

## Orleans Conservation Trust Dog Policy

OCT is committed to providing public access to the outdoors, and we understand that dog-walking is a way in which many visitors use and enjoy our trails. We are also committed to pursuing conservation goals that safeguard our natural resources, and seek to balance those goals with public use and recreation. Among other factors to consider, wildlife view dogs as potential predators and may abandon an area or alter their behavior in the presence of dogs.

Our properties vary in character and sensitivity to disturbance. In considering multiple uses, OCT evaluates each property individually. On all but one of its properties, OCT permits visitors to bring well-socialized dogs and requires that dogs be kept on leash at all times, for the benefit of other walkers, wildlife, and vegetation. We expect owners to clean up and remove dog waste so as to preserve water quality and a pleasant, natural experience for all who enjoy our trails.

At our Henson's Cove Conservation Area, which contains especially sensitive habitat, dogs are not permitted, even if leashed. We appreciate your cooperation.

This policy is subject to change if noncompliance becomes an issue.