Pets in the Parks

Protecting People, Pets, & Parks

For the safety of visitors and all animals (domestic and wild), and for the continued protection of your parklands, pets—with the exception of guide animals—are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings.

What’s the Harm?

- Many well-intended dog lovers have learned—the hard way—that poison oak is abundant in the redwoods. Along with that slobbery tennis ball, an unleashed pet may retrieve poison oak’s toxic oil. You risk the exposure of your family, your car, even your home, as the rash producing oil can remain active for up to one year.
- Dead salmon, found along riverbanks throughout the parks, can be extremely toxic to dogs.
- Bears and mountain lions see pets as prey, endangering you and your pet.
- Wild animals carry diseases that can be transferred to your pet through dead carcasses and poop (which most pets love to investigate).
- Even normally well-behaved pets can become stressed by unfamiliar surroundings.

Places for Pets

Redwood National and State Parks

Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length, under owner control, and without creating disturbance to visitors and wildlife are allowed only:

- Within all designated, road-accessible campgrounds.
- At designated picnic areas, parking areas, and public roads.
- On Crescent, Gold Bluffs, Hidden, and Freshwater beaches (excluding dune habitat).

See the reverse side of this brochure for a map of suggested locations in the parks.

Nearby Public Locations

Pets under your control are allowed at the following locations (be sure to inquire locally for specific regulations), from north to south:

- Smith River National Recreation Area (pets allowed on trails; must be leashed in all developed campgrounds and picnic areas): west of Crescent City, Calif. via U.S. 199.
- Public beaches in Crescent City, Calif.
- Moonstone Beach: Westhaven Drive exit off U.S. 101, just south of Trinidad, Calif.
- Clam Beach County Park: Clam Beach exit off U.S. 101, near McKinleyville, Calif.
- Arcata Community Forest in Arcata, Calif.
From north to south, we suggest the following locations for experiencing the wonders of the parks and surrounding areas with your pets:

**Myrtle Creek Trail (Smith River NRA)**
Trailhead: ~1 mile east of Hiouchi, Calif. near junction of U.S. 199 and South Fork Road.

**Craig’s Creek Trail (Smith River NRA)**
Trailhead: ~½ mile south of U.S. 199 on South Fork Road (before 2nd bridge and junction with Douglas Park Road/Howland Hill Road).

**Jedediah Smith Campground and Day Use Area**
10 miles east of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 199.

**Walker Road**
~3 miles west of Hiouchi, Calif. or 7 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 199.

**Howland Hill Road**
10 miles, one way from Crescent City, Calif. to junction with U.S. 199 near Hiouchi, Calif.

**Crescent Beach Day Use Area**
~3 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101, exit Enderts Beach Road and continue ¼ mile south to day use and picnic area.

**Wilson Creek Day Use Area**
~14½ south of Crescent City, Calif. on U.S. 101.

**Alder Camp Road**
1 mile south of Klamath, Calif. on U.S. 101, exit Klamath Beach Road/Coastal Drive and continue ~½ mile to Alder Camp Road.

**Cal-Barrel Road**
6 miles north of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101, exit Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway and continue 1½ miles to Cal-Barrel Road.

**Elk Prairie Campground and Day Use Area**
6 miles north of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101, exit Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway and continue 1 mile to turn-off for visitor center. Follow signs to campground and day use area.

**Gold Bluffs Beach and Campground**
2½ miles north of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101, exit Davison Road and continue 5½ miles to beach and campground.

**Redwood Creek picnic area and Freshwater Lagoon spit**
Picnic area is 2 miles south of Orick, Calif. on U.S. 101; continue <1 mile south to roadside parking on spit.