

SAFETY AND INCIDENT COMMITTEE

Members should report incidents directly to SAIC

- Log in to SWCDP website using the email and password used for membership registration
- Go to tab “Member Actions” (upper right side of screen)
- Scroll down to “**Report a Dog Park Incident**”
- Complete form and submit (system will forward to SAIC and begin the email communication)

Please do not send incident reports SWCDP Secretary, Membership Manager, Member Registration Team or those tasked with sending member emails. SAIC team’s sole purpose is to review dog park problems arising from dog or human issues.

Before you submit

Take time to calm down – consider whether the experience is a legitimate incident or inevitable playground ruckus? Think it through before filing report – but also file while incident details are still fresh in minds of all involved. Gather as much info as possible: dog or human names or descriptions as well as witness (s). Check photos in Member Roster (on website under “Member Actions”) for help identifying dogs involved. If injuries are involved, send photo of injuries with report.

Report evaluation is team effort and time consuming. Before SAIC can fully review a report, all parties directly involved must be allowed to submit their incident interpretation - both sides are allowed to provide witness testimony if available.

SAIC Scope and Process

SWCDP management selects member volunteers who have dog park experience and basic understanding of dog language and play styles. None are professional behaviorists or trainers. SAIC objectively evaluates case facts without emotion or prejudice. If a SAIC member’s dog is involved, they do not participate in evaluating that case. Every report is assigned a case number and becomes a SWCDP permanent record. SAIC requires everything in writing in effort to protect against potential detail oversight or changing versions of what happened. Once all info is collected the committee discusses and votes on path forward. Bringing the issue to offending dog’s human and asking for better management of their dog while on SWCDP grounds is most frequent out come. SAIC has authority to alter membership status (temporarily suspend or permanently revoke membership), recommend or require outside training or behavioral evaluation, or other actions, as needed. It is a unique and exceptional situation in which a dog is permanently banned from SWCDP, but it does happen.

What SAIC can do

Provides structure to process incidents and maintain permanent records. Will assist (limited basis) with identifying offending dog (s) by checking log-in records for gate entry system if there is any confusion. Will also request positive identification via membership photo before contacting offending party for additional info. Once all involved have submitted requested info SAIC will review and recommend appropriate actions and monitor progress until case is closed.

What SAIC cannot do

SAIC is not the dog park supervisor – SWCDP is a “Use at your own risk” facility. SAIC is not responsible for negotiating financial or legal disputes between members – we do monitor how members handle injuries caused by their dog since taking responsibility for dog’s actions is part of SWCDP membership agreement. Sometimes SAIC cannot resolve because both sides give conflicting info and no witnesses available to resolve discrepancies. It is incumbent upon person filing report to provide reasonable amount of info; If SAIC cannot quickly identify all parties via checking our access control system (fob entry) the case cannot proceed. Example: “It was a black dog” – at time of incident either no black dog on site or a dozen black dogs on site.

Help SAIC . . . No Tag - No Entry – No Exception

Members must use fob for entry so SAIC has a record of who is on property at all times

SWCDP Watch List

Dogs involved in incident reports or that continue to pop up as troublemakers via member concerns are added to Watch List. Most trouble stems from mismatched play styles; some dogs just don’t like each other or are having a bad day – all of which can usually be corrected with more human oversight. Rough and tumble play and occasional scuffles are not always welcomed but are normal dog park situations. SAIC does not publish list to protect dogs from being known as “bad dog” but SAIC does monitor the list watching for trend lines of increasing problems and necessary corrections.