



## *Private Pooch Playpark*

# INTRO & TRAINING TIPS

**And now for the fun stuff...let's set your  
pooch up for success!**

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We know the equipment looks SUPER fun and it might be tempting to just let your dog rip on it or even use your leash to help your dog under, over, along some of the equipment! BUT in order to set your dog up for success, please read the following suggestions when introducing your pup to the fun that's about to happen:

## **Treats, treats, and more treats!**

Not all dogs will be as exuberant as a bred-for-it Border Collie to try the equipment. It may be the first time they've seen anything like it and that can be a little scary for some dogs.

Encourage your dog to explore the equipment (offleash) by using your excited voice and treats to lure them over and around. Drop treats around the apparatus and let them sniff it as much as they want! Let them go at their own pace. The more comfortable they feel around it, the easier it will be to teach them to use it! You are there to support them in building confidence.

OK, they are totally comfortable around the super fantastic pieces of equipment! Now you want to make the next steps as easy as possible when you are starting out.





## Tires

Start with the biggest one (with the biggest opening), toss treats in front, inside and through to the other side of it to encourage your pup to go through the tire. You can also stand on the other side of the tire and lure your pup through with treats! Once they go through the tire, celebration and treat party! Try out the other tires!

## Jumps

Set the jumps on the lowest setting. Toss treats over the jump or lure them over the jump by using your hand as a guide for them. If they jump over, TREAT PARTY!!! If they try to go around, no big deal! Just try again. They are learning and don't know what they are supposed to do yet! If they go over and knock the pole down, that still means a treat party! Maybe even more so because the pole falling can be scary and we don't want them developing a fear of the jump. Once they are comfortable and consistent on jumping over the lowest pole setting, raise it one level! And continue the treat tossing/luring and following treat party when they jump over. If they try to go under the bar you raised it too soon – lower back down for more success then try again.



## A-frame

This can be more of a challenge. Have some super yummy treats in your hand and lure your pup onto the A-frame. With that hand lead the way up and down the other side. As they take steps up the A-frame and down the other side, treat them along the way! If they are hesitant to go up, that's ok! Reward their effort even if it's just one step. With continued rewards and encouragement, your pup will progress! If your pup gets to the top and jumps off the A-frame, simply restart the process and make note of where they need the extra support, that's where you want to dish out treats on the next try.





## Tunnel

This is often the most intimidating piece of equipment. If you have 2 people it's much easier as one can go to the other end to encourage with a promise of a yummy treat awaiting. If you're solo you want to start placing the treat just inside, then just a bit further in, then if feels right toss a treat in a few feet and run like mad to the other end and cheer the dog thru with big praise (and another treat) for doing it. Once they do it once they tend to love this activity and will want to repeat it many times... Have lots of treats!!!

You should **exercise extra caution if:** your dog is a young puppy (clumsy), a senior (brittle bones), overweight (stress on joints), or has any pre-existing health condition where they may over-exert or injure themselves. What if they jump off the top of the A-frame or run into a jump pole (even though they are designed to fall if they are hit). This playpark is not for every dog. If your dog is likely to hurt themselves using the equipment, do not fret! We are in the process of opening 2 more considerably larger playparks that are equipment free. Perfect for dogs who just want to run, stroll, walk, play Frisbee, bask in the sun, or go on a sniffari! Hope to have these ready for mid-June.

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**NOTE:** If planning to do sanctioned competitive agility you should do some homework first. Professional agility trainers may advise that there are numerous basic agility/obedience skills the dog should master first prior to working with any equipment.

## RULES AND POLICIES

In the interests of protecting the health and safety of our staff and clients as well as all the dogs - even the fun stuff has to come with some rules...

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**ALL dogs must be leashed** on arrival. While yours may have great recall you may arrive at the same time as a daycare or grooming client pick up or a boarding guest going for a walk... all dogs must remain on leash till safely secure in the playpark.

Glenpark Pet Hotel is proud to be a **force-free pet care facility** meaning we do not use any aversive tools such as prongs or e-collars on our premises. If you use these tools we thank you to leave them at home when coming here. If your dog is wearing one on arrival you will be asked to remove it.

Parking is in our **main hotel parking lot** where staff will meet you and escort you to the park on your first visit. The park is only about 300 ft walk from the parking lot. GPH staff will ensure there is a fresh clean water bucket for your dogs.

Playpark use is **100% at your own risk**. The yard is fully and securely fenced with gated access. Fencing is approx. half 8 ft tall and the other half 4ft tall. Park is for your private use for the 1-hour block. No other dogs will have access to that area and none can be seen from the fence lines. If you have purchased a Playdate (2 families) or a Multi-family use, it is the responsibility of each dog owner to assess and ensure that all the dogs get along.

**Equipment is for dogs only** – no humans not even kids. We realize it looks very fun and enticing to kids but it's not built with their safety in mind and is just not safe for them. Please supervise any children at all times. The purpose of the park is for you to engage with your dog so we suggest you bring along a childminder or leave them at home and enjoy an outing, especially for the dog.

**The time slots are 1-hour blocks** starting/ending at the top of the hour. Our staff will meet you at the parking lot. We encourage (the boys especially) to whiz it out while on the path outside the playpark so they're not as tempted to mark (pee on) the equipment.



## **We provide:**

- Dog poop scoop tools (& poop bucket to dump in). Please pick up after you dog.
- Large clean dog water bucket for each park user/group. Access to more is available.
- Some seating (benches/chairs) for people and there is some shade avail. most of the day.
- Public washroom available in kennel building but please flag/call GPH staff for access.

## **You should bring:**

- Water bottle for yourself
- Bug spray/sun screen
- Sensible shoes/clothing for running with your dog(s)
- LOTS of yummy small (1 bite) dog treats
- Your positive energy, lots of pooch patience and the expectation of a great bonding experience with your dog(s)

**NOTE:** there is no smoking in the playpark. Parking lot has an ash tray. Please be safe.

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