



Protect & Preserve Pet Policy



**Unleash your
Love for Nature -
Leash your Pet!**



PROTECT AND PRESERVE

ONE LEASH AT A TIME

Dog walking is a popular outdoor activity that benefits human and canine health. Many pet owners love hiking trails with their pet, who is like a member of their family. However, most pet owners are unaware of the effects of pets on natural areas.

Wild animals see pets as potential predators and pet walking causes native animals to abandon their natural habitats. The less common and the migratory animals do not have another home or backyard to return to and rely on limited natural habitats.

As a result, the wildlife conservation goals for OWLT properties, especially those focused on birds, require restricting or prohibiting pets.

Protect Today.

IMPACT POINTS:

WILDLIFE SEE PETS AS NATURAL PREDATORS:



Unleashed pets can chase, injure, and kill ducks, squirrels, deer, and amphibians, as well as birds. Even if you don't see native animals, your pet can find them long before you do. Digging and soil disturbance cause trail erosion, inhibit the growth of native plants, which reduces wildlife food sources and natural habitat, and encourages invasive plants.



It is your responsibility to oversee your pet's health. It is OWLT's responsibility to protect the health of wildlife and habitat on its properties. Pets can spread and contract diseases to and from wildlife.



Pet waste pollutes water with excess fertilizer and parasites. For wildlife, the effects are long-lasting, since pet waste "marks" the territory and repels wildlife long after the pets are gone.



Thrushes feed on the ground. Killdeer and meadowlarks build nests on the ground. Waterfowl feed and breed along shorelines. When birds are disturbed, they feed less, expend more energy, and may abandon their nests. Young hatchlings and birds during migration have low energy reserves and are especially vulnerable.



We are responsible for protecting wildlife habitats in which they can not only survive, but THRIVE!

PARTNERSHIP WITH WILDLIFE



Preserve Forever.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AT FOREST BEACH MIGRATORY PRESERVE

This preserve is designated as a monitored migratory preserve. As a result, OWLT's wildlife conservation goals require a **No Pet** policy. Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, protected in 2008 expressly for bird conservation, is an example of a preserve where no pets are allowed.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AT OWLT PRESERVES

Except for Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, most OWLT preserves allow leashed pets on the trails. No pet is allowed to be loose on any OWLT property. OWLT preserves are not public parks; they are private property that are open for public use.

OWLT'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a certified land trust, OWLT takes pride in its commitment to strong management and conservation goals. Providing wildlife habitats and healthy lands are important goals to our organization. We also strive to support community health by offering the preserves for public use. We understand that even people walking on trails can reduce the number and quantity of wild animals. People walking leashed pets on trails reduce wildlife further, and off-leash or off-trail pets reduce them further still. Reducing pet disturbance is essential to support more wildlife and greater wildlife diversity; therefore, we must put restrictions in place at all OWLT Nature Preserves.



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