



Roger Skinner Dog Park



- Entry to, and use of, the dog run is restricted to Herkimer County approved applicants only.
- Entry to dog run is gained by proper use of Village issued key.
- Persons seeking application to use dog run can do so by contacting the Village of Herkimer Office located at 120 Green Street, Herkimer, NY 13350 Phone No. 315-866-3303.
- Dog Park hours: April 15th – November 15th
8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Maximum capacity not to exceed 60 dogs

Dog Run Rules and Regulations

- Persons making use of dog run do so at his or her own risk of injury to self and dog(s).
- Persons making use of dog run shall be responsible for injuries caused by his or her dog(s) to other persons and dogs. Persons responsible for any such injuries or property damage shall hold the Village of Herkimer harmless for same.
- Persons making use of the dog run must be 18 years of age or older and dogs must be at least 4 months old, properly licensed with State, with proper vaccinations for RABIES. PARVO/DISTEMPER and BORDATELLA vaccinations are recommended.
- No entry without registration tag, license, and rabies id attached to dog collar.
- Allowing other individuals to utilize dog park key or to give access to un-registered dogs will result in immediate suspension of privileges.
- No choke, prong or spike collars, these can injure dogs during play!
- The permit holder must have in possession mutt mitt (baggy) or some other form of equipment to clean up after their dog(s). All waste must be placed in a mutt mitt and placed in waste receptacle provided at park in accordance with Village of Herkimer Local Law.
- No animals other than dogs may be brought into dog run. For dogs only.
- Dogs must never be left unattended. Keep an eye on your dogs at all times and you must keep leash with you at all times.

- Dogs must be leashed at all times when not in dog run.
- Dogs may not be brought into the run if they are less than four months old, they are females in heat, sick or unhealthy, have history of aggressiveness, or have been adjudicated as dangerous by a court of law.
- If aggressive action is observed, take immediate action. The permit holder must leave the run immediately with the aggressive dog.
- Children under 12 must be closely supervised at all times (it is strongly urged that young children not be brought to the dog run for their own safety). If they are, they must be close enough to hold your hand at all times.
- No food, treats, raw hide chews, alcoholic beverages, glass containers, strollers, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades or toys allowed in the dog run area. No littering. No smoking.
- No more than three beings* per handler allowed (*dogs and/or small children).
- Dog owners must immediately fill any holes their dog digs. Shovel provided at entrance.
- Professional dog trainers/behaviorists and dog walkers are not permitted to use the dog run to conduct their business unless they are participating in a park sponsored program approved by the Village of Herkimer.
- Dogs and permit holders, and facility users creating a disturbance or violating rules must immediately leave the off-leash area if requested by law enforcement personnel, park personnel or their designated agents.
- No large dogs in small dog area and vice-a-versa.
- All gates must be closed at all times after entering or leaving.
- All dog bites must be reported to the Village of Herkimer Animal Control Department by calling (315) 866-3303.
If a bite occurs, you must exchange name and phone number with the other owner.
- The Village of Herkimer reserves the right to close the dog run area for maintenance and repairs.

Enforcement of the above rules and regulations is under the immediate supervision of the Village of Herkimer Animal Control Officer. Violators of dog run rules and regulations will be subject to one or more of the following: removal from park, suspension of park privileges, and/or revocation of dog run permit.

Dog Run Etiquette & Safety Recommendations

Recently, The Village of Herkimer opened a dog run. This will be new to many dog owners and they will and should have many questions about rules and what to expect when they bring their family pet to these parks.

Here are some tips & safety recommendations for any dog owner to follow when attending the run.

1. Always bring your dog in on leash. Even *in* an area where the dogs are allowed *off* leash, you should always introduce the dog on leash first. When the two dogs meet, hold the leashes loose. If you tighten up the leash and the dog feels the tension, you are sending a signal to beware that something is not right.
2. Watch the body language of the dogs. This is crucial in two or more dogs meeting. You are responsible for your own dog, so make sure you pay close attention to the body language.
3. A dog that is confident will carry themselves tall. Tail will be above the back, ears forward, and the dog will have a look of confidence on its face.
4. A dog that is submissive will carry themselves low, ears flat on their head, tail below the plain of the back.
5. Dogs that are aggressive will display all the above but will start posturing. In other words, the dog will go into a T-position. Place its head over the back of the other dog. If it growls, it will do so with showing just the canines or fangs. It will have a wrinkled brow and will act like a bully.
6. A dog showing fear aggression will show the above posture, however, it will growl with a full mouth, showing all the gum line. The tail will be tucked between the legs and it will bite out of fear.
7. Always be in control of your dog by having him or her trained. This will dramatically reduce the risks of injury. With advanced dog training; good trainers will incorporate distractions of other dogs, vehicles, noise etc. In other words, you will have control of your dog in stressful situations. At least you will have peace of mind knowing that you did all you could to avoid problems.
8. Never allow a stranger's dog to approach without the owner present. The owner **MUST** be around their dog at all times.
9. If there is a problem, ask the dog owner to please leash the dog and take control. Do this in a nice way. If they refuse, leave the run, and report the person to Animal Control. Get a very good description of the dog and its owner. Never try to handle it yourself, by doing so, you will cause a confrontation.
10. A dog that has been *to* the run several times may think of the run as its territory. Ask the owners if they have been there before. If they say yes, make sure you allow your own dog time alone the first few times you go to the run. This will help to put them both on neutral territory.
11. Dogs have very strong pack structure. They act upon instincts and drives when left to their own thinking. They do not reason. It is the owner who must be ALPHA. What does this mean? The Alpha is the leader of the pack. The Alpha tells the pack when to fight, eat, play etc. If you allow your dog to fight or disrespect you, it will take over the pack. There must be a correction if it misbehaves.

