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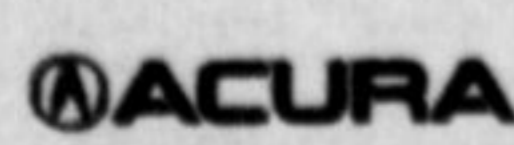
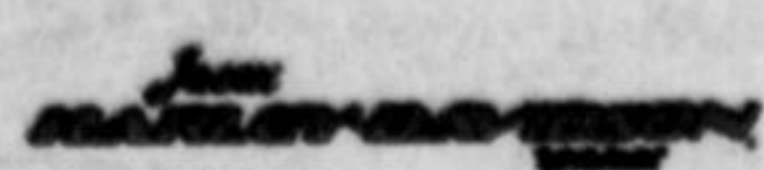
*showcasing*

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# OSPCA launches investigation

Clearview's Kingsford Gardens leash-free dog park where he played with couple of other dogs.

Jacob, who recounted the experience because English is not his father's first language, said everything was going fine until another person arrived and released three large dogs into the park.

"He said they immediately pounced on Russel. They got him by the neck," said Jacob.

"My dad ran over there as fast as he could and had to get in there and pull the dogs away. When he grabbed our dog he said he noticed right away that Russel had gone limp."

Another dog park patron drove Malecki and Russel to a nearby veterinarian, but Russel's injuries were too extensive and he died a short time later.

Jacob noted the little Chorkie's death has had a real impact on his family.

"The last few weeks you can really feel the emptiness in the house."

Jacob is calling on those who make use of leash-free parks to think of others and keep their dogs at home if they know their dogs do not do well around other dogs.

"We just don't want to see anyone else get hurt," he said.

Laura Mackasey, an agent with Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), said she is aware of the Kingsford

Gardens incident and noted an investigation is underway.

The Oakville and Milton Humane Society is reminding residents they are responsible for their dog's behavior and is offering numerous tips for those attending off-leash dog parks. They include:

- visiting a leash-free dog park multiple times without your dog to watch the dog interactions and how the people in the off-leash area behave. Residents who see something they don't like are advised to try another off-leash area
  - keeping young children out of the off-leash area, as some dogs have no exposure to young children in their everyday lives
  - watching to see what dogs are in the off-leash park before entering. If things appear rowdy or there is a dog that is bullying other dogs, come back at another time
  - being aware of a dog's body language and behavior. A stressed or fearful dog that feels it cannot escape the attentions of other dogs can lead to an aggressive situation
  - keeping under socialized dogs out of the off-leash park. This is not the place to go to expose them to other dogs
  - avoid bringing food or toys into the park
  - avoid playing fetch in the park
  - visiting an off-leash park with a small dog area for those with small dogs.
- For many more tips, visit [insidehalton.com](http://insidehalton.com).



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