



## 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.          | ■ Cabins.              |
| ■ Beaches.            | ■ Restroom Facilities. |
| ■ Food Service Areas. | ■ Swimming Areas.      |
| ■ Playgrounds.        | ■ Boardwalks.          |

## Contact Information

**Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Florida State Parks**

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000  
850-245-2157

**FloridaStateParks.org**

*Alternate format available upon request  
at any Florida State Park.*

# PETS<sup>in</sup> PARKS



Florida State Parks  
**BARK  
Ranger**

Following the BARK principles ensures our visitors and their pets can have a safe and fun experience anytime they visit a Florida state park:



**B**ag your pet's waste.



**A**lways use a leash.



**R**espect wildlife.



**K**now where you can go.



**FLORIDA  
STATE PARKS**



# Welcome

The Florida Park Service welcomes visitors who bring their pets to our 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](http://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 Americans with Disabilities Act, 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, pets are not allowed at swimming areas, including beaches. 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 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.

**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.