

Survey on Rules Governing the Entry of Dogs in Parks

For the time being, dogs are denied access to the parks in our provincial network. However, we are examining the possibility of permitting the entry of dogs in Quebec parks in the future. We would like to learn from the experience of other park networks to help us make the best choices.

Your assistance in this matter will be of great use!

SECTION A – RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PARK NETWORK

Bloc 1 – Identification of respondent

- 1.1 Name: Tom Linley
- 1.2 Position: Program Administrator
- 1.3 Telephone: 850-245-3084
- 1.4 E-mail address: Tom.Linley@dep.state.fl.us

Bloc 2 – Description of the park network

- 2.1 Name of network: Florida State Parks
- 2.2 How many parks make up your network? 174
- 2.3 Indicate the % of your parks that correspond to each of the following:
 - A- Protected Areas meeting the criteria of IUCN Category II. 0 %
 - B- Protected areas meeting the criteria of other IUCN categories. 100 %

C- Territories not having protected area status. 0 %

2.4 How many visitors do you welcome on a yearly basis? 31,108,215 in Fiscal Year 2014-2015

2.5 Who enforces the regulations governing the presence of dogs in your parks?
Park Staff and Law Enforcement Officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

2.6 Comments: Park Managers, Assistant Park Managers, Park Rangers, Park Service Specialists and park volunteers enforce regulations through education and voluntary compliance. They do not have law enforcement authority. FWC Law Enforcement Officers have arrest powers and ticketing authority throughout Florida and provide law enforcement services in Florida State parks.

SECTION B – GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Bloc 3 – Entry of dogs

3.1 Are dogs permitted in your network's parks?

**If you answer "a" or "b", go straight to Question 3.5.*

3.2 What are the reasons for this answer?

3.3 Do you receive many requests from park visitors who would like to bring their dog to your park?

3.4 In your opinion, is it desirable for your network to permit the entry of dogs in your parks?

** If you answered "c" to Question 3.1, you have finished the survey.*

3.5 Is there an entry fee to the park for dogs?
If so, please indicate the fee. \$

3.6 What % of visitors to your parks do you believe are bringing their dogs? ?%

3.7 Comments: We do not tack this data. The best guess would be less than 1%.

Bloc 4 – Dog control

4.1 When a dog is allowed entry to a park, must it be on a leash?

**If you answer “c”, go straight to Question 5.1.*

4.2 Are there any regulations regarding the length of the leash?

If so, indicate the length: 6 feet

4.3 Is this regulation based on a law?

If so, what is the basis? Florida Administrative Code 62D - See attached file

4.4 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?

4.5 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? Majority%

4.6 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?

4.7 Comments: Compliance with leash length regulation is not a pressing issue. The bigger issue is compliance with actual use of any leash.

Bloc 5 – Collecting dog feces

5.1 Are dog owners obliged to pick up the feces of their dogs?

**If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 6.1.*

5.2 Is this regulation based on a law?

If so, what is the basis? Florida Administrative Code 62D

5.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?



5.5 Do you provide waste disposal bags to dog owners to facilitate their collection of dog feces?

If so, indicate the number and the locations where waste dispensers are installed:

5.6 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? Minority %

5.7 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?

5.8 Comments: If dog owners follow the other guidelines in the pet policy (i.e. leash, restricted areas, protect natural resources, etc.), then compliance with this regulation is not difficult. However, when pet owners don't follow those other pet policy guidelines, non-compliance can become an issue.

Bloc 6 – Sharing the park with other visitors

6.1 What regulations do you have regarding the disturbance of other visitors (barking, howling, aggressive behaviour, ..., day, night, ...)?

From pet policy regarding campgrounds: "In campgrounds, pets must be confined in the owner's camping unit during designated quiet time hours, 11 p.m. to 8 a.m....Pets that are noisy, vicious, dangerous, disturbing or intimidating to other persons or pets, or which damage park resources, are considered to be nuisances and will not be permitted to remain in the park."

6.2 Is this regulation based on a law?

If so, what is the basis? Florida Administrative Code 62D

6.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?

6.4 What % of dogs do you believe cause a nuisance? Very small percentage%

6.5 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?

6.6 Comments: Non-compliance with this regulation is not a significant problem; however, most cases occur where large amounts of visitors are confined to a small area (i.e., campgrounds).



Bloc 7 – Supervision of dogs

- 7.1 What level of supervision is required by a dog owner?
- a) A dog must always be under the owner's supervision.
 - b) A dog may be left alone in a car, unattended.
 - c) A dog may be attached to its leash and left alone at a campsite or at the entrance of a building.
- 7.2 Is this regulation based on a law?
If so, what is the basis? Florida Administrative Code 62D
- 7.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?
- 7.4 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? Small percentage%
- 7.5 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 7.6 Comments: Florida does have laws prohibiting cruelty to animals which would be the case if the dog were left unattended in hot vehicles. However campers can leave their dogs in campers unattended provided it is kept cool.