12. A dog that is intimidated will raise the hackles-hair on the rump and back of the neck. Some dogs will raise the hair down the entire back. This is a sign of stress and insecurity. Again, they are pilo erecting-making themselves look bigger. Most of the time this is a dog that is afraid. Be very careful when you see this happening.
13. **If the dogs start to fight, NEVER** get in between them. Always break a dogfight up by grabbing the back legs and pull them apart. Once the dogs are separated, turn them gently and take them by the collar. **NEVER** try to pry them away from each other. This will cause their defense drive to kick in. If you start hitting the other dog, you will cause the dog to possibly fight harder.
14. It takes from 30 to 60 seconds for the dog's adrenals to slow down and come to normal. This is the stage where the dogs are learning if there is any danger. The same thing happens when they meet strange people. Never bend over a dog to greet them. Always get down to their level but avoid touching the dogs head or letting the dogs near your face.
15. If you have small children, do not let them run wild. This will attract attention for other dogs, even your own. You will kick the prey drive in and the dog will chase out of instincts. Prey is a dog chasing a moving object. Even if the dog has never bitten or chased a person, it can happen because of the movement. Once the dog chases down its prey, it can bite out of hunting instincts to try and subdue the prey object. So remember, **NEVER** let your children out of your site and run wild. If a dog starts chasing your child, teach them to stop right away. This will stop the prey instinct and the dog should stop the chase.
16. **Know all the rules of the run. Respect and follow them.** They were implemented to keep the park safe for all users. Never put small dogs in with large dogs and never introduce toys, as this will increase the aggressive behavior of your dog and the all other dogs present.
17. When your dog is off leash at the run, 100% of your focus should be on your dog. If you wish to socialize with other dog owners that's great, but please do it with your dog on a leash.

These are just some suggestions when taking your dog to the dog run. Remember, they are animals. No dog is perfect. Therefore, safety lies in the hands of the owner and handler. It is your responsibility to keep your dog and other people safe. **NEVER** allow your dog in the park unless you are 100% sure you have complete control of your dog.

DEALING WITH A DOG FIGHT

The safest way to break up a dogfight requires two people. Each person grabs the back feet of one of the dogs. The dog's back feet are then picked up like a wheelbarrow. With the legs up, both dogs are then pulled apart.

Once the dogfight is broken up and the dogs are pulled apart, it is critical that the people do not release the dogs or the dogfight will begin again. The two people need to start turning in a circle, or slowly swinging the dogs in a circle while they back away from the other dog. This stops the dog from curling and coming back and biting the person holding their legs.

By circling, the dog has to sidestep with its front feet or it will fall on its chin. As long as you slowly continue to back and circle, the dog cannot do any damage to you. To insure that the fight will not begin all over again when you release the dogs, one of the dogs needs to be brought into an enclosure (i.e. a kennel, the garage, another room) before the dog is released. If you do not do this, the dogs will often charge back and start fighting again or if you release the dog too quickly the dog will turn and attack the person who had his feet.

Dogfights are a very dangerous thing to try and break up alone. You should never rush in and try to grab the dogs to pull them apart. They are in high "fight drive" and are not thinking clearly when fighting. If someone grabs them they will bite without even thinking about who or what they are biting.

In reality, the dog probably doesn't know that it is biting you. Compare it to a bar fight. If a person comes up behind two guys fighting and just reaches out and grabs the shoulder of one of the combatants, most of the time the fighter is going to turn and throw a punch without looking at who or what he is hitting. This is because his adrenaline is pumping and he is in "fight drive".

The worst-case scenario is that you are alone when a serious fight breaks out. There are a couple things that you must keep in mind:

- Keep your cool--you have a job to do.
- Do not waste time screaming at the dogs--it hardly ever works.
- Your goal is still the same--you must break up the fight without getting hurt.
- Get a leash--allow the fight to continue while you do this.
- Dogs are almost always locked onto one another--walk up and loop the leash around the back, join the dog either by threading the leash through the handle or use the clip.
- Slowly back away and bring the dog to a fence or to an object that you can tie the leash to--by doing this you have effectively created an anchor for one of the dogs.
- Walk around and grab the back legs of the second dog and back it away from the dog that is tied up--remember to turn and circle as they release.
- Bring the dog into a dog pen or another room before you release the back legs.
- Go back and take the dog off the fence and put him/her into another, separate kennel.

