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It's Time to Enjoy Spring Weather in Chicagoland Dog Parks

Dogs, owners benefit physically and mentally from outdoor activity, making social connections

Now that the spring season and more favorable weather has arrived, it's a great time for dogs and their owners to enjoy some exercise, fresh air, and socializing at their local dog park.

The Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) reminds pet owners that Chicago alone has more than 30 dog-friendly areas that are overseen by Chicago Park District. Learn more about the locations on the [CVMA's website](#). Many other suburban communities also have dog parks, which can be found through local park districts and forest preserve districts, or through a simple online search for the nearest dog park.

"Due to our typically colder temperatures, pets and owners in our region tend to huddle indoors for the winter. That's why, when spring finally arrives, it's important for owners and their pets to head outdoors for some much-needed fresh air, sunshine, and physical activity, which can do wonders for both physical and mental health," explained Ray McGury, Executive Director of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association. "Community dog parks are great places to enjoy quality time with family and pets, and your community."

Dog owners are required to obtain an annual dog park permit and tag for a fee of \$10/dog to visit the parks. Permit applications are available at [participating veterinary offices](#). Additional information about Chicago dog parks can be found on the [Chicago Park District's website](#).

CVMA reminds pet owners to ensure that their dogs are up to date on vaccinations and preventative measures for fleas, ticks, and heartworm prior to visiting a dog park. According to Dr. Marina Jaworsky, CVMA board president, "Getting a check-up for your pet is a great thing to do in the spring, and staying current with your

pet's health needs is essential to keeping them protected from diseases that can spread from dog-to-dog, in addition to parasites found outdoors."

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About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association: Chicago Veterinary Medical Association is a professional network with a longstanding tradition that connects more than 1,000 veterinarians with comprehensive resources that support their continued development as champions of animal health while encouraging the fostering of the human-animal bond.

About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Foundation: The CVMF, established in 2009, is a 501(c)3 charity that works with Chicagoland veterinarians to provide financial assistance to pet families in need by helping with the costs of their pet's urgent, unexpected medical and surgical bills. The Foundation's work plays a vital role in strengthening the human-animal bond by helping sick and suffering pets get well again.