

Rules to abide by during camp for everyone's safety and enjoyment

Have FUN! This should be the main goal for every person at camp and do your best to ensure your dog is having fun too! Of course, don't let your fun interfere with another person or dog's fun or safety.

Your Camp Community

Be nice to the new members of your temporary "family" (fellow campers). Attitudes are contagious; is yours worth catching? In other words, everything you need to know to get along well, you learned in kindergarten. Share. Play nice. Be unselfish. If you can't say nice things, don't say it.

Be positive! Your memories of camp will be exactly what you take away with you— if you find fault with everything you experience, then you're going to have a bumner of a time; if you look forward to each new experience as valuable and educational, you're going to have a lot of fun and you will cherish your camp memories for years to come! Camp will have good parts and some parts you might see as not as great — which will you focus on? Martha Washington said: "The greater part of our happiness depends on our disposition, not on our circumstances." There could be mosquitoes, unexpected changes in the weather, dirt on you and your dog, and not every human or dog will get along every minute of each day. There is also an abundance of learning new things, spending time with your dog, making new friends and fun! If you focus on all the good things and prepare yourself as best you can for the potentially negative, you will enjoy camp much more!

General Safety:

Be proactive in keeping your dog safe and out of trouble. Watch for signs of stress or aggression. Keep your dog at a safe distance from other dogs unless it's clear the other dog and person are okay with your dog getting close. This is especially true upon arrival and during day one when the dogs and people are a bit stressed by all the new sights, sounds, smells and fellow campers they don't yet know. This is also before campers may have had a chance to get a safety bandanna described below.



BARKING DOGS:

If your dog barks at another dog or person, do your best to quickly get his attention back on you to interrupt that barking behavior. Use his most favorite treats or toy in front of his nose to move him back toward you or use your movement away from the other dog/person to get your dog's attention back. Try having the dog do simple behaviors he knows well that you can reward to refocus his attention on you (sit, down, touch, etc.) and to get him back to thinking mode and out of reactive mode. If your dog gets barked at, get his attention back on you and give the other dog some space. By getting your dog to look away from the barking dog you help your dog give a "calming signal" to that dog to tell him your dog doesn't want to fight. If you allow your dog to stare at, or bark at, the barking dog then the opposite signal ("let's rumble") is sent.



SAFETY BANDANNAS:

Yellow bandannas are for dogs that don't like other dogs in close proximity. Please respect this unspoken request to keep your dog back & give extra space.

Rainbow striped bandannas are for dogs that are uncomfortable with unknown people touching them or getting in their space. Please do not approach this dog without an expressed invitation from the owner.

Blue bandannas with bones on them are for dogs with food allergies or dogs that the owner doesn't want people to give treats to. Because of dogs with severe food allergies, please pick up any dropped treats if your dog doesn't beat you to them. :-)

SMOKING/ALCOHOL:

Only smoke outside and away from the other campers. Be sure to pick-up any butts and dispose of them properly in the poop buckets or outside trash cans. In addition to being unsightly and a potential fire hazard if there are dry conditions, we don't want to risk a dog or critter ingesting them or stepping on a hot butt. Please do not place butts in a trash can that is inside a building. All camp buildings are non-smoking areas. If you choose to smoke during the hikes, do so near the back of the group so others don't have to walk through your smoke and dispose of your butts once you return to the grounds. There is NO alcohol allowed on Camp Carter property. Please be respectful of this YMCA rule.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:

If there is a medical emergency, have someone advise a staff member as soon as possible. You can use 911 to call emergency services for a human emergency. There will be a map, address and phone number to the nearest vet and human urgent care clinic posted in Cindy's office in the Retreat Center as well as in all the cabins. There will be a first aid kit in the Retreat Center.

All injuries and incidents must be reported to staff so they can be documented as soon as possible after the incident. If you witnessed an injury or an accident, please let staff know so we can include what you saw on the report. This includes both human incidents/injuries and dog incidents/injuries.

LEAVING CAMP/ GOING TO TOWN:

If you go to town or leave camp for any reason, please note the time you left and estimated time of arrival back at camp on the sign-out sheet in the Retreat Center. If you decide camp is not for you and you want to leave, please let a staff member know or note it on the sign-out sheet. We don't want to have to dredge the lake for you because we think you have gone missing! If you have a cell phone, please also list that number on the sign-out sheet. If a little while turns into much longer, it would be helpful if we have a way to check on your welfare so we don't have to worry and wonder.

Look out for the welfare of your fellow campers. If you notice someone has not been seen for awhile or someone seems to be having a bad time please let a staff person know.

