



# Maryland Park Service- Assateague State Park

## Rules for Camping With Your Pet

Maryland State Parks welcome you and your pet to enjoy the great outdoors! We ask that you adhere to the following guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, and to protect park resources, wildlife and other visitors. In order to keep our parks available to pets, responsible pet ownership is essential.

### Responsible Pet Owner Guidelines

**Pet Definition:** Consistent with existing definitions of “pet” in State regulations and law, the Maryland Park Service pet policy refers to domesticated animals, such as cats and dogs, and does not include farm animals including, but not limited to, cattle, goats, sheep, and swine. Horses are not permitted at Assateague State Park. Non-fur bearing pets, such as reptiles and birds must be confined or under the physical control of the owner. Service animals are permitted in all pedestrian areas.

### Pet Camping Rules

For everyone’s enjoyment, including pets, please observe the following pet camping rules. Failure to abide by these rules may result in the camper being asked to board the pet outside the park or check out of the campground.

- All pets must be licensed and have all required vaccinations, including a rabies vaccination.
- Pets must be on a hand-held leash that is no longer than 6 feet and must be well-behaved at all times. Pets may be off-leash and under voice control while swimming in designated areas only.
- Pets that are tethered or confined at a campsite cannot be left unattended for more than 30 minutes, and may not be tied to trees, bushes, fences, or other natural features even when owners are present.
- Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets and properly dispose of pet droppings. Waste disposal containers are available.
- Pets, with the exception of service animals, are not allowed in park buildings including bathhouses.
- Pet owners must obey all park signs that prohibit the entry of pets into specific areas.
- Pets must be well-behaved at all times. Excessive barking is not permitted in any area of the park, especially during campground quiet hours (10:00 pm – 7:00 am).
- Any pet that’s noisy, dangerous, intimidating or destructive will not be allowed to remain in the park.
- **Pet food must be secured and stored in your vehicle or camper. Do not leave pet food unattended; it can be deadly if eaten by horses.**

### Pet Safety

- Be sure to keep your pet cool. Weather varies year-round, but can always include high temperatures.
- Be sure to have plenty of cool water available.
- You should avoid leaving pets in a parked car or non air-conditioned enclosed camping unit even if the windows are open. It takes only minutes for a pet left in a vehicle on a warm day to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation. Temperatures inside a vehicle can easily reach more than 160 degrees if parked in the summer sun. Rolling down or opening a window does not guarantee protection, since temperatures inside a vehicle can climb quickly. Pets should be unattended for only a minimal amount of time.

**Failure to comply with these rules will result in your pet being asked to leave the campground.**