



Pets at Cape Cod National Seashore



Pets are great companions for enjoying the out-of-doors. At numerous locations in Cape Cod National Seashore, people and their pets can experience the remote beauty and tranquility of this fragile place. Pets must be on a 6' leash at all times, and important restrictions apply.

Where leashed pets are permitted:

❖ Cape Cod National Seashore ocean beaches *except* as follows:

During the summer, pets are not permitted on life guard-protected beaches. Passing through to unprotected areas of the beach is permitted.

During shorebird nesting periods, pets are not permitted in posted locations. Passing through these areas is prohibited.

❖ all fire roads within Cape Cod National Seashore (depicted on topographic maps available at park and local bookstores);

❖ Head of the Meadow Bicycle Trail year round and Province Lands Bicycle Trail, November 1 to April 30;

❖ fresh water ponds within Cape Cod National Seashore (beaches and water), October 16 through May 14;

❖ West and Sunset Horse Trails in the Province Lands.

Where pets are not permitted:

- ❖ designated nature trails at any time because they affect wildlife;
- ❖ bicycle trails not listed in the “pets are permitted” section of this brochure as previously described;
- ❖ fresh water ponds within Cape Cod National Seashore (beaches and water), May 15 through October 15;
- ❖ areas where certain shorebirds nest, especially the piping plover, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Birds may abandon nests when they perceive threats or are disturbed. These areas are posted seasonally when prohibition is in effect.
- ❖ in areas designated as “protected” by lifeguards during the summer months. You may walk your leashed pet through these areas to enjoy walks on “non-protected” stretches of beach, beyond the red signs.

Remember

- ❖ Pets must be leash-controlled to prevent them from disturbing people and other pets, from harassing wildlife, and for their own safety.
- ❖ Pick up your pet’s fecal matter. It is unpleasant for others to encounter and degrades the park’s ecosystems.
- ❖ Protection rangers enforce the park’s pet policy for the benefit of visitors, and the seashore’s unique environment. Failure to leash your pet may result in a fine.
- ❖ Town pet regulations apply to town-managed beaches and property within the national seashore boundary.



For more information contact: Salt Pond Visitor Center - (508) 255 - 3421
Province Lands Visitor Center
(508) 487 - 1256.

Remain on designated trails to reduce exposure to disease-carrying insects, poison ivy, and other risks. Observe trail conditions while walking, and be aware of tree roots, stumps, and other naturally-occurring hazards.