



WHITPAIN DOG PARK



Membership Guide and Application



Whitpain Township Parks and Recreation
960 Wentz Road Blue Bell, PA 19422
610-277-2400
www.whitpainrec.com



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General Information

Location & Features

- Whitpain Dog Park is located in Centre Square Park, 1527 Yost Road Blue Bell, PA 19422 (after turning into the park off Yost Road, turn right at the second stop sign to access the Dog Park)
- Three acre off-leash park including a Small Dog Area (for dogs under 30 pounds), and a Large Dog Area (for dogs 30 pounds and more)
- Easy access and free parking
- Amenities including doggie bags and double gated transition area
- Registered member access only

Health and Safety Requirements

VETERINARY RECORDS: A current copy of veterinary vaccination records is required at time of registration. Thereafter, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure an up-to-date copy of all required shot records is forwarded annually. Please submit copies of vaccination records, PA dog License, and membership registration together.

- **DHPP:** DHPP is a yearly vaccine administered to immunize your dog against (D) distemper, (H) hepatitis, (P) parainfluenza and (P) parvovirus.
- **Rabies:** PA Code (16.41. Rabies Vaccination Required) states, "A person living in this Commonwealth owning or keeping a dog or cat over 3 months of age shall have the dog or cat vaccinated against rabies under the act and this chapter."
- **Canine Bordetella:** Bordetella, also known as kennel cough, is a highly contagious upper respiratory condition that affects a high amount of dogs. Canine Bordetella is spread from dog to dog. It is often passed when there is a high amount of dogs in one contained area, such as with boarding kennels, shelters, obedience classes, dog parks and dog day care facilities. Infected dogs are not permitted in the Dog Park.

PA DOG LICENSE: In accordance with PA State law, all dogs are required to have a current license. Apply for a license online at www.padoglicense.com or mail applications to the County Treasurer’s Office.

AGE & SEX: All dogs must be at least 4 months old and must be spayed or neutered by 7 months.

HEALTH: All dogs must be in good health. Owners will certify that their dog(s) is(are) in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition which could potentially jeopardize other dogs/persons.

How do I Join the Whitpain Dog Park?

Step 1 Attend a mandatory orientation session. Parks and Recreation staff and qualified dog trainers will review the park rules, behaviors you may observe in your and/or other dogs while at the Dog Park and the registration process. *All household members that will use the park are required to attend the orientation.* Attendance will be taken, be sure to check-in to receive credit for attending. If you do not check-in, we will have no record of you completing the orientation and you will not be able to register for a membership. View the orientation schedule and register for a session online at www.whitpainrec.com.

Step 2 Obtain a current PA dog license and vaccinations. Current licenses and up-to-date vaccination records are required for each dog. You will need to submit written proof (copies) of these items when you register for a Dog Park membership. It is the sole responsibility of the owner to ensure that license and veterinary records are kept current for all registered dogs. Failure to comply will result in suspension of membership (without refund) until current information is received.

Step 3 Register at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road in Blue Bell. Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. You will need to complete a registration form, and bring copies of your dog’s license and vaccination records. ***You must provide your own copies! Township staff will not make copies for you.*** Payment can be made by check, cash or credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover). You will be issued a dog collar tag(s) that must be visible when using the park.

You may register immediately following the orientation session only if you bring all required paperwork and payment (cash or check) with you! You are responsible for providing COPIES of paperwork – there will not be access to a copier at orientation.

Annual Membership Fees

- Memberships are valid for one calendar year. All memberships expire on 12/31.
- Membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable under any circumstances including, membership revocation, suspension, and/or inability to visit the Dog Park for any reason (dog under socialized, death, owner relocation, etc.).
- Membership includes two dogs and one-time issued dog tag(s).

Whitpain Township Residents \$35.00
Per Additional Dog \$15.00

Non-Residents \$50.00
Per Additional Dog \$20.00

Replacement of Lost Dog Tag \$25.00 each



Dog Park Rules & Regulations

To ensure safety and enjoyment for all, park users must strictly observe the following rules and regulations. Those found in violation will lose Dog Park privileges without refund, and may be subject to fines.