Bloc 8 – Number of dogs

- 8.1 Are there any regulations restricting the number of dogs per visitor?
If so, indicate the number:
- 8.2 Are there any regulations limiting the number of dogs per accommodation site?
If so, indicate the number:
- 8.3 Is this regulation based on a law?
If so, what is the basis?
- 8.4 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?

- 8.5 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? %
- 8.6 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 8.7 Comments:

Bloc 9 – Animal health

- 9.1 Do the dogs allowed into the park need to have been vaccinated?
**If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 10.1.*
- 9.2 What are the vaccinations required? Per Florida Statutes, rabies vaccination is required for all dogs with some exceptions. Validation of vaccination is a dog tag provided by the veterinarian.
- 9.3 What is your method of verification?

Bloc 10 – Layout and amenities

- 10.1 Are there specific zones set aside and specifically laid out for dogs (e.g. dog parks)?
**If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 11.1.*
- 10.2 What types of amenities are provided?
For almost all Florida State Parks there are not specific zones identified for dogs. The exception is a designated dog beach at Honeymoon Island State Park.
- 10.3 What are the regulations associated with such places?
Same as all Florida State Parks
- 10.4 What are the benefits procured by these places?
- 10.5 What are the problems encountered in relation to these places?



SECTION C – AUTHORIZED SITES

Bloc 11 – Sites where dogs are permitted

11.1 For each site, identify the type of entry allowed for dogs. In cases where dogs are partially allowed, specify what on criteria you based that type of entry.

Site	Level of accessibility	Comments
Lay-out		
Walking/Hiking trail		Individual parks may have specific areas prohibiting pets
Multifunctional trail (walking and cycling)		
Snowshoeing trail		n/a
Cross-country skiing trail		n/a
Backcountry skiing trail		n/a
Picnic area		
Swimming area		
Playground		
Activity area/Amphitheatre		
Buildings		
Public building (e.g. the visitor centre, a snack bar)		
Exhibit hall		
Sanitary block		
Community shelter		
Accommodations		
Private accommodations (e.g. a room, a cabin or a ready-to-camp)		
Dormitory		
Serviced campground		
Primitive campsite		
Canoeing campsite		
Other		



Lake or river (i.e. canoe, kayak, rowboat, fishing vessel)		
Back country		
Archaeological site		

SECTION D – OVERVIEW

Bloc 12 – Overview

12.1 What are the main benefits associated with the presence of dogs?

The presence of dogs benefits the dog owners. Dogs can enhance the overall recreational experience for the owners. We understand that it can be really fun and beneficial to take a dog to the park, and we do not want to exclude those visitors who like to bring their dogs.

12.2 What are the chief incidents that arise when dogs are present?

Simple violations of pet policy (dogs not on a leash, not picking up after dog, etc.). Dogs biting visitors or employees.

12.3 What are the most common complaints lodged concerning the presence of dogs?

Dogs being abandoned in locked vehicles. Fear of aggressive dogs.

12.4 How many cases of dog bites or attacks on people did you record last year?

17

12.5 How many incidents with injuries involving a wild animal and a dog did you record last year?

3

12.6 How many cases of dog fights did you record last year? 6

12.7 Did people witness the disturbance of wildlife species attributable to the presence of dogs?

If so, what were they? Disturbing nesting wildlife on beaches, mostly

12.8 In the past few years, did you conduct any studies on the impact of the dogs in your parks?

If so, what were they?

12.9 Overall, is the entry of dogs in your establishment beneficial or profitable for your network?

We cannot provide a stat proving that allowing dogs is beneficial or profitable; however, denying the entry of dogs would certainly exclude a portion of park visitors who would have to make arrangements for the care of their dogs.

12.10 If you were to amend the regulations regarding the presence of dogs, what would you change?

Consider amending the rule to allow a longer leash length which would accommodate the longer retractable leashes.

12.11 Do you have any other comments to make on the subject?

We recently updated our "Pets in Parks" brochure which provide the public with information, rules, and tips for bringing their pets into Florida State Parks. A copy of the brochure is attached.

13.1 Would you like to receive a copy of the survey findings?

You have now completed the survey. Simply forward it to charest.rene@sepaq.com.

Thank you for completing the survey!

René Charest

Advisor, Conservation and Education
Vice-Presidency, Parcs Québec Operations,
Sépaq
418-380-5875, ext. 2378

Claire Ducharme

Director, Operations
Vice-Presidency, Parcs Québec Operations,
Sépaq
418-380-5875, ext. 2379