



Where can I take my dog?

February 2004

FS0001

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ISSN 1440-2262

Where can I walk my dog?

Many people enjoy walking their dogs in forest and there are many areas of public land where both owners and dogs can enjoy Victoria's great outdoors.

Dogs are generally (with some small exemptions) allowed in State forest (see map), but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be kept on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is the Government department responsible for managing State forest.

Dogs are also allowed in some state, coastal and other parks, provided they are on a leash and under control at all times. Due to some differences in regulations between these state, coastal and other parks, to avoid disappointment it is best to check with Parks Victoria.

Many recreational (public) areas (not State forest or National Parks) may allow dogs in, but seasonal restrictions on access may apply. Generally, where dogs are allowed, they are generally required to be under proper control on a chain, leash or cord and must not cause injury or annoyance to people, damage or interference to property, or disturbance or injury to wildlife.

People with impaired vision are generally exempt from the restrictions placed on dogs in park and forest areas.

Where can't I walk my dog?

For the protection of native wildlife in its natural habitat, dogs, cats and other domestic animals are not allowed in national parks, Wilderness Parks or Wildlife Reserves and generally not in State Parks. Contact the Parks Victoria hotline (☎ 131963) for further information.

Whilst some recreational (public) areas (not State forest or National Parks) may allow dogs in, many do not. These areas where a person must not bring a dog into are typically signposted to that effect. If unsure, please contact the management authority of the recreation area to avoid confusion or any unnecessary fines.

Why can't I walk my dog in some areas?

Dogs are not allowed onto some areas of public land, even for quiet, well-behaved dogs and also for cats and other domestic pets. This is for the following reasons:

National and State Parks and areas of State forest are reserved primarily to protect Australia's native plants and animals. They are vitally important for the survival of many threatened species.

Many people go to National Parks and other reserved areas to see native wildlife in their natural habitat. Even if your dog is on a leash, or is obedient, its barking or its scent is enough to scare away native wildlife.

Small animals can be killed and large ones disturbed or frightened by dogs and cats. Except for dingoes, dogs are not indigenous to Australia, so our wildlife is not adapted to living with them. Dogs hunt in packs and can cause terrible damage among native birds and mammals in parks.

Dogs can be a nuisance to other people (especially the very young and the elderly) in picnic and camping areas and along walking tracks. Many people wish to visit parks where they don't feel threatened by dogs.

It would be impossible to have a rule which allowed some dogs (the quiet or small ones) into National Parks and other reserved areas but not others (the big and boisterous).

Victoria's rules on dogs are consistent with those that applying in national parks across Australia.

Bona fide guide dogs accompanying blind or deaf people can be taken into all National and State Parks.

Dogs are permitted in cars only travelling on bitumen roads which pass through National and State Parks.

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact the DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Visit DSE's website

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

then
select "Forestry".

Parks Victoria Contacts

For further information about where to go in national parks and reserves, contact the Parks Victoria hotline on ☎ 131963

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