1. Whitpain Dog Park is open dawn to dusk. The Dog Park will be closed due to inclement weather and scheduled maintenance. When possible, advanced notice of Dog Park closures will be emailed to members, and posted on www.whitpainrec.com and the Whitpain Dog Park Facebook page.
2. The Dog Park is for dogs, their handlers, and those accompanying them. No other use is permitted. All users must be registered members with Whitpain Township Parks and Recreation to utilize the Dog Park. Dog tags are non-transferable and can only be used by registered individuals and their registered dog(s).
3. Use of the Dog Park is at your own risk. Each owner is solely responsible for their and their dog's actions and assumes all liability for damages suffered by any person or dog injured while utilizing the Dog Park.
4. No smoking, alcohol, food, or glass containers are permitted in the Dog Park.
5. Members must accompany and monitor dogs closely. Dogs must be in view of and under voice command of their handlers at all times. Members must refrain from being distracted on their cell phones.
6. Children under the age of 14 are not permitted inside the Dog Park. Children ages 14-17 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.
7. Dogs must be leashed and under owner's control at all times outside of the Dog Park, as well as when entering and exiting the Dog Park. Members must keep the leash in their possession at all times while using the Dog Park.
8. Under no circumstances should a dog be tethered by the leash to any object in the Dog Park including the fence, benches, etc.
9. Dogs younger than 4 months of age, unneutered male dogs and unspayed female dogs, aggressive, unruly, fearful, and under socialized dogs are not permitted in the Dog Park. Dogs having received a PA Dog Law Citation for aggressive behavior are not permitted or eligible for membership.
10. Dogs weighing less than 30 pounds must use the Small Dog Area. Dogs weighing 30 pounds and more must use the Large Dog Area.
11. No more than two dogs per member are permitted at one time. If two dogs are in different weight categories, then one member must accompany each dog.
12. Members are required to clean up after their dog(s). All waste must be bagged and disposed of properly in the marked receptacles.
13. Anyone found leaving the gates open, tied back or unlatched will have their membership suspended (1st offense) or membership revoked (2nd offense) without refund.
14. Members must leash their dog(s) and exit the Dog Park if their dog(s) is/are acting aggressively or fearfully towards people or other dogs.
15. Members are responsible to ensure their dog(s) do not dig holes or cause damage to park plants or property.
16. Prong, pinch, choke or spike collars are not permitted.
17. All dogs must be healthy and must wear a collar displaying their current member tag, rabies tag and dog license as required by PA law. Dogs with contagious health conditions are not permitted in the park.
18. The park may not be utilized for any private use or gain, including instruction/ training activities or events of any type without the written approval of the Whitpain Township Parks & Recreation Department.
19. Service gates are not intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, please notify the Township immediately at (610) 277-2400. Do not enter the off-leash areas through the service gates. These gates do not provide sufficient control necessary for safely entering or exiting the park.
20. For all emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 610-277-2400. Report serious dog bites to the police.
21. All or any rules are subject to change without notice.

If another dog owner is not following the posted rules, politely approach that person and ask for cooperation. You are the only person who is responsible for your dog's safety and well-being.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in revocation of your membership without refund and/or fines.

Visiting the Dog Park

Prepare for your dog's first visit by exploring the Dog Park without your dog. Enter the off-leash area, walk around, and feel free to ask questions to anyone in the park.

The first time your dog comes to the park, try to visit at a relatively quiet time of day so that your dog can experience this new place without being overwhelmed by potential playmates. Most parks experience peak usage early in the morning, after work hours on weekdays, and midday on weekends.

When you arrive, stand outside the fence and watch the dogs inside the off-leash area for a few minutes before you enter. Consider the following before deciding to enter:

- Does your dog already know any of the dogs in the park?
- Are they playing in a manner that is comfortable for your dog?
- Does your dog look keen to enter or reluctant?
- Assess how many dogs are already playing in the park, and whether their owners are paying attention.
- If your dog seems afraid or reluctant to enter, remember that it is better to leave and come back another time rather than set your dog up for trouble.

If you decide to enter...

