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# THE CANINE CAMPER

## Sierra National Forest

Pets are welcome in the National Forests. They must be on a lease or restrained when in a recreation area including campgrounds. Pets allowed to roam freely can unintentionally frighten or injure wildlife and disturb other forest visitors.

In recent years, problems with dogs have increased in National Forest recreation areas. The few rules that apply to pets are meant to ensure that you and other forest visitors have an enjoyable outdoor experience. If the situation worsens, more rules and stronger enforcement action will be necessary, possibly resulting in a ban on pets in some sites. We hope such action will not be necessary.

If you are camping with your pet and you want to be sure the privileges are still available, please practice the following:

- Leave vicious or unusually noisy dogs at home. Disturbing or threatening others will not be allowed in public recreation areas.
- During the day keep your pet on a leash no more than 6 feet long. Domestic animals are not allowed to run loose in recreation areas.
- At night keep your dog and other pets inside an enclosed vehicle or tent.
- With exception of guide dogs, domestic animals are not allowed in swimming areas.
- Developed campgrounds are for people, not animals. Please do not bring more than two dogs or other pets to any one campsite.

Your fellow visitors' reactions will be a major factor in determining whether dogs continue to be welcome in developed National Forest recreation areas. Most complaints about dogs are about noise or dog mess. To avoid complaints from other forest visitors please consider these suggestions:

- Do not leave your dog alone in a closed vehicle or tent. It may whine or bark while you are away.
- Clean up after your pet. It will only take a few minutes and there is no single action that will more favorably impress your fellow campers.
- Whenever possible, select a campsite on the edge of the campground and away from the shoreline.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### **Bass Lake Ranger District**

559-877-2218

#### **High Sierra Ranger District**

559-855-5355

