

More Information

In the Campground

- Pets not confined inside a camping unit must be leashed and may not be left unattended at the campsite for more than 30 minutes.
- Campground quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Pets must be confined inside the owner's camping unit during these hours.
- Do not leave pet food outside overnight. It may attract insects or wildlife to your campsite.

Around the Park

Pets are allowed in most areas of the park. Some areas where pets are not allowed include:



Buildings



Beaches



Food Service Areas



Playgrounds



Cabins



Restroom Facilities



Swimming Areas

Contact Information

Department of Environmental Protection
Florida State Parks

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

(850) 245-2157

FloridaStateParks.org



Large
Print

Alternate format
available upon
request at any
Florida State Park

 Printed on
Recycled Paper

Revised 08/2016

Pets in Parks



FLORIDA
State Parks
...the Real FloridaSM



Welcome

The Florida Park Service welcomes visitors who bring their pets to the parks. If you are one of those visitors, please carefully review this publication. It contains important information to help ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment and help protect park resources.

If you need additional information or have questions, please speak to a Park Ranger, visit FloridaStateParks.org or call the information line at (850) 245-2157.

Several parks have specific rules regarding pet-friendly areas. Please contact the park before your visit, or speak with a Park Ranger during your visit, for park specific information.

What About Service Animals?



According to the ADA, service animals are “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.”

We welcome service animals to enjoy all public areas of our parks as long as the service animal is accompanied by a visitor with a disability and is acting in a working capacity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pet?

- Pets are animals which are easily tamed or domesticated and kept primarily for companionship.
- Captive wild species, whether native or nonnative, are not considered to be pets.

Does my pet need to be on a leash?

- Yes, pets must be confined, leashed or otherwise under physical control at all times. Leashes may not exceed six feet (6') in length.

What are my responsibilities as a park visitor with a pet?

- It is your responsibility to properly bag and dispose of your pet's waste into a trash receptacle.
- It is your responsibility to monitor the behavior of your pet. Pets which disturb visitors, other pets or resources by being noisy, dangerous, intimidating or destructive are considered a nuisance and will not be permitted to stay in the park.
- In accordance with Florida law, it is your responsibility to ensure your dog, cat or other pet is vaccinated against rabies.

Why are pets restricted from beaches and swimming areas?

- For safety, public health and park preservation purposes, permitted bathing and swimming areas — including beaches — are restricted from pets. The only exception to this rule is the pet beach at Honeymoon Island State Park.
- Even the most well-behaved pets may be perceived as threats to beach wildlife, which, in turn may prevent them from nesting.

Pet Safety Tips



Ways to keep your pet happy and healthy when visiting a Florida State Park.

- ▶ **Always carry plenty of water for your pet.** To lower body temperature, gradually give your pet water to drink.
- ▶ **Be aware of heat exhaustion.** Signs of heat exhaustion include: restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, dark tongue, rapid pulse, fever, vomiting, glazed eyes, dizziness or lack of coordination.
- ▶ **Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle,** even when the windows are down and the vehicle is parked in the shade.
- ▶ **Be aware of your surroundings,** especially near bodies of water. Alligators may see your pet as a food source.
- ▶ **Test the temperature of the ground before walking your pet.** Paved roads, sidewalks and sandy areas may be hot enough to burn your pet's feet.