- Be aware that dogs already in the park will likely gather around the gate to "meet and greet" your dog.
- Allow your dog to remain in the enclosed area for a few moments until the other dogs retreat from the entrance area.
- When you and your dog feel comfortable, open the second gate and let your dog enter the play area.
- Close the second gate behind you and lead your dog into the play area.
- Do not use your cell phone so that it cannot distract your attention from your dog.
- Inside the park, keep moving. Dogs tend to play more when their owners are in motion. An owner standing or sitting in one place makes it more likely for a dog to guard the surrounding space.
- While your dog plays, stay engaged: call your dog periodically, praise and reward, and then say, "Go play!"
- Have your dog take occasional breaks from play to make over-arousal less likely.

When you and your dog are ready to leave...

- Before you open the inner gate, make sure the outer gate is properly closed and that other dogs are not trying to leave with you.
- Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule. Close the inner gate properly and ensure that the latch is secure.
- Place a leash securely on your dog, open the outer gate and exit from the vestibule.
- Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.

Common Dog Behaviors Defined

Mounting

Mounting is a form of dog play that can be especially volatile, even if the dogs are well matched in size and physical condition. Mounting is not necessarily about reproduction or dominance, but can be a request for attention, an invitation to play, or a way for an overexcited dog to discharge energy. The problem is that some dogs are intolerant of mounting, and so it can trigger fights. Because mounted dogs often react to an innocent dog standing in front of them rather than to the one on top, the behavior can pose risks for surrounding dogs. If your dog tends to mount, teach an "off" cue and intervene. Better yet, learn to see the behavior coming and redirect your dog before another one is stressed by it.

Resource Guarding

Some dogs are very protective of objects they value. The resources a dog may guard can be food (including training treats), toys, their owners ("my hunter, my driver, my ball thrower," etc.), doorways, and more—even feces or holes! Early signs of resource guarding could include hovering in a particular space or over a toy, lip licking (indicating stress), flared whiskers, curling the lip, and freezing as another dog approaches. If your dog appears to be resource guarding, remove the resource, if possible. If that is not possible or does not help, take him/her out of the park before they begin

lunging at others or a fight erupts, and come back at a quieter time. If someone else's dog is resource guarding, move your dog away from him, put away anything that seems to arouse the dog's guarding impulse, point out aggressive behavior to the other owner, or leave.

Snarks and Scuffles

When a dog nips or bumps too hard, another dog may respond by giving off a snark. A "snark" is a vocalization that sounds like a combined snarl and bark. A "scuffle" sounds like a fight but ends just as quickly as it started. If your dog has just had a scuffle, a time out may be advisable. If there are repeated snarks or scuffles, then it may be time to head home for the day and consider whether that particular group of playmates is healthy for your dog.

Understanding Dog Behavior

When at the Dog Park, it is important to understand basic canine body language. The following information will help you recognize what is ok and what might lead to trouble.

Aggression vs. Correction

There are times when a dog will correct another dog for something he deems inappropriate. This is normal, nonaggressive, and is good for teaching young dogs important lessons about canine social structure and body language. Appropriate corrections generally escalate in severity and result in no harm being done to the correctee. If your dog is over-correcting, it may be time to give a time out.

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection or whale eye (hair on shoulders and butt stand up and you see the whites of eyes)
- Loud woofs or snarks directed at an individual
- Muzzle punching or lunging resulting in no harm being done to the correctee
- Normally done once and the argument is over

Appropriate – You're Ok!

Dogs nip while they play, chase, slam each other with their shoulders and hips, lie on top of each other, mount each other, and "fence" with their teeth. It can look scary and confusing to human beings, but it is how dogs have fun

- Butt sniffing and loose tail and body language
- Wide, circular tail wagging
- Play bows
- Butt bumps
- Playful vocalization
- Brief, fair, and harmless disagreements or corrections

Healthy Play

The following questions can help dog owners sort good, healthy fun from abusive or bullying play:

- Do both dogs look happy most of the time?
- Are their tails, mouths, and movements loose and relaxed (having fun), or are they tight and stiff (not so fun)?
- Is one dog asking for space or trying to get away and the other dog is not allowing it? Is the play edgy, hard-hitting, or causing fear for any participants?
- Is there healthy give and take in the play? Over a few minutes, does the dog who was on top take a turn on the bottom, or does the chaser become the chased?
- Is the play fluid, moving from one activity to another, or are the dogs "stuck?"
- Are two or more dogs ganging up on another who looks stressed?
- Is it becoming so intense that "snarks" and "scuffles" are happening?