BUG SPRAY/ PERFUME:

Some of the staff and/or campers may be chemically sensitive. In an effort to help them enjoy camp without feeling ill, we request that bug spray only be applied outside and that perfume use be kept to a minimum. Its camp, no one expects you to look and smell fancy anyway :-)

HUMAN/DOG ATTENDANCE AT CAMP:

Every person and dog at camp must be registered in advance to be there. For health reasons, animals other than dogs cannot be brought onto camp property. Please do not bring extra dogs, cats, children or other animals in to camp without letting us know ahead of time and paying for them to be there. Help us keep the camp safe and healthy.

General Rules:

Each person is responsible for watching their dogs for elimination and cleaning up after them! If you let your dog off-leash in the play yard, be sure to watch them carefully. On trails, your dog should not get out of your sight. Place collected waste into the 5 gallon buckets found around camp. Be sure the waste is sealed inside a clean-up bag.

Help keep your camp beautiful. Everybody is expected to clean up their own room and help clean up camp both during camp and before leaving. Scouts always leave things cleaner than they found them.

Please respect camp property and use it with care. Return any items that you pull out to the storage place where they belong (even if that's not where you found them). If anything gets damaged, please let staff know immediately (especially if it creates a safety hazard). If you or your dog damages or breaks camp property, you may be asked to replace it or pay for the replacement. If you need to groom or spray treatments/bug spray on your dog only do this outside. And if you get a lot of hair off your dog, please clean it up. While the birds can use a little bit of hair, it is unsightly to see a spot where it looks like a dog exploded all of the hair off his body. 😊



Off-leash play yard rules:

Some additional rules and safety info about the play yard (and other aspects of camp) is found in the "General Instructions" info found in the camp section of the DSA website pre-camp reading material. Be sure you have read that info as well.

If the person or persons already in the play yard are okay with your dog joining theirs, there are some things you can do to make the entry of your dog safer and less stressful.

Each person in the play yard should call their dog to them and hold their dog's collar till the new dog is in and off-leash. Move the new dog away from the corner and then the dogs can be released ONE AT A TIME to greet the new dog. This will help prevent the new dog from feeling overwhelmed and/or being mobbed and/or cornered by the dogs already in the play yard.

Be sure as you exit that no other dog is trying to sneak out with you. If there is a dog trying to get out of the gate ask the owner to call him/her away before you open the gate.

Use toys in this area wisely. If they seem to be causing a guarding issues, put the toys outside the fence or remove the guarding dog.

If anyone is waiting to use the area, please limit your time in there. Perhaps it is someone with a dog that needs to use the area alone, or that is not compatible with the dogs currently in the yard. Or maybe it's your dog that needs to be in the yard alone.

Agility field rules:

We ask that you attend the O&S on Agility before you allow your dog on the camp agility equipment. But if you have been competing in agility with the dog you brought to camp, you may use the equipment as long as you have a buddy on the field or there is someone within shouting distance that could help you if you were to fall.

Please be sure your dog eliminates BEFORE bringing him onto the agility field. Having dogs mark or leave presents in this area increases the chances that a dog on course will get distracted by the scents left behind. Do your best to clean-up any accidents that occur on the agility field.



Agility training is physical! This is true for you and the dog. Be sure you are ready for aerobic exercise in the potentially warm weather before going on the field. You may want to practice first thing in the morning when it's coolest, but then you'll need to make up a hike if you are also trying for a trails badge. Watch yourself and your dog for signs of over heating and take frequent breaks in the shade.

Because you may be running and bending, dropped treats and accidentally dumped treat bags are more likely. Be extra vigilant that you pick-up any treats you or your dog may drop.

The Agility equipment is sturdy, but not all of the equipment is built with the same materials as you might find at a competition. If there are any pieces of equipment you are not comfortable with your dog using, then choose to skip that piece.

If multiple people are on the field (like in class) be very careful to keep your dog near you so that he doesn't get in the face or go zooming past a yellow bandanna dog. If you or your dog needs special assistance, the instructors are often happy to accommodate you. But if you are requesting help during a time when agility class is not scheduled, be respectful of the instructor's personal time. Instructors are also at camp to enjoy camp with their own dog and may be teaching multiple classes.

Campers with experience are encouraged to help those new to the sport. Just be sure to use only non-punishment, reward-based training methods.

At no time are humans allowed on the agility equipment!

Cottonwood Lake rules:

Please do not let your dog play in the water when a class is taking place in the open grassy area by the beach. A dog at the lake can be very distracting to a dog trying to learn something new in class.



