

LANDSCAPING AND FLOORING OF A DOGS PARK

Dog parks are recreational spaces specifically designed for dogs to exercise, play, and socialize in a controlled environment. When it comes to the landscaping and flooring of a dog park, several factors need to be considered to ensure the well-being and safety of both dogs and the surrounding environment.

Open Space and Flooring:

Dogs require ample space to run, play, and burn off energy in a dog park. Ideally, the park should have open areas free of obstructions to allow for unrestricted movement. When it comes to flooring options, two commonly used materials are:

A. Sand: Sand can be a suitable flooring choice as it provides good traction, is forgiving on joints, and allows dogs to dig and interact with the surface. However, it requires regular maintenance to prevent it from becoming compacted or soiled.

B. Artificial Grass: Artificial grass is another popular option for dog parks. It offers a consistent surface, easy maintenance, and good drainage. It is important to choose high-quality artificial turf specifically designed for dog use, as some low-quality materials can pose health risks if dogs ingest or chew on the grass fibers.

Safety and Instruction:

Dog parks should have clear signage and instructions to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors. These may include guidelines such as:

- **Leash Rules:** Clearly stating whether dogs should be off-leash or on-leash within the park (2000 sqft park area require at least 4Nos. Least Post)
- **Waste Disposal:** Providing designated areas for dog waste disposal and urging owners to clean up after their dogs. (2000 sqft park area require 2Nos. Dog Waste Station)
- **Dog Behavior:** Encouraging responsible dog ownership and promoting proper dog behavior, such as discouraging aggressive behavior and ensuring dogs are up to date on vaccinations.
- **Supervision:** Advising owners to supervise their dogs at all times and not leaving them unattended.
- **Park Rules:** Establishing rules regarding park hours, age restrictions, and any specific regulations pertaining to the park.

It is generally advisable to have plantations and landscaping outside the dog park fence rather than as obstructions inside the park, especially if there are agility equipment and other structures present. Here are a few reasons for this:

Safety and Accessibility: Having clear open space inside the dog park is important for the safety and accessibility of both dogs and their owners. If there are obstructions such as plantations and landscaping within the park, it can create obstacles or barriers that may interfere with the dogs' movement and hinder their ability to use the agility equipment properly. It can also make it challenging for owners to supervise their dogs effectively.

Unobstructed Play Area: Dogs require a spacious and unobstructed play area to run, chase, and engage in various activities. By keeping the inside of the dog park clear, it allows for free movement and encourages dogs to utilize the available space fully. This is particularly important in parks with agility equipment where dogs need sufficient room to navigate and perform exercises safely.

Maintenance and Hygiene: Landscaping and plantations inside the dog park may require regular maintenance, such as trimming, watering, and cleanup of fallen leaves or branches.

This maintenance can disrupt the use of the park or create additional obstacles for both dogs and owners. It can also contribute to hygiene concerns if plant debris accumulates on the agility equipment or in the play area.

Design and Aesthetics: The design of a dog park aims to provide a functional and visually appealing space for dogs and their owners. By focusing on incorporating landscaping and plantations outside the fence, you can create an inviting and well-maintained entrance area that enhances the overall aesthetics of the park without interfering with the activities and equipment inside.

By situating the plantations and landscaping outside the dog park fence, you can strike a balance between providing a pleasing environment for visitors and ensuring a safe and open space for dogs to exercise, play, and interact with agility equipment.

In addition to addressing the issue of unwanted fence area and prioritizing space for dog agility equipment, you can also suggest incorporating the following features into the dog park design:

Walking Area: Propose the creation of a walking path around the perimeter of the dog park, utilizing the space along the fence. This path can provide dog owners with a designated area for leisurely walks while their dogs play. Consider using a durable and dog-friendly paving material, such as asphalt or concrete, that can withstand heavy use and is easy to clean.

Benches for Sitting: Suggest the inclusion of benches strategically placed along the walking path and within the park. These benches can provide dog owners with comfortable seating options while supervising their pets or socializing with other dog owners. Choose benches made from materials that are weather-resistant and easy to maintain, such as metal or recycled plastic.