If the play is not balanced, comfortable, and happy for all parties, the dogs' owners need to redirect the dogs' activities, settle the offending dogs down with a time out from play (outside the off-leash area), or take dogs home.

Calming/Stress Signals

Meant to Diffuse Tension, Recognize and React Appropriately. Signals that may indicate stress, discomfort, or an effort to avoid conflict include:

- Averting eye contact
- Lip-licking, nose-licking, chewing
- Submissive urination
- Going belly up
- Tail between the legs
- Increased activity
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Shaking off
- Sniffing the ground
- Front paw lift
- Approaching slowly and in an arc
- Sitting or lying down
- Blinking
- Sneezing

Inappropriate or Rude - Time for a Time Out or Maybe Time to Go!

- Hard stares and face-offs
- Excessive humping/mounting
- One dog chasing, pinning, targeting, or not letting up on another dog
- A group of dogs mobbing an individual dog

When It's Time to Go!

An important part of being a member of the Dog Park is recognizing when it is time for your dog to end their session for the day. If your dog is exhibiting any of the following behaviors, it may be time to leave the park and come back later:

- Stiff body posturing and pilo-erection (hair on shoulders and butt standing straight up)
- Repeated correcting of other dogs, sometimes over very benign instances
- Targeting, bullying, or stalking individual dogs
- Fearfulness which does not subside
- Prey drive – inborn desire to chase and hunt other smaller dogs
- Staring, growling, snarking
- Ears flat against head (uneasy) or erect and forward (confident)
- Tension in body and face
- Muscle ridges in face
- Stalking or very erect, up-on-toes stance
- Urination and ground scratching
- Tail up over back or straight
- Tail wagging only at tip
- A brief look-away or turn-away at a tense moment



Many of these behaviors have multiple meanings, so the trick is to know your dog and read the whole dog in context.

Owner Etiquette

Just as we expect appropriate behavior from the dogs at the park, we expect it from owners too!

- If your dog is crowding the gate when another dog is attempting to enter, call your dog back.
- Do pay attention to your dog. Socializing at the park can be fun for owners too, but it shouldn't come at the expense of monitoring your dog.
- If your dog is ruining the fun for another dog, leave.
- If you are going to give a treat to your dog, make sure it is away from the other dogs. NEVER give treats to another person's dog without their permission. Some dogs are on specific diets and may have allergies or health issues.
- Don't bring your dog to the park if she is sick or even 'might' be sick. Give them the rest they may need and prevent spreading the illness to others.
- If you see a dog on leash or an owner keeping their dog away from others, do not approach them.

- Don't assume every dog on-leash, close to the Dog Park, is heading to the Dog Park and is friendly. They may just be out for a walk. Don't approach or allow your dog to approach without permission.
- Don't leave your dog on-leash, or have them dragging the leash, inside the Dog Park. It can get tangled and cause problems. If you are uncomfortable allowing your dog off-leash, you should reconsider whether the Dog Park is the right place for you and your dog.
- Don't let your dog jump on people at the Dog Park.
- Be polite, even if someone else's dog is inappropriate and the owner isn't controlling his dog or is unwilling to take his own dog out of the park.
- If someone complains about your dog's behavior, impartially consider and evaluate the situation and behavior before immediately defending your dog.
- Don't discipline someone else's dog. If a dog's behavior is making you uncomfortable, address it with the owner and allow them to address it with their own dog.

Avoiding Good Times Gone Wrong

Fights

If handlers are on the ball, they will preempt rude play or bullying before fights break out. What do you do, though, if a fight erupts? One option is to do nothing. Very few dogs fight to the death, and no dog with a history of serious fighting should be at the Dog Park in the first place. Age appropriate children (14-17) who visit the Dog Park with an adult must be instructed ahead of time to walk away calmly from any fighting dogs, even their own. Do not run or scream, and do not get involved. Shrieking children can trigger tragic behavior from dogs.

