

Nature Manitoba Dog Policy

Policy Implementation Date: January 22, 2024

Introduction

Nature Manitoba is people sharing a passion for nature. Our goal is to provide opportunities to connect with and protect nature, promote an appreciation and understanding of nature, and to enjoy Manitoba's natural spaces in a way that is ecologically sound.

This policy is intended to cover all of Nature Manitoba's activities, including outdoor activities, member use of outdoor facilities (the Mantario Cabin) and public events.

Organizational Dog Policy

1. Pet dogs* are not permitted on any activities unless the activity is specifically indicated as dog-friendly. Birding activities and the Garden Tour do not permit pet dogs under any circumstances.
2. Trip leaders who wish to include dogs must post their trip as "dog-friendly" upon listing it in the Outdoor Trip guide. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to ensure their activity or location permits dogs before posting a trip as dog-friendly.
3. Mantario Summer Program and Member-led Public Trips do not permit dogs. Members booking the Mantario Cabin for an unlisted trip are permitted to bring dog(s), provided all dog-related requirements are followed..

*Service animals are permitted as per Accessibility Standard. See "Service Animals" below.

Dog-related Requirements

For activities posted as "dog-friendly", each dog's owner takes responsibility for the dog at all times and in all places. Dogs that are aggressive towards unfamiliar humans, other dogs, or wildlife should not be brought on a trip.

Participants must indicate to the trip leader if they are bringing a dog. Trip leaders will then have awareness of the size of the group, and can cap group size at their discretion.

Trip leaders reserve the right to ask a participant to leave with their dog at any time if the dog is causing excessive disruption to an activity. Dog owners are responsible and liable for the actions of their dog.

Dog-related Requirements

1. There is a limit of one dog per adult.
2. Dog owners must take responsibility for the dog's behaviour and have physical and voice control at all times, ensuring the dog does not make excessive noise or disturb or cause harm to people, wildlife, or other pets. Dog owners must stop dogs from digging and immediately fill holes.
3. Dogs must wear identification tags have up-to-date shots and be free of illness.
4. Dogs must be on leash 3 metres or less at all times and owners must be in control of their dog. Owners must never leave their dog unattended.
5. Owners must clean up after their dog immediately and place waste in a designated waste disposal container.
6. For all trips, particularly those rated "advanced," dogs are at risk of injury, illness or harm due to weather, environmental and other factors including over-exertion. The dog's owner must take full responsibility for the animal's well-being on the trip.
7. Mantario Cabin: Dogs are not permitted on couches or in bunkrooms in the cabin, and the floors and facility must be well cleaned after use with a dog.

Service Animals

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act requires that service animals are permitted on any trip if a participant requires one. All dog-related requirements above apply to service animals during the period of the trip.

A service animal is an animal that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability that relates to that person's disability. A disability may be visible or invisible. If a participant indicates they will be bringing a service dog, trip leaders can ask: "Has this animal been trained to help with a disability-related need?" Please remember that a person does not have to disclose their diagnosis or personal health information.

If a service animal is barking, whining, or wandering, trip leaders can request that the handler control the service animal. If the service animal continues to misbehave, the trip leader reserves the right to ask the handler to leave with the service animal.

References

Service Animals: https://accessibilitymb.ca/resources/faqs_service_animals.pdf

Provincial Parks Policies: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/recreation-and-activities/paws/index.html>