Water Facility: Advocate for the installation of a water facility within the dog park. This can include water fountains or accessible water bowls for dogs to stay hydrated during their playtime. It's important to ensure that the water source is designed with dog safety in mind and is easily accessible and maintained. (2000 sqft park area require at least 4Nos. Dog Water Stand)

Electricity for Night Lighting: Recommend the provision of electricity within the dog park to enable nighttime lighting. Adequate lighting can enhance safety and visibility during evening hours, allowing dog owners to continue enjoying the park after dark. This can be achieved through the installation of light fixtures along the walking path and within the park area.

Waste Disposal Stations: Suggest the placement of waste disposal stations throughout the dog park. These stations should include waste bag dispensers and designated containers for dog owners to dispose of their pet's waste responsibly. Placing these stations at convenient locations encourages cleanliness and makes it easier for dog owners to clean up after their dogs. (2000 sqft park area require 2Nos. Dog Waste Station).

Having plantations and landscaping behind a dog park fence can provide various benefits such as visual appeal, privacy, shade, and environmental advantages. However, careful consideration should be given to plant selection, maintenance requirements, safety, and ensuring unobstructed visibility within the park. However, there are a few considerations to keep in mind:

Maintenance: Plantations and landscaping require regular maintenance, including watering, pruning, and upkeep. Ensure that the chosen plants are suitable for the local climate and can withstand the wear and tear of a dog park environment.

Safety: Select plants that are non-toxic to dogs and avoid those with thorns or sharp edges that could potentially harm them if they come into contact with the vegetation. It's important to research and consult with experts or landscapers knowledgeable about dog-friendly plants.

Accessibility and Visibility: While landscaping can enhance the park's appearance, it's essential to maintain clear lines of sight and ensure that the plantations and landscaping don't obstruct visibility for owners who need to keep an eye on their dogs.

Visual Appeal: Plantations and landscaping can enhance the aesthetic appeal of a dog park, making it more visually pleasing for park visitors, including dog owners. The presence of greenery and natural elements can create a pleasant atmosphere for both humans and dogs.

Privacy and Noise Reduction: Depending on the location and surroundings of the dog park, plantations and landscaping can provide privacy and act as a buffer zone, reducing noise and distractions from outside the park. This can create a more peaceful and enjoyable environment for dogs and their owners.

Shade and Shelter: Trees and well-placed landscaping can offer shade and shelter for dogs, protecting them from excessive sun exposure or inclement weather. This can be particularly beneficial during hot summer months or in areas with limited shade.

Environmental Benefits: Plantations and landscaping contribute to the overall environmental health by improving air quality, reducing erosion, and providing habitat for wildlife. They also add to the biodiversity of the area and can create a more sustainable and ecologically balanced space.

Determining the exact number of dogs that can be allowed in a 2000 sqft area of a dog park is challenging, as it depends on various factors. However, to provide a general guideline, the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP) suggests a maximum capacity of 1 dog per 100-150 sqft of park space. Using this guideline, we can estimate the potential number of dogs:

2000 sqft / 100 sqft per dog = 20 dogs

2000 sqft / 150 sqft per dog = 13.33 dogs (rounded down to 13 dogs)

Based on this approximation, a 2000 sqft dog park could accommodate around 13 to 20 dogs. However, it's important to note that this estimation is a guideline, and regulations, park design, and the behavior of the dogs should also be taken into account to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all dogs and their owners.

SPACE REQUIRE FOR AGILITY EQUIPMENT -

If one piece of agility equipment covers 100 sqft of space, leaving a running space of 5 feet in the front and 5 feet in the back, we can calculate how many pieces of agility equipment can be installed in a 2000 sqft area of the dog park.