Anyone interfering in a fight is at risk of being bitten. Highly aroused dogs do not always know what they are biting. If a person restrains one dog, the other dog might continue aggressing, provoking the restrained dog to bite the person holding him. Screaming or shouting can escalate tensions and bring more dogs into the fray.

If someone has been knocked down near the fight or the dogs are badly mismatched, it can be almost impossible to stand back. If you feel compelled to intervene in a serious fight, here are some options, listed in descending order of safety:

- Use a squirt water bottle or throw containers of water on the dogs.
- Startle the dogs with loud noise, such as a loud whistle, an air horn, or clanging metal.
- Throw coats or blankets over the dogs.
- Owners can simultaneously lift the tail of each dog in the fight.
- Take the dogs back feet off the ground, or...
- Grab the rear legs and pull the dogs out of the fight.
- Wait until the dog has stopped snapping and has calmed down some before releasing their legs.

After a Fight

- Put each of the dogs involved in the fight on leash, check them for injuries, and assess whether veterinary care is appropriate.
- Calmly exchange relevant information with the other dog owner(s), especially if there is an injury.
- Remove the dogs from the park, one at a time. Even dogs that did not join the fight are likely to be extremely aroused, and their owners are advised to call it a day also.
- Individually or collectively, review and evaluate what went wrong: What could have been done to prevent the dogs' interaction from escalating to a fight? Why didn't people see the fight brewing and intervene earlier?



Dog Parks are not the place to take your dog for socialization...dog parks are a place to take socialized dogs.

Emergency Veterinary Services

The following information is intended only as a general reference for your convenience. None of these listed parties is in any way connected with the information printed herein or necessarily agree with the information printed herein. You are responsible and liable of your own dog's actions and well-being.

Gwynedd Veterinary Hospital & Emergency Services

1615 W. Point Pk. Lansdale, PA 19446

Phone: 215-699-9294

Open 24/7

Steinbach Veterinary Hospital

120 Skippack Pk. Blue Bell, PA 19422

Phone: 215-646-0462

Not open 24/7 – must call hotline: 215-646-0462

Hickory Veterinary Hospital

2303 Hickory Rd. Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Phone: 610-828-3054

Open 24/7

Compassion Veterinary Clinic

1030 Dekalb Pk. Blue Bell, PA 19422

Phone: 610-277-3672

Not open 24/7 – must call hotline: 610-666-1050

Dog Training Services

Cubby's Canine Castle, Inc.

1265 Dekalb Pk. Blue Bell, PA 19422

Phone: 610-272-0300

www.cubbyscaninecastle.com



Pennsylvania Dog Laws

The Dog Law Enforcement Office through the PA Department of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Office also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

What are Pennsylvania's Dog Laws?

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer.
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- Owners of dogs and cats three months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination.
- It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

The Dog Law Enforcement Office is Charged with the Following Responsibilities:

- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law, licensing and control of dogs
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required

Dog Law Enforcement Office

Montgomery County: Edward Bunt, 610-909-1173

Region VII (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties)

Kristen Penn, Supervisor 1015 Bridge Road Collegeville, PA 19426

Region: 610-489-1003, Office: 717-957-4751

Whitpain Dog Park Incident Notification Procedure

If an owner would like to file a formal report or make the Township aware of an ongoing Dog Park situation, the Incident Report Form must be completed. The Incident Report will enable us to document occurrences and properly investigate and resolve the concerns of our Dog Park members.

