

**BETMAR ACRES CLUB, INC.**  
**A 55+ Older Community**  
**Operating Policy and Procedure**  
**136**

**Designated Off Leash (Dog Park) Policy and Procedure**

Effective Date: 3-12-20

Last Revision 3-16-23

Version 136.1

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to Betmar Acres, Inc., and members owning dogs.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to describe the designated off-leash area, responsibilities, rules of conduct (owners and dogs), access, and expected maintenance.

**POLICY:** The enclosed fenced area behind clubhouse 3, adjacent to Apache Junction, is the approved area to allow pets off leash attended by their owners.

- 1) An enclosed area facilitates compliance with the local ordinance for dog containment and leash laws, allowing dog owners the opportunity to let their dogs off leash.
- 2) This designated off leash area lessens the chance of dog owners letting their dogs off leash in on leash areas.
- 3) It does not eliminate the ability of dog owners to walk their dogs on other common grounds, county roads and easements if they are leashed.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Responsibility for maintenance and control of the dog park.
  - a) Volunteers will maintain and manage the dog park financially and physically. All improvements will be paid for with volunteer donations.
  - b) Points of contact will be permanently posted.
    - i) The points of contact will be a minimum of two park residents of which one must be a year-round resident
    - ii) A trustee may be designated as a liaison per their discretion
    - iii) A point of contact may:
      - (1) Maintain an email roster of interested individuals.
      - (2) Coordinate group efforts in the financial and physical maintenance of the park.
      - (3) Use email roster for doggy amber alerts.
      - (4) Collect donations and maintain an accounting of donations and expenditures.
      - (5) Submit articles to the Betmar Bulletin as needed.

## 2) Rules of conduct

- a) Nationally and Acres approved Dog Park Rules will be permanently displayed and clearly visible. (Attachment 1)
- b) In addition, attached county ordinance shall be adhered to. (Attachment 2)
- c) Complaints will be resolved at the lowest level ie: via dog owners and points of contact.
- d) Unresolved complaints must be submitted in writing to the trustees using forms available in the Betmar Office.
- e) All dog bites to humans must be reported to the sheriff and animal control.
- f) In the event of disorderly conduct threatening the safety of dog and/or owner or disturbing the peace:
  - i) Security should be called.
  - ii) If a report needs to be filed, the sheriff shall be called at the time of the incident.

## 3) Access:

- a) Open to all Betmar resident owners, renters, and their guests.
- b) Large dogs are those 55 pounds and over.
- c) Schedule for large/small dog use will be posted as follows:
  - i) 9-11am large
  - ii) 11-1pm small
  - iii) 1-3 pm large
  - iv) 3-5 pm small
  - v) 5-7 pm large
  - vi) 7-9 pm small
- d) If the park is empty anyone, regardless of size of their dog, may enter and use the park; however, the posted hours for size of dog will set the priority. The owner and dog must leave the park if their dog is not within the limits set by the hours of 3c. if someone arrives with a dog who is within the posted limits. (In other words, small dogs may be in the park during big dog times; but must leave if a big dog arrives and vice versa)

## 4) Users of the dog park at a minimum will:

- a) Maintain the park in a neat and orderly appearance.
- b) Owners must clean up after their pet or risk losing park use privileges.
- c) Keep a large, lined waste container for dog excrement to be emptied at least once a week and more often during peak season.
- d) Clear the park of leaves in the spring
- e) Coordinate with properties for:

- i) Disposal of leaves.
- ii) Weed and grass control in the summer
- iii) Tree trimming
- f) Clean benches, fence and patio stones as needed.
- g) Update and clean posted signs as needed.
- h) Annually mark hazardous tree roots outside (along the front fence line) and inside the enclosed fenced area.
- i) Complete any other maintenance to keep the park in accordance with other common ground standards of Betmar and at the direction of Betmar Acres.

Attachments:

- 1. Nationally approved Dog Park Rules
- 2. Pasco County ordinance

VERSION	APPROVED BY	REVISION DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	AUTHOR
136	Acres Board of Directors	3-12-20	original	
136.1	Acres Board of Directors	3-16-23	Formatting into current P and P format for policies. Content remained unchanged.	P and P Comm

Approved by Betmar Acres Club, Inc.

Policy and Procedure Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

President Betmar Acres Club, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Three (3) Year Policy and Procedure Committee Review Date: 2026

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Three (3) Year Policy and Procedure Committee Review Date: 2029

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Nationally Approved Dog Park Rules

- 1) Owners are responsible and liable for their dog's behavior
- 2) Dogs must be healthy
- 3) Owners MUST clean up and dispose of waste left by their dogs
- 4) All dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and have current tags.
- 5) Leashes should be removed upon entering park: exception is a controlled meet and greet encounter to socialize a dog.
- 6) Dogs must be on a leash when they leave the park.
- 7) Owners must carry a leash and remain with the dog at all times
- 8) Dogs must be removed at first sign of dangerous behavior towards people or other dogs.
- 9) Excessive barking (10 minutes) is prohibited.
- 10) Female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- 11) No smoking, no alcohol, no food, or glass containers. Water is permitted
- 12) Children under 4 feet tall are not allowed.
- 13) Limit toys to balls or Frisbees. Monitor closely to prevent possession fighting.

Attachment 1.

## Pasco County Ordinance

A nuisance for the purposes of this section, shall include, but is expressly not restricted to, the following acts by dogs:

- 1) Any dog that unreasonably annoys human beings, endangers the life or health of other animals, or person, or substantially interferes with the rights of person, other than their owners, to the enjoyment of life or property.
- 2) Frequent or continued barking, frequent or continued howling, or making frequent or continued sound or noise, between the hours of 11:00pm and 6:00 am, with the exception of dogs housed at commercial businesses.
- 3) Frequent or continued barking, frequent or continued howling, or making frequent or continued sound or noise for periods of ten minutes or more, at any time, with the exception of dogs housed at commercial businesses.
- 4) Repeatedly digging into, breaking or otherwise injuring or damaging shrubbery, trees, lawns, garbage, or stored materials on public or private property.
- 5) Frequent or habitual depositing of excreta on property not belonging to the owner of the animal without the property owner's consent.
- 6) Repeatedly running at large upon public or private property.
- 7) Repeatedly chasing or molesting vehicles while off the property of the owner, harborer, or keeper.
- 8) Repeatedly chasing or molesting passers-by while off the property of the owner, harborer, or keeper.
- 9) Repeatedly attacking or attempting to attack other animals while off the property of the harborer, or keeper

Attachment 2