

Rocky Mountain



Pets



Pets and owners have a special bond. But a national park is not always the best place for pets. Rocky Mountain National Park is a designated natural area, and its purpose is to preserve and protect the park’s natural conditions, scenic beauty, and wildlife.

PETS ARE PROHIBITED ON ALL ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TRAILS, TUNDRA & MEADOWS

Where Pets Can Go

Leashed pets may accompany you only in the following areas:

- Along established roads or in parking areas
- In established campgrounds and picnic areas

Pets must be kept on leashes no longer than six feet. Pets may not make noise that impacts visitors or wildlife. Pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles.

Why Can't I Have My Dog on Trails?

- Rocky is a wilderness. Your pet could become prey for wildlife like coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and Great Horned Owls.
- Dogs are predators that can chase, scare, and transmit diseases. Dogs leave behind a ‘predator’ scent. This scent can linger, disrupting the native animals this park protects.

- Dogs can bite humans, and some people are uncomfortable around dogs. Park visitors should be able to enjoy native wildlife in their natural environment without disruption from other visitors’ pets.
- Pets may dig or trample fragile vegetation.

When Your Pet is Here, You Must Follow Park Rules

You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if the animal becomes a public nuisance. Pets may not be left tied to vehicles, trees, or other objects.

Pets, more than humans, are susceptible to overheating. Even in the mountains on mild

days, temperatures inside vehicles rise quickly, and pets left in vehicles can overheat and die. A cracked window provides little relief.

Doggy daycare, boarding facilities and veterinary clinics are available in nearby communities.

Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals

Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park.

Emotional support (“therapy animals”) are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may not access trails or

other non-motorized areas.

Pet owners violating park regulations will be cited, fined, and/or issued a mandatory appearance before the United States Magistrate Court in Denver.

**Hiking Alternatives
Outside
Rocky Mountain
National Park**

If you'd like to hike with your pets, there are nearby trails *outside* Rocky Mountain National Park, including trails in Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, multi-use trails around the Town of Estes Park, and Larimer County Open Space areas. Always check for local conditions.

USFS Boulder Ranger District, Boulder: 303-541-2500 www.fs.usda.gov/arp
 USFS Canyon Lakes Ranger District, Ft. Collins: 970-295-6700
 USFS Sulphur Ranger District, Granby: 970-887-4100

Trail	Trailhead Location	Distance One-Way (or loop)	Brief Description	Dog Etiquette
East of Rocky Mountain National Park				
Buchanan Pass Trail	West end of Camp Dick Campground, turnoff at Peaceful Valley, 24 mi S of Estes Park	Red Deer Lake 6.9 mi. Buchanan Pass 9.1 mi	Trail parallels north side of the middle St. Vrain Creek. Many trail intersections.	Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6'
Crosier Mountain	3 trailheads near Glen Haven	3.9 mil from trailhead in downtown Glen Haven	Panoramic views from summit	Dogs can be off leash but leashes recommended due to wildlife
Hermit Park	6 miles east of Estes Park on Hwy 36	2.5 miles of existing trail	Great views. Fee required.	Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6'
Indian Peaks Wilderness	Brainard Lake, 30 miles south of Estes Park	Various, including Lake Isabelle (2 mi), Blue Lake (2.5 mi), Mt. Audubon (3.75 mi)	Many spectacular lakes and peaks are accessed from this beautiful area. Fee required.	Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6' in wilderness area
Lake Estes Trail/ Dog Park	Trail has several starting points around the lake	3.75 miles	Hard surfaced trail encircles Lake Estes. Dog park on Community Drive by the lake.	Dogs must be on leash on the trail
Lily Mountain	Trailhead parking along Hwy 7, 6 mi south of Estes Park. This trail is <i>not</i> accessible from Lily Lake.	1.9 miles	Panoramic views from summit. Elevation gain is 1,006 feet.	Dogs may be off leash but must be under voice control and not harass wildlife or hikers
Lion Gulch / Homestead Meadows	8 mi E of Estes Pk on Hwy 36 CHECK WITH THE USFS for CURRENT CONDITIONS (970) 295-6700	3.4 miles	Trail accesses an historic area where eight homesteads were established 1889-1923	Dogs can be off leash but must be under voice control and not harass wildlife or hikers
West of Rocky Mountain National Park				
Cascade Mountain, Bowen Pass, Bowen Lake Loop	US Hwy 34 to County Rd 4. Take Cty Rd 4 for 3 miles. Turn right at fork/FSR 120 to the North Supply Trailhead.	15 mile loop. Bowen Lake is 4 miles one-way from the trailhead.	Trail begins as ATV-accessible road. Several small stream crossings. Great views.	Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6' in the wilderness area
Grand Lake Recreation District's Colorado River Trail by the Grand Lake Golf Course/Nordic Center	US Hwy 34 to County Road 48/ Golf Course Road (just north of Grand Lake). Turn west and go 1 mile to parking on left at trailhead.	Their Colorado River Trail (summer) is 5.2 miles round-trip + some smaller connecting trails. Winter's Way dog trails (winter) is 5.5 mi/4 km.	Summer scenic picnic area and loop by Colorado River at the end of the trail. Winter's Way dog trails are easy trails.	Dogs may be under voice control if they play well with others. In winter, dogs must stay on designated dog trails. There is a lot of wildlife in the area including moose.
Indian Peaks Wilderness Area	U.S. Hwy 34 to County Road 6/ Forest Service Road 125/ Arapaho Bay Road. Follow this road for 10 miles east to the Monarch Lake parking area.	Access beautiful lakes and peaks, including the Monarch Lake Loop Trail (4 mi), Crater Lake (7.25 mi - 10,345').	Easy loop around Monarch Lake is popular year-round. The jagged and spectacular Indian Peaks predominate. Fee required.	Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6' in the wilderness area