Violations that should be reported and will be automatically reviewed:

- Children under the age limit in the Dog Park
- Person bit by a dog
- Dog bitten requiring medical treatment

Violations that can be reported and will be documented and investigated:

- Dog bitten with no medical treatment necessary
- Failure to abide by Dog Park rules
- Disruptive/abusive behavior to persons and/or dogs

Procedure for Review

1. All eligible reports received will be reviewed by the Dog Park Advisory Board.
2. If a Dog Park Advisory Board member is involved in the incident, she/he will be excluded from the review process except for providing a written statement of what happened.
3. If the incident resulted in serious harm to a person(s) or dog(s), the offending dog will be temporarily suspended pending outcome of formal review and final determination.
4. The Dog Park Advisory Board will discuss the incident and recommend a course of action, if any, to take. Actions may include but are not limited to restricted use of the park, temporary or permanent bans on using the park, dog training, or testing requirements (e.g., Canine Good Citizen Test).
5. Any incidents where a person is bitten will be reported to the Whitpain Township Police and Dog Warden in accordance with the PA Dog Law. The PA Dog Laws shall supersede all other rules, regulations and guidelines.

Human Infractions (any member who chooses to disregard the Dog Park rules)

- **Level 1 (first incident):** Warning, or dependent upon severity or number of infractions level 2 consequences may be imposed.
- **Level 2 (second incident):** The dog tag must be relinquished and the member must re-attend orientation.
- **Level 3 (third incident):** Suspension or termination of membership dependent upon severity or number of infractions as determined by recommendation of the Dog Park Advisory Board and final decision of the Township.

Incident report forms are available at the Dog Park, the Township Building, and online at www.whitpainrec.com.

Please read carefully, initial and sign. Must be submitted with your registration materials.

Sign-Off - Rules and Immunization Requirements

- _____ I have received, read, and understand the Whitpain Dog Park Application and Information Packet in its entirety and agree to abide by all rules and park etiquette as established. I understand that failure to comply will result in suspension or revocation of my Dog Park membership without refund.
- _____ I understand that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and dog(s) including but not limited to
_____ Any and all damages caused to the park facility by my dog(s)
_____ Any and all injuries caused by my dog to another person(s) and or dog(s)
- _____ I understand and agree that it is solely my responsibility to maintain current immunization and license records on file and provide updated records if and when they expire for as long as I maintain a Whitpain Dog Park membership. I understand that if I do not do this, my membership will be deactivated, I must relinquish ID tag(s), and my membership will not be reactivated until updated/current records are submitted.
- _____ Whitpain Township reserves the right to suspend or revoke park privileges to any member who fails to follow park rules and etiquette or where it has been determined a member dog or dog owner is dangerous to others or is in violation of any applicable animal ordinances or regulations.

Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver

- _____ Acceptance of the terms & conditions of this release and adherence to established Dog Park Rules & Regulations are conditions of membership and issuance of an ID tag, retention and renewal. ID tags are for use only by those listed on the application.
- _____ You are solely responsible for supervising your dog and determining whether or not this is an appropriate activity to participate in. You must understand that you and others who accompany you are participating in this activity at your and their own risk (and risk of your dog). Dogs and members of varying degrees of skill, training and experience use this facility. You are solely responsible for determining if you and/or your dog are physically fit and/or adequately skilled to use this facility. It is always advisable if you are pregnant or if you or your dog is disabled in any way or recently suffered an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician or veterinarian before undertaking any dog training or exercise activity.
- _____ When this Waiver & Release refers to “your dog,” “my dog”, or the “owner” of a dog, it includes you whether or not you are the legal owner of the dog, since you are the person responsible for the dog while using the facility.

Warning of Risk

- _____ Dog activities are intended to provide a fun and rewarding experience for a dog and its owner/handler. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including death to the dog, its owner/handler or other persons or animals. Dogs are pack animals and when “off lead”, even the best-trained dogs will act instinctively. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers associated with dog activities can be foreseen. Certain inherent risks include the propensity of any dog to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to you, another person or dog. Other risks include, but are not limited to, the inexperience, negligence or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog’s reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or other animals; and actions by the dog due to fright, anger, stress, insect bites, or natural reactions such as jumping, pulling, resisting and biting. Other risks include the hazards associated with environmental and traffic conditions, acts of God, inclement weather, slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and all other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities.
- _____ Should you attempt to break up a dog fight or restrain a dog, including but not limited to your dog, you may be attacked and severely mauled by your dog the other dog or attacked by another dog’s owner/handler. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the Whitpain Township to guarantee absolute safety.

