



# Service Animals in State Parks

---

---

**California State Parks promotes and supports equal access for park visitors of all abilities.**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines “service animal” as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to that person’s disability. **-28 Code of Federal Regulations §35.136**

## **Service animals:**

- Are working animals, not pets;
- Are allowed in all areas open to the public;
- Must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless this interferes with the animal’s work or a disability prevents the use of these devices;
- Must be housebroken; and
- Are not solely for comfort, emotional support, crime deterrence, therapy, well-being, or companionship.

You may be asked to remove your service animal from the park if (1) the dog is out of control and you do not take effective action to control it, or (2) the dog is not housebroken. If you are asked to remove your service animal, you may return to the park without the animal.

***Misrepresenting a dog as a service animal is fraud, punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.***

***- California Penal Code section 365.7***

Compliance with park regulations ensures that everyone can continue to enjoy state parks while respecting natural and cultural resources. Service animals are not pets and are not bound by the same restrictions; nevertheless, it takes cooperation from all park visitors to effectively protect California's natural areas.



Wildlife cannot tell the difference between a pet dog and a service animal; many species sense dogs as predators and expend valuable energy to flee or seek cover.

**Help us protect our park plants and animals:**

- Keep your service animal under control and attended at all times.
- Store dog food in animal-proof containers to avoid attracting bears and other wildlife.
- Clean up after your service animal, and dispose of bagged waste in trash receptacles.
- Observe signage and fencing in sensitive habitat areas.

For more information, visit  
**[www.parks.ca.gov/accessibility](http://www.parks.ca.gov/accessibility).**

This publication is available in alternate  
formats by contacting  
**[access@parks.ca.gov](mailto:access@parks.ca.gov) or (916) 445-8949**