

Keep dogs leashed to protect our natural areas

Natural areas are occupied year-round by wild animals feeding, breeding, and raising young. Off-leash dogs may – intentionally or not – drive off, stress, or kill wildlife and their young.

Even if your dog doesn't chase wildlife, dogs off trail disturb animals enough to deplete their energy reserves, which can cause malnutrition or death. Birds that nest on or near the ground are particularly susceptible. Dogs splashing in the water can harm frogs and turtles that rely on clean, quiet water bodies for feeding and reproduction. Your dog is only one of thousands that recreate in Humboldt's natural areas. While your pet may appear to have little impact, cumulative effects are very significant.

Unleashed dogs are also a particular concern for small children, the elderly, the disabled, and other dogs.

When walking your dog, carry a pooper scooper or plastic bag to pick up waste so feces do not pollute storm drains, creeks, rivers, and the ocean. Properly dispose of waste by flushing it down the toilet or placing it in the trash.

Keeping dogs leashed in natural areas is a responsible decision that protects wildlife and **it's the law**. Humboldt County and Arcata and Eureka city codes require dogs to be leashed in natural areas that are not designated as off-leash.

Violators are subject to fines and penalties.



Off-Leash Areas

"Complete (or voice) control of the owner" means that your dog is within view and voice range; comes at first calling; and does not approach people in a threatening manner or in any other way harass people, wildlife, other dogs, or horses.

Managed by Humboldt County Parks – 707-445-7651

- **Arcata:** Mad River County Park. Dogs under complete control of the owner allowed off-leash on beach. Must be leashed in parking lots.
- **Ferndale:** Centerville Beach County Park. Dogs under complete control allowed off-leash on entire beach October-February; **on waveslope only** March-September. Must be leashed in parking lots.
- **McKinleyville:** Clam Beach County Park. Dogs under complete control allowed off-leash on entire beach October-February; **on waveslope only** March-September. Must be leashed in parking lots/camping areas. [NOTE: To immediate north is Little River State Beach, which does not allow dogs.]
- **Trinidad:** Big Lagoon County Park; Luffenholtz Beach County Park; Moonstone Beach County Park. Dogs under complete control of the owner allowed off-leash on beach. Must be leashed in parking lots.

Managed by Bureau of Land Management – 707-825-2300

- **Eureka:** Samoa Dunes Recreation Area; Headwaters Forest Reserve. Unleashed dogs must be under voice control.
- **Ferndale:** Lost Coast Headlands. Unleashed dogs must be under voice control.
- **Loleta:** Mike Thompson Wildlife Area, South Spit Humboldt Bay. Dogs must be leashed on ocean side of South Jetty Road March 1 to September 15. [Same rules apply to Table Bluff County Park.]
- **Manila:** Mal-e'l Dunes (South). Unleashed dogs must be under voice control. [NOTE: To immediate north is Mal-e'l Dunes North, which does not allow dogs.]
- **Shelter Cove:** King Range National Conservation Area. Unleashed dogs must be under voice control.

Managed by McKinleyville Community Services District (Hiller Park) – 707-839-9003

Managed by McKinleyville Land Trust (Mad River Bluffs west of Hiller Park) – 707-839-5263

- **McKinleyville:** Hiller Dog Park and adjoining Mad River Bluffs. Unfenced with trails, meadow, beach. Dogs under voice command are allowed off leash beyond the split rail fence.

Managed by US Forest Service – 707-442-1721

- **Six Rivers National Forest:** Dogs must be on-leash (6' max. length) in developed recreation sites; not allowed in swimming areas.

Managed by City of Eureka – 707-441-4203

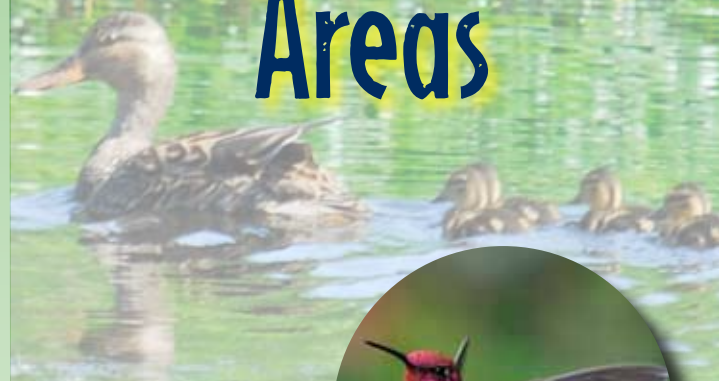
- **Eureka:** Eureka Dog Park (future). Two separate fenced play areas for large and small dogs, located off Harrison Street behind General Hospital. Updated information at EurekaDogPark.com.

Managed by Friends of the Dunes – 707-444-1397

- **Manila:** Humboldt Coastal Nature Center. Dogs must be leashed on most trails, with the exception of the waterline trail and west to the beach. If off leash, dogs must be under voice control.

This list may be incomplete; regulations subject to change.

Humboldt's Dog-Friendly Areas



Using off-leash areas and keeping your dog on a leash in Humboldt's natural areas protect places that are very important for the survival of wildlife living in & passing through Humboldt County.



Humboldt's Wildlife & Your Dog

You protect Humboldt's wild creatures for all to enjoy by keeping your dog under control.



Some species that need your help by keeping your dog under control

- 1. Belted Kingfisher:** Nests in horizontal tunnel in a riverbank or sandbank. Dogs splashing through streams impact nest sites.
- 2. California Quail:** Nests on ground.
- 3. Black-tailed Deer:** Deer often leave fawns unattended while they graze.
- 4. River Otter:** Lives in or near streams and rivers. Especially susceptible to disturbance and predation when raising young.
- 5. Western Pond Turtle*:** Relies on riparian and upland areas for nesting; very sensitive to disturbance.
- 6. Killdeer:** Nests on ground in gravel, beaches, wetland edges. They are easily flushed from well-camouflaged nests.
- 7. Western Snowy Plover**:** Nests on beaches and river bars.
- 8. Long-distance migratory shorebirds:** Shorebirds like Western and Least Sandpipers migrate from South America to the Arctic and back each year. Dogs chasing flocks on beaches prevent these birds from replenishing fat deposits needed to reach their destinations.
- 9. Northern Red-Legged Frog*:** Dependent on shallow, ephemeral ponds, wetlands, riparian vegetation. Eggs in water are easily disturbed.
- 10. Northwestern Salamander:** Found in wetland habitats from sea level to 5,700 feet, including grasslands, woodlands, and forests. Eggs in water are easily disturbed.
- 11. Brown Pelican:** Rests on beaches; can be flushed by uncontrolled dogs.

** Designated by California Department of Fish and Game as a State Species of Special Concern, which focuses attention on animals at conservation risk.*

*** Listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act*

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Comments to: info@arcatamarshfriends.org