**Roger Skinner Dog Park
Registration Form**

Owner's Last Name _____ First Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Emergency Contact & Phone _____

Pet Information (Vaccination Records Required)

Dog #1 Name _____ Breed _____ Age _____ M/F _____ Color _____

Dog License # _____ Size: Small/up to 24 lbs. _____ Medium/24-50 lbs. _____ Large/over 50 lbs. _____

Rabies Vaccination Date ___/___/___ 1yr or 3yr / Distemper- Yes No / Bordatella - Yes No

Dog #2 Name _____ Breed _____ Age _____ M/F _____ Color _____

Dog License # _____ Size: Small/up to 24 lbs. _____ Medium/24-50 lbs. _____ Large/over 50 lbs. _____

Rabies Vaccination Date ___/___/___ 1yr or 3yr / Distemper- Yes No / Bordatella - Yes No

All Park users are required to have a Dog License Tag and Rabies ID Tag.

Annual Pass - Valid through December 31st of registration year. (Check One)

One Dog \$35.00

Two Dogs \$50.00

\$10 Fee for replacement of lost key

For office use only

Fee \$ _____

Date Purchased: _____ Pet Tag# _____

Staff Initials: _____

Animal Control Initials: _____ FOB# _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE

To meet the expressed needs of Herkimer residents, the Village of Herkimer provides a dog run at the Roger Skinner Dog Park on Marginal Road. A dog run is an area that is fenced in and where dog owners may bring their dogs and permit them to run freely with other dogs. To make use of the dog run, owners must complete an application for dog run privileges, present vaccination records, and pay the appropriate fee. The Village requires all children who are 12 years old or younger to be supervised by an adult. The Village of Herkimer makes no guarantee that all dogs or other animals present in the dog run area are licensed or vaccinated against rabies, nor can it guarantee that children younger than 12 will not gain unsupervised admission or that children who are admitted will behave appropriately. Further, The Village of Herkimer has no knowledge about the behavior or temperament of animals using the area.

In consideration of receiving dog run privileges for myself and the dog identified in this application, I hereby represent and warrant as follows: my dog(s) _____ / _____ is/are properly licensed in the Town of Herkimer or in _____, has a proper Village of Herkimer pet I.D.#, and has received a rabies vaccination, which is fully up to date and has no history or known propensity for attacking or biting any persons or animals. I recognize that unleashing my dog and being present in an area where there are other people, including children, and other unleashed dogs pose risks to myself, and others, and to my dog and the dogs and property of others. For instance, there is the risk of personal injury or property damage to myself, or others from aggressive dogs, the unpredictable behavior of dogs, and the lack of adequate training of my dog or other dogs. I further understand and accept that despite the efforts of the Village of Herkimer to see that dog run users comply with licensing and vaccination requirements there is a risk that not all dogs present in the dog run are licensed and vaccinated. Additional risks to myself and others include, but are not limited to, dog fights, dog bites, dog theft or unlawful capture, dog escape over and under fences, and dog access to vegetation or standing water that may be unhealthy or poisonous if consumed. Further, dogs may be exposed to burrs or seeds that may become lodged in the dog's coat, feet, eyes, nose or ears, and mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, fleas or other insects and wildlife that might be found in a park such as snakes raccoons, opossums, etc. I understand that use of the dog run is self-directed and not supervised by any agent or employee of the Village of Herkimer. I assume all risks associated with using the dog run, including its fixtures and equipment, in an unsupervised and self-directed manner.

I HEREBY RELEASE THE VILLAGE OF HERKIMER, ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR INJURIES OR DAMAGES TO MYSELF OR MY DOG DUE TO MY USE OF, OR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES AT, DOG RUN. I ALSO AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE HARMLESS THE VILLAGE OF HERKIMER, ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM AND AGAINST ALL LOSS, COST, DAMAGES, EXPENSE AND LIABILITY INCLUDING DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY OR DISEASE AND DAMAGE TO REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY RESULTING FROM (1) MY NEGLIGENT ACTS; (2) THE ACT OR BEHAVIOR OF MY DOG, AND (3) INJURY THAT MAY OCCUR TO ME OR MY DOG OR MY PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF THE ACTS, CONDUCT OR BEHAVIOR OF OTHER USERS OF THE FACILITY, INCLUDING OTHER DOGS.

By submitting this application and attached dog license, I represent and warrant that the records are the true and accurate records for the dog identified in this application, and that the information provided is accurate and truthful. I realize that providing false information or breaching any of the conditions or rules of use may result in revocation of dog run privileges.

I have carefully read the Assumption of Risk and Release and understand and accept its terms and conditions. I have also received a copy of the rules for dog run usage and agree to abide by these rules. I realize non-compliance of dog run rules may result in revocation of dog run use privileges and any other penalties provided by law.

Owner Name (Print)

Owner Signature

Date