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### **Dog Parks and Play**

I know many people think it is wonderful for dogs to play with their own kind. They go to dog parks and let their dogs run free with neighbor dogs running freely.

But especially with breeds like the GSD, that is not advisable.. It can lead to dog fights, and dominant behavior, rebelliousness, and possibly your dog being hurt. Play can turn to dominance fast. And not only can the dogs be hurt, but the people who try to break up the fight. Dog bite puncture wounds can be nasty.

YOU ARE THEIR PACK AND THEY ARE COMPLETELY SATISFIED BEING IN THE PACK. Look in nature. Wolves don't go play with other packs.

To me dog parks are a NO NO NO. They are unhealthy environments for your dog and your relationship with them. They need to focus on YOU. You are their world, their pack leader, master, and best friend. You don't want them to focus on playing with other dogs. If you do, their will come a day when you are on your bike or inlines and another "friend" (dog) goes by and your dogs decides it is time to play.....and your will have a great fall.

Play is with you and the pack, running, chasing balls, swimming, just hangin' with their "homies". This is their world. Dogs aren't that complicated. We are.

When in the house, their play should be chewing on bones, laying down, and chilling. No running, chasing, tugging, etc. If they do, they will be poorly behaved and certainly break things and embarrass you with visitors.

Please practice safe playing habits with your German Shepherd dog.