To calculate the usable space for agility equipment, we subtract the running space from the total area:

$$2000 \text{ sqft} - (5 \text{ feet} + 100 \text{ sqft} + 5 \text{ feet}) = 2000 \text{ sqft} - 110 \text{ sqft} = 1890 \text{ sqft}$$

The remaining 1890 sqft is available for placing agility equipment.

To determine the number of pieces of agility equipment that can fit, we divide the usable space by the area covered by one piece of equipment:

$$1890 \text{ sqft} / 100 \text{ sqft per equipment} = 18.9 \text{ pieces of agility equipment}$$

Based on this calculation, it is possible to fit approximately 18 or 19 pieces of agility equipment in a 2000 sqft area, considering the dimensions and the required running space.

Dog Behavior: The behavior of the dogs using the park is crucial. Some dogs may be more active and playful, requiring additional space to run and engage in activities. On the other hand, some dogs may be more reserved and prefer smaller, quieter spaces. It's essential to observe the behavior of the dogs using the park and ensure that there is enough space to accommodate their needs.

Separation of Dog Sizes: If the park includes separate areas for small and large dogs, the capacity may vary for each section. Generally, smaller dog areas can accommodate more dogs in the given space compared to larger dog areas due to the size difference.

Safety and Comfort: It's important to prioritize the safety and comfort of the dogs. Overcrowding can lead to stress, aggression, and accidents. Ensure that there is enough space for dogs to move freely and engage in activities without feeling overwhelmed. Monitor the park closely to ensure that the number of dogs present does not exceed a safe and manageable limit.

Time of Day and Usage Patterns: The number of dogs that can comfortably utilize the park may vary depending on the time of day and patterns of park usage. During peak hours, when the park is busier, it may be necessary to limit the number of dogs to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Monitoring usage patterns and adjusting the number of dogs allowed accordingly can help maintain a balanced environment.

Dog Park Rules and Regulations: The specific rules and regulations of the dog park should guide the capacity determination. These rules may include limitations on the number of dogs per owner, restrictions on specific dog breeds, or guidelines regarding behavior and interactions between dogs. Adhering to these rules helps ensure a harmonious and safe environment for all park users.

Monitoring and Supervision: Adequate monitoring and supervision by dog owners or park staff are vital to maintaining a safe and controlled environment. Even if the park has a set capacity, it's important to ensure that the number of dogs present is manageable and that any signs of aggression or unsafe behavior can be addressed promptly.

Feedback and Adjustments: Regularly seeking feedback from park users and making adjustments based on their experiences can help refine the capacity limits of the dog park. If overcrowding or other issues arise, it may be necessary to reassess the number of dogs allowed or make modifications to the park layout to better accommodate user needs.

Remember, these factors provide general guidance, but it's crucial to consider local regulations, dog sizes, behavior, and safety when determining the appropriate number of dogs for a 2000 sqft dog park. Always prioritize the well-being and enjoyment of both dogs and their owners within the available space.

Dog NGOs can play a crucial role in advocating for improvements in dog parks that lack essential amenities.

Filing Complaints: The Dog NGO can file formal complaints with relevant authorities such as local government departments responsible for parks and recreation, animal welfare agencies, or health departments. These complaints can outline the deficiencies in the dog park facilities and request immediate action to rectify the situation.

Legal Action for Negligence: If the lack of essential facilities poses a significant risk to the health and safety of dogs and their owners, the Dog NGO may consider legal action against the organization responsible for maintaining the dog park. This could involve filing a lawsuit for negligence, arguing that the organization failed to provide a safe environment for dogs and neglected their duty of care.

Violation of Animal Welfare Laws: The Dog NGO can investigate whether the absence of water stations, waste disposal facilities, and leash posts violates any local or state animal welfare laws or regulations. If such violations are identified, the NGO can take legal action to enforce compliance with these laws and ensure that the dog park meets the required standards.

Lobbying for Policy Changes: The Dog NGO can engage in advocacy efforts to lobby local authorities or lawmakers to implement regulations mandating the inclusion of essential facilities in all dog parks. This could involve drafting proposals for new ordinances or amendments to existing laws to address the issue comprehensively.

