Outdoors with Dogs In the Tucson Area

Saguaro National Park

Pets are welcome in parking areas, along roads, and in picnic areas (with the exception of Mam-A-Gah, a trail site) at Saguaro National Park. Pets must be kept on a leash not more than 6 feet long, at all times.

Pets may not be taken on any trail, off trails, or in the visitor centers at any time. Service animals accompanying a disabled person are exempt from these rules and may go anywhere their owners are permitted to go.

Pets must not be left unattended, in or outside of a vehicle at any time. Due to Arizona's extreme climate (even winter sun can be deadly in a closed car), the state has enacted strict laws to protect you and your pet from this danger.

See the next page for more SAFETY TIPS for you and your pet!

Why Not on Trails?

There are several reasons why dogs and other pets are not allowed on trails within Saguaro National Park.

Safety for the dog : many threats exist within the park : cactus spines, thorny brush, rattlesnakes and scorpions, and open mine shafts (fenced from humans but accessible to animals). Heat stroke has led to death of otherwise healthy animals in the desert . Dogs in unfamiliar surroundings may not drink even if offered.

Safety and consideration of other trail users : in areas where dogs are allowed on the trail, hikers have been threatened and bitten even by friendly dogs and those on a leash. Some people hike in national parks to avoid dogs.

Impacts on wildlife: native animals can be displaced and disturbed by the scent of dogs (felt to be predators.) Coyotes and foxes can catch common pet diseases such as parvo; wildlife diseases can pass in the other

For the same reasons, dogs are not allowed on trails in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness and Sabino Canyon areas of the Coronado National Forest, or on trails and picnic areas of the Tucson Mountain County Park.

Good Dog Walks at Saguaro National Park

At Saguaro East: the Mica View Road is a less-used graded route that you can start at the picnic area or scenic loop drive turn-off. This provides a trail-like one mile round trip through a lush cactus landscape for you and your pet.

On the paved scenic road, try the stretch from North Cactus Forest trailhead to Loma Verde trailhead. This route is less strenuous and has good sight distances for the safety of you and cyclists / motorists.

At Saguaro West: Golden Gate Road is a less-used graded route that you can start at Sendero-Esperanza trailhead. The scenery here is as good as any in the park!

Or, try the stretch from Signal Hill picnic area out to the scenic drive, watching for two way-traffic.

Since the paved roads in the west district are heavily used by commuters, it is not recommended to walk on those routes.

Trail Hiking and Leash-free Opportunities:

On Federal Lands

Dogs are allowed on a leash in most areas of the **Coronado National Forest.** (Areas north and northwest of Tucson in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness and Sabino Canyon are *exceptions.*)

Excellent hiking is north of the Catalina Highway on Mount Lemmon, in Redington Pass, Madera Canyon, and Gardener Canyon. Or try the Arizona National Scenic Trail through the Rincon Valley south of Saguaro National Park.

Forest Service: (520) 670-4552

Pets are allowed on the **Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge** and must be under the control of their owner at all times.

Fish & Wildlife: (520) 823-4251

Leashed dogs are allowed on **Bureau of Land Management** property. The Las Cienegas National Conservation Area north of Sonoita is a favorite area for hiking with dogs, as it is open country with fewer cactus plants and cooler temperatures.

BLM: (520) 722-4289

State Park Areas

Dogs are allowed in many areas if leashed. Catalina State Park on Tucson's northwest side is the nearest state park and has a fine trail system with scenic stands of.

Saguaros and a modern, full-service campground

Arizona State Parks:
(520) 542 -4174

County & City Parks

Dogs are allowed on leash in most **Pima County Parks**. Dogs are **NOT** allowed in Tucson Mountain Park except at the Gilbert Ray campground. Leash-free areas are available at a number of parks including McDonald Park (east side,) Brandi Fenton Park (central,) and Star Valley Park (west side.)

Pima County Parks:
(520)877-6000

Dogs are allowed on leash in all **Tucson City Parks**. Leash-free areas are available at a number of parks including Udall Park (east side,) Gene C. Reid Park (central,) and Christopher Columbus Park (west side.)

Tucson Parks: (520)877-6000

Pedestrian trails along Santa Cruz, Rillito, and Pantano Rivers form a 110- mile route called The Loop, great for leashed dog walking.

Protect Your Pet !

Where allowed on trail, dogs are always safer on a leash. Negative encounters with wildlife, thorny plants, and other hikers are avoided with a six-foot leash.

Your dog must be in good physical condition and able to tolerate heat and rocky terrain. Carry plenty of water for you AND your dog.

Never leave pets in a vehicle – temperatures can reach over 150 degrees in minutes. Leaving pets unattended, in or out of a vehicle, invites fines or tragedy.

Always watch for hikers, horse riders, mountain bikes, and vehicles. Be alert for wildlife, especially venomous snakes and scorpions.

Clean up pest waste everywhere you visit. If you follow the rules of the area, others will continue to enjoy hiking with their dogs in the future.

In case of **lost pets**, contact the area you are visiting or **Pima County Animal Care Center** (520) 743-7550 or **Humane Society of Southern Arizona** (520) 327-6088.