Assumption of Risk

- _____ I hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate and use with my dog(s) the Dog Park (“Park”) owned and operated by Whitpain Township. I understand that the act of unleashing my dog(s) and being physically present within the Park necessarily involves a risk of injury to me, any persons that accompany me, other people using the Park, my dog(s), and other dogs. I understand that these risks are entirely my responsibility and I expressly assume that responsibility knowingly and voluntarily. I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or

amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog's actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I further understand and assume the risk that all dogs in the Park may not have current vaccinations for bordetella, distemper, parvovirus, or rabies, all of which could result in injury to me, any individuals (including children) accompanying me, and my dog(s). I also understand that there are certain inherent risks, including the propensity of a dog to behave in a dangerous way. Additional risks include, but are not limited to: the inexperience or irresponsibility of a dog owner/handler; the inability to predict a dog's reaction to sound, movement, objects, persons, or other animals; dog fights, dog bites, and injuries to humans and other dogs; dog theft or unlawful capture; dog escape over or under fences, plants in the area that may be poisonous to dogs or people; mosquitoes, ticks chiggers, fleas, or other insects that may be present; and wild animals, such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, or stray dogs that could be present in the Park, all of which might injure or infect my dog(s); slip and falls, premises defects, equipment failure in instruction/supervision, and other circumstances inherent to dog and/or outdoor activities. I knowingly and voluntarily accept responsibility for all these risks in exchange for the privilege of using the Dog Park.

_____ I further understand that no agents or employees of Whitpain Township will supervise the Park at any time and I therefore expressly assume responsibility for all risks associated with the Park as well as any fixtures and equipment that may be located there in an unsupervised manner. Waiver and Release of all Claims and Indemnification Agreement

_____ I have carefully read this waiver and release and understand its contents. I have received/read the Whitpain Dog Park Application and Membership Guide including the Dog Park rules and regulations, and agree by affixing my signature below to comply with those rules and regulations. I will also inform others that I may bring to the park (including children) of these rules and will ensure their compliance while using the park. My signature confirms that I am also not aware of any incidents in which my dog(s) has/have shown aggressive, fighting, or biting behavior towards people or other animals.

_____ I recognize and acknowledge that use of this facility and the surrounding area for dog activities and participating in dog activities entails certain risks of damage, loss or injury to animals, persons or property (including to me, other persons, my dog and other dogs or animals), and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of and responsibility for any injuries, damages, loss, liability, costs and expenses, regardless of severity, extent or amount, that (a) I, my dog or any other person accompanying me might sustain or incur as a result of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area; or (b) any other person or animal might sustain as a result of me or my dog's actions or conduct in connection with or arising out of my presence in this facility and surrounding area or my participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ In signing this Waiver and Release, I do hereby agree to waive, relinquish, release and forever discharge Whitpain Township, and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, from any and all claims or causes of action for injuries, damages, loss, liability or expenses that I may have or which may accrue hereafter to me or any other person claiming through me or on my behalf and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with this use of this facility and surrounding area.

_____ I fully and forever release and discharge Whitpain Township, its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers, and others working on behalf of the Township from any and all negligent acts or omissions with regard to the Dog Park and intend to be legally bound by this Release.

_____ I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend Whitpain Township and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents, and from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions, and expenses (including but not limited to court costs and attorney fees), occurring, growing out of, incident to, or resulting directly or indirectly from my use of this facility and surrounding area, including without limitation any losses, claims, damages, liabilities, cause of actions and expenses on account of personal injury to or death of any person or animal, or damages to property of any person or entity.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, WARNING OF RISK, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS. IF THIS FORM IS RECEIVED ONLINE OR VIA FAX, YOUR ONLINE OR FACSIMILE SIGNATURE SHALL SUBSTITUTE AND HAVE THE SAME LEGAL EFFECT AS AN ORIGINAL FORM SIGNATURE.

Print Name: _____ Date: ____/____/_____

Signature: _____

**Submit completed form, signed waiver, and copies of vaccinations and PA dog license to
Whitpain Township, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422**