Public Awareness Campaigns: The Dog NGO can launch public awareness campaigns to educate dog owners and the community about the importance of providing proper facilities in dog parks. This could include distributing informational materials, organizing community events, or leveraging social media platforms to raise awareness and garner support for improving dog park amenities.

Here are a few prominent Dog NGOs in India :

People for Animals (PFA): People for Animals is one of the largest animal welfare organizations in India, founded by Maneka Gandhi. While not exclusively focused on dogs, PFA works on various animal welfare issues, including rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, and advocacy.

Blue Cross of India: Blue Cross of India is a Chennai-based animal welfare organization that provides various services for dogs, including rescue, sheltering, adoption, and advocacy for animal rights.

Friendicoes SECA (Society for the Eradication of Cruelty to Animals): Friendicoes is a New Delhi-based animal welfare organization that operates shelters and rescue services for dogs and other animals. They also conduct sterilization and vaccination programs and work on advocacy and education initiatives.

People for Animals, Bangalore (PFA Bangalore): This branch of People for Animals focuses on animal welfare activities in Bangalore, including rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, and community outreach programs for dogs and other animals.

Animal Aid Unlimited: While primarily focused on street animals, Animal Aid Unlimited, based in Udaipur, Rajasthan, also provides rescue and rehabilitation services for injured and abandoned dogs, including medical care, shelter, and adoption.

Karuna Animal Welfare Association of Karnataka: Karuna, based in Bangalore, focuses on the welfare of all animals, including dogs. They provide rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption services, as well as conduct sterilization and vaccination drives.

Hope and Animal Trust: This organization, located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, works towards the welfare of stray dogs and other animals through rescue, medical treatment, adoption, and community education programs.

World For All Animal Care and Adoptions: Based in Mumbai, World For All is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption of stray animals, including dogs. They also conduct awareness campaigns and promote responsible pet ownership.

Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD): WSD, headquartered in Mumbai, focuses on the welfare of stray dogs through sterilization, vaccination, adoption, and community education programs. They also run a dedicated helpline for animal emergencies.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA): SPCAs operate in various cities across India and work on animal welfare issues, including dogs. They provide rescue, medical treatment, sheltering, and adoption services, as well as enforce animal welfare laws.

These organizations, along with numerous others, play a crucial role in advocating for the welfare of dogs and other animals in India, providing essential services, and raising awareness about responsible pet ownership and animal rights.

Disadvantage of using material like HDPE Plastic, HDPE Rubber and Aluminum structure - by itself might not be ideal for dog agility equipment in the summer and rainy season due to the following reasons:

HDPE PLASTIC MATERIAL -

Heat absorption: Like most plastics, HDPE plastic absorbs heat from sunlight. This can make the surface uncomfortably hot for dog paws, potentially leading to burns.

Slipperiness: When wet, HDPE plastic can become quite slippery, increasing the risk of falls and injuries for dogs, especially on ramps, weaves, or platforms.

Discomfort: Solid HDPE can be uncomfortable for dogs to stand or walk on for extended periods.

HDPE RUBBER MATS -

Maintenance: While relatively low-maintenance compared to some other flooring materials, HDPE rubber mats still require regular cleaning to prevent the buildup of dirt, debris, and bacteria, especially in outdoor settings.

Odor Retention: Rubber mats can retain odors over time, particularly in areas where dogs urinate or defecate, requiring thorough cleaning and occasional deodorizing to maintain a pleasant environment.

Potential Allergies: Some dogs may have allergies or sensitivities to rubber materials, which could lead to skin irritation or other health issues with prolonged exposure.

Installation Challenges: Installing HDPE rubber mats properly may require specialized tools and expertise, and ensuring a level surface can be challenging in uneven terrain.

Durability Concerns: While HDPE rubber mats are generally durable, they can still be susceptible to damage from dog sharp nails or heavy use over time, necessitating occasional repairs or replacements.

