U.S. Forest Service

Know Before You Go

Preparing to Visit a National Forest

Pet Dogs

Taking your dog camping can be a great experience, but there are a few considerations to remember. Dogs can get easily distracted by wild animals and lost while chasing them in the woods.

In an outdoor environment, your dog will most likely experience an increase in physical activity. You should also take your dog's personality into consideration. While you might not be bothered by your dog's barking, other campers might be annoyed.

Safety Checklist

- ☐ Keep your pet on a leash and controlled at all times.
- ☐ Give your dog plenty of food and water, rest and watch for signs of stress and fatigue.
- ☐ Secure your pet in a shady spot and give it lots of attention to minimize barking.
- ☐ If you encounter wild animals, respect them by moving your dog away from the area.
- ☐ Be prepared for pet medical needs; treat injuries immediately.
- ☐ Carry an ID tag and recent photo of your dog in case it gets lost. If this occurs, notify authorities ASAP.
- ☐ Ensure you know the area when searching for a lost pet.
- ☐ Take your dog's favorite dog treat and favorite noisy toy, in case you embark on a search.

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