

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

The following establishes guidelines regarding pets at Joshua Tree National Park.

Regulations

Sections 2.15 and 7.7, Title 36 provide regulations about pets. Employee pet owners are subject to the same restrictions as park visitors. Owners must physically restrain or confine all pets, such as dogs and cats, within the boundaries of Joshua Tree National Park, including the Oasis of Mara. When not physically restrained, pets shall be kept in some form of enclosure. Pets are prohibited on trails and beyond 100 yards from designated roads and campgrounds.

Certified assistance dogs (including guide dogs for the blind, signal dogs for the deaf, and service dogs for the physically challenged) may accompany their disabled master on the trails and in the backcountry if the following rules are observed:

- Dogs must be on a leash and wearing an identifying tag, cape, or backpack.
- Dogs may not go within 100 yards of any water source.
- The owner of the dog shall carry plastic bags and use them to pack out the droppings of their assistance dog.

Quarters and Pets

NPS employees, VIP's, SCA's, researchers, and contractors working on Service projects may have household pets at their park residences subject to the following conditions:

- Only employees residing in single or duplex family units or apartments, which are not shared with other employees, may possess pets in park quarters.
- When an employee shares quarters with other employees, or has the potential to share quarters with other employees, pets will not be allowed (except employees requiring the services of a certified assistance dog).
- Pets are not allowed in bunkhouses or dorms.

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- Employees, who reside in their own RV or trailer may keep pets within their unit, but not outside.

The only pets permitted include dogs, cats, caged birds, certain caged small animals (white mice, hamsters, gerbils, rabbits, guinea pigs), amphibians, reptiles, or aquarium fish. No horses, burros, llamas, wild animals, or farm animals (cows, pigs, chickens, etc.,) will be permitted. Not more than two dogs, or two cats, or one of each shall be kept. Pets will not be kept at government expense.

Pet owners must physically restrain all pets or have them on a leash when outside the residence area. Residence areas include the actual residence, garage, and immediate yard area. No pets that require enclosures outside the residence area are permitted. Enclosures constructed within the residence area shall be erected only with written permission of the Superintendent. Owners shall be responsible for damage to residences and government property caused by their pets. Owners must recapture any escaped pets.

No pet, which is a nuisance to residents or visitors, will be kept. No animal that has vicious habits or presents a physical threat to any person will be kept. Pets will not be kept if they damage, detract from, or impair the resources of the park. An employee with pets assumes an obligation for the comfort and safety of neighbors and all park users. The activities and behavior of the pet should not disturb, menace, or inconvenience others.

Pet owners must keep their pets and the areas they use and reside in clean and inoffensive. All pet owners must comply with federal, state, and local regulations related to keeping of pets. All animals shall receive regular inoculations against rabies and distemper in accordance with local laws. Employees shall be responsible for normal care, feeding, and health of their pets.

Female pets shall be kept closely confined during estrous. Breeding operations shall not be conducted on a commercial basis within the park. Offspring of pets shall be removed from the park within a reasonable period after weaning.

Work Areas and Pets

Pets are not permitted in shops, offices, government vehicles, or fenced/secured areas in the park, including the Oasis of Mara (except certified assistance dogs). When an employee must bring a pet to work because of a family emergency, the pet must be kept

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caged or on a leash in a specific designated area away from all work spaces. Stray animals found in the park should be not be fed by park employees, but be taken to the pound.

Violations and Exceptions

Violations of any of the restrictions set forth in this policy shall constitute grounds for removal of the pet or pets from the park. Continued violation by residents shall constitute grounds for removal of the employee from government quarters. Continued violations by employees bringing pets to government facilities or vehicles shall result in disciplinary action. Such steps shall be taken after counseling.

Any exceptions to this directive must be approved in advance in writing by the Superintendent.

Ernest Quintana
Superintendent