Heat Retention: While HDPE rubber mats are heat-resistant, they can still retain heat, making them uncomfortably warm for dogs to walk on during hot summer days, particularly if exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods.

Lifespan - High-quality HDPE rubber mats (1/2 inch to 3/4 inch thickness): 3-5 years with proper use and maintenance. Lower quality rubber mats or thinner mats: 1-2 years, as they are more susceptible to wear and tear.

Aluminum Drawbacks:

Handling Weight: This might be relevant for jump standards that need to hold heavier jump bars for larger dog classes.

Durability and Strength: While some high-strength aluminum alloys exist, they might not be readily available or cost-effective for dog agility equipment compared to readily available mild steel.

Even high-strength aluminum might not match the overall strength and weight-bearing capacity of mild steel for dog agility applications.

Stability: Aluminium is sligher in weight compare to MS. The heavier weight of mild steel contributes to better overall stability of the equipment. This is crucial for structures like A-frames, dog walks, and seesaws, where dogs need a firm platform to navigate.

We strongly recommend Mild Steel (MS) would be a better choice compared to aluminum when prioritizing durability, stability, strength, and handling heavier weights

The combination of mild steel with powder coating, treated pine wood, and the coatings you described can be a good choice for some dog agility equipment, but there are some things to consider:

Mild Steel:

Strength and Durability: Provides good overall strength and durability for supporting jumps, A-frames, dog walks, and seesaws.

Powder Coating: Offers a protective layer against rust and corrosion, especially important for outdoor equipment.

Treated Pine Wood:

Cost-effective: A more affordable option compared to hardwoods.

Lightweight: Lighter than steel, making some elements easier to handle and move.

Treated for Durability: Preserves the wood and protects against rot and insect damage.

Epoxy and PU Coatings:

Enhanced Grip: Epoxy filling and PU coating can improve the surface grip for better traction, especially on platforms and walkways.

Protection: PU coating offers additional protection against moisture and wear.

Good for: Jump standards, A-frame frames, dog walk platforms (with proper support) and tunnels.

Important Information Regarding Products Information and Design in our Catalogue -

Please note:

The designs, specifications, and information in this catalog are subject to change without prior notice. There may be slight variations from the color samples, listed specifications, or design updates. We offer standard color options on pine wood for specific equipment, but these color combinations may vary with changes in design and catalog updates. Most modifications are ongoing enhancements for product improvement. Please be aware that the colors on the wood will naturally fade over time.

Our Sporting Dog Agility Equipment is designed to support specific dog breeds, with certain equipment capable of handling dogs weighing up to 80 kg, such as the Bridge Climb, Walk Ramp (Large), Doggie Tunnel (Large), and Hill Climb (Large). Other equipment is designed to support a maximum weight of 45 kg, except for jumping equipment.



Important Information for Dog Park Architects and Landscapers to consider these factors when designing and maintaining dog-friendly spaces. Kapspets AAA prioritizes the safety of all dogs in dog parks. We kindly request your attention to the following:

Kapspets AAA is not responsible for any dog poisonings that may occur due to the ingestion of toxic plants within the dog park landscape design.

Dog Park Safety: Certain plants are highly poisonous to dogs and can cause serious illness or death if ingested. We strongly recommend excluding these plants from your dog park landscape designs.

Resources for Safe Plant Selection:

Poisonous Plants for Dogs: A comprehensive list of plants toxic to dogs can be found at <https://www.aspcare.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/dogs-plant-list>

Dog Behavior: Dogs are naturally curious and may explore their environment by sniffing, chewing, or digging. Dogs may unintentionally trample plants, break stems, or dig up landscaping features. It's essential for dog park designers and landscapers to be aware of these risks and take appropriate measures to mitigate them.

Durable Plant Choices: Dog parks experience high traffic and activity. Choose plants that are resilient to occasional trampling or digging by dogs.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR DOG SAFETY

We can create enjoyable and healthy environments for our canine companions. Kapspets AAA is committed to promoting dog safety and appreciates your cooperation in this effort.

