

Tips for Hiking with Dogs

Pet Friendly Trail Etiquette

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1

BE COURTEOUS

- As a hiker, you are responsible for your own actions and your dog's actions.
- The Golden Rule of Trail Etiquette is to observe common sense and simple courtesy.
- Be polite towards others and make sure your pup is well-behaved too.

2

KEEP YOUR DOG LEASHED

- Hikers who take their dogs on the trails should have their dogs on a leash at all times.
- Your dog should also be well-trained,
- This means the dog doesn't pull or lunge and refrains from barking.

3

YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY

- When pet parents meet any other trail users, you must yield the right-of-way, stepping well clear of the trail to allow the other users to pass without worrying about "getting sniffed."
- This is especially important with bicyclists, runners, climbers, or horseback riders.



More tips:

Avoid Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance – resist the urge to move close.

Pup Packs

- Pack-wearing pups can carry their own gear (think: water bowl, poop bags, etc.), and a pack makes them easier to see.

Leave No Trace

- Ensure that you promptly pick up their poop. Pick up all your personal belongings and trash and leave all natural creatures, objects, and features as you found them for others to enjoy.

4

BEWARE HORSES

- When meeting horses on the trail, ensure your dog stays calm, does not bark, and makes no move toward the horse.
- Move well off the trail (downhill from the trail when possible) and stay off the trail, with your dog held close to your side until the horses pass well beyond you.

5

STICK TO THE TRAILS

- Hikers and dogs should stick to the trails and practice minimum impact.
- Don't take shortcuts or make new trails. If your destination is off-trail, leave the trail in as direct a manner as possible by moving away from the trail in a line perpendicular to the trail.

6

FOLLOW THE RULES

- When in national parks, always follow National Park Service's B.A.R.K initiative rules: Bag your pup's waste, always leash your pet, respect wildlife, and know where you can go.
- When in doubt, double-check local trail rules before bringing your pup along.

Not all trails are pet friendly! Make sure to check the trail rules before heading out with your furry friend.