

19 Be engaged and observant at the dog park

Not every dog who goes to a dog park is well-behaved. Pay attention to how other dogs are interacting with your dog, and vice versa. If there are any concerning signs—leave. You'll avoid injuries, uncomfortable confrontations with other owners, and a host of other problems.



20 Sticks are not safe for a game of “fetch”

In their eager play, many dogs have run onto sticks only to be impaled in their chest, mouth, and even eyes. Many dogs have also had to undergo anesthesia and tooth extractions for stick fragments that have become lodged between their teeth or embedded under their gums. Though sticks are plentiful and (initially) free, there are far safer and better fetch toys out there. One I recommend is the Kong® Safestix—safe, easy to clean, and dogs love it.

21 Don't let your dog and small child swim together without very close supervision

Either can quickly drown or nearly drown the other. If you can't be present with them when they're swimming together, don't let them do so at all. It truly isn't worth the risk.