There are plenty of non-class times when you can use the lake simply for your dog's enjoyment. However, use of the canoes can be only during the time allotted on the schedule as Camp Carter requires a lifeguard be on duty. Lifejackets are required for all humans in the canoes.

If your dog is toy possessive and might fight over a toy, do your best to only have him play at times when other dogs are not close or by giving him enough distance that you feel the other dogs are safe and not likely to bother your dog. Also advise anyone that arrives in the area that your dog may guard toys so they know to keep their dogs back.

Store Rules:

Each person is responsible for adding the items they want to purchase from the store onto their page of the camp tab book. Each person runs a tab and then pays before leaving camp with a check or cash. You can put the items on your tab to immediate use; you don't need to wait until you pay to remove your items from the store. But we do ask that each item be added to your tab page before it exits the store. We trust you to be honest.

There will be a price sheet posted and most items will be marked with the prices. However, if you can't find the price of something, just leave that part blank on your tab and be descriptive about the item you purchased so the price can be filled in later. If you need help deciding which item or size you or your dog needs, most questions can be answered by any available staff member.

Roommate rules:

You will be sharing rooms, so please follow basic common sense and courtesy rules. Treat others as you would want them to treat you. Keep the amount of space you use in the room to a minimum.

If your dog is likely to try to escape when you leave the room, be sure the dog is securely confined away from the door of the room. Your roommates should not need to worry about accidentally letting your dog escape if they need to get into the room.

If your dog is likely to get into your roommates "stuff" including their dog food or treats, do not leave your dog in the room without securely confining him/her in their crate. Keep your dog OUT of crates, bowls, toys and beds of your roommates and their dogs. If your dog DOES get loose and eat or damage anyone else's stuff, you are responsible for replacing it or providing compensation to the owner.

Store your treats, dog food and any other potential edibles or dangerous items (meds, etc.) out of the reach of dogs. The cabins have a common room between the two bunkrooms which would be a good location to keep edibles or meds.

If you must get up during the night, be very quiet, and use a small, dim light, that will not blind everyone else (don't turn on the overhead light.)

Remove your dog's jingling tags, put a tag silencer on them (available in the camp store!) or bring some rubber bands to wrap around the tags at bed time. Keep your dog's nails trimmed short and don't let him roam during the night. He should be crated or tethered to your bed.

Respect quiet time (11pm to 7am) and do your best not to make any more noise than you would in a sleeping baby's room. Even if the people in your room are not sleeping, others in the cabin likely are trying to sleep.

Run your fan for "white noise" and to circulate the air in your room. You can bring rugs for your room to help deaden the sound (they also help collect dirt so it won't get into your bed and they also eliminate the toenail clicking sound.)

Remember there is just one thermostat per cabin that controls both bunkrooms. Please be considerate of the campers in the other bunkroom when adjusting the temperature for the cabin.

Kid's safety:

If you are bringing a child with you to camp, be sure to read this section. The camp staff members and fellow campers are not baby-sitters and are not responsible for your child. YOU are responsible for your child and their safety. You will be expected to be with your child as much as their age and responsibility/behavior requires, and to monitor them.

Instruct your child to always ask if it's okay before he approaches any dog, even if the child has touched that dog before. As the days go on, the tolerance levels of the dogs may drop and it may become less safe for the child to interact with certain dogs that may have been fine at the start of the weekend. If told no, the child must leave that dog alone.

Teach your child to look at dog's paws or shoulders and to only look in short duration glances. Some dogs find a child looking into their eyes for more than a few seconds to be very unsettling and possibly even threatening.

If a person says the child can meet their dog, the child should stand in place and encourage the dog to approach. This ensures that the dog is comfortable enough with the child to want to move closer. If the child moves toward the dog and the dog isn't as comfortable as the owner thought, he might feel trapped and react badly.

Hugging a dog and putting hands on the dog's cheeks to look at the dog's face is dangerous! Children should stand beside the dog to pet and not directly in front. Scratching a dog on the shoulder or chest is safest as long as the dog has moved to the child.

WALKING ONLY- Many dogs have prey drive that is triggered by a person, especially a child, running. Camp is exciting and it's hard to contain that excitement, but please monitor your child to ensure they are moving at an appropriate pace when dogs are present. Running past a dog is a good way to get bitten or cause the dog to become reactive (barking/lunging).

Teach your child to look for loose and wiggly body language and avoid any dog that looks "stiff" or has a closed mouth. For excellent dog body language training and bite prevention info for children, visit: www.DogGoneSafe.com and the "Kids and dogs" section of the "helpful articles" page of the DSA website.