parks



### **Off leash areas**

- Council has a number of parks where you can let your dog off leash. See the map on the back or visit: www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/services/ pets-animals/leash-areas
- Please check the signs at each site for specific times and other regulations.



### Off leash dog park rules

- Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that dog parks remain a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- Dogs must be kept under control and supervised at all times, in sight of their owner/ handler.
- You must be physically able to control or restrain the dog if required by chain, cord or leash.
- Your dog should not harass people or other animals.
- If any dog shows signs of aggression or antisocial behaviour the dog's handler must leash and remove the dog immediately.
- You must clean up after your dog at all times.
- You must keep your dog on a leash when entering or exiting the designated off leash area.
- You must ensure that your dog is vaccinated, have up to date preventative care (such as worming and flea control) and are in good health before visiting a dog park.

## **Off leash etiquette**

- Establish good behaviours first; untrained dogs are best kept on a leash.
- Ensure your dog has undergone adequate socialisation and trialling before being taken off leash.
- Start with a long lead to test the waters first.
- Know what to do if your dog makes a break for it – having good recall is vital.
- Know your responsibilities as an owner, morally and legally.
- Know your dog's temperament; if they are not the right fit for off leash dog walking, then make the right decision for you, your dog and the community.
- Supervision is key; you wouldn't take your eyes off your child near water - the same rules apply to your furbaby.
- Update ID tags and microchip information beforehand.
- Learn how to safely break up a dog fight.
- Have a Plan B; always be ready and equipped to put your dog back on a leash at any point.
- Don't risk it; if you are uncertain if your dog is the right fit for off leash dog walking, then it's better not to risk it and keep everyone's furbaby safe.
- History can repeat itself; if issues have happened in the past, then perhaps it's time to make the call and keep your pooch on its leash and muzzle. Off leash dog walking is not for "every man and their dog".
- When walking at night, take reflective devices like a reflective jacket for you and your dog, or an illuminated collar with a bell and a torch or other handheld light. Remain alert during night walks and avoid distractions like excessively loud music or phones.
- Dog owners should know the warning signs of anxiety or discomfort so they can intervene early if a dog is becoming reactive. Signs of an anxiety of discomfort can include: lip-licking, yawning, pinned back ears, walking low to the ground, a tense body position and a low or tucked tail, among other things.
- Dog owners should know the warning signs of aggression, which include growling, snapping, snarling, baring teeth or lunging. It is critical to deescalate these situations as quickly as possible.

# Q **Dog Off Leash Parks in Bayside**



