

# The Canine Camper:

ROG 16-05 11/2018

## Commonsense rules for dog owners

Traditionally, your canine companions have always been welcome in the Stanislaus National Forest. However, the number of problems with dogs in many developed National Forest recreation areas has seriously increased in recent years.

The last thing anyone wants is a situation where your fellow campers are complaining and you are receiving a warning about your pet's behavior. If pet owners review and follow these rules, the odds against having an embarrassing or dangerous situation will drop dramatically. If district rangers continue to receive complaints about bad pet behavior, more rules and stronger enforcement actions may become necessary, possibly resulting in a ban on pets at some

Day Use Area (36 CFR 261.58 (s)). In addition, campground policies for Pinecrest, Meadowview and Pioneer Group campgrounds stipulate that dogs may not be left unattended (even on a leash) within these areas.

Exceptions to this forest order include service dogs for persons with disabilities, rescue or fire fighting forces using a dog in the performance of official duty, or persons with a special permit from the Forest Service which specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

## Campgrounds and Pets

If you are camping with your pet, please practice these rules in all developed campground settings:



- Leave vicious or noisy dogs at home. If they disturb or threaten others with their behavior, you will have to remove them from the recreation area.
- Keep your dog on a leash no longer than 6 feet during the day. Tuolumne County leash laws do not allow pets off a leash in recreation areas.
- Keep your dogs and other pets in a tent or vehicle at night. If pets get loose at night, they may become scared or confused when confronted by other campers or an animal from the forest. Left unprotected, your pet could take off for the woods and not be seen again.

sites. Owners must help prevent bad pet behavior to avoid changes to the pet policy. Changes at Pinecrest Day Use Area resulted from bad pet behavior not being corrected by the owners.

Stanislaus Forest Order No. 2017-04 prohibits persons from possessing, storing or transporting any dog within the Pinecrest

- Developed campgrounds are primarily for human campers, not for animals. Please do not bring more than two pets with you to any one campsite.
- At no time should you bring dogs onto developed swim beaches, even if they are restrained. (Guide dogs are exempt from this rule.) Contamination of water resources and other health issues may arise. This rule is strictly enforced.





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## Be a good camping neighbor

Most complaints about dogs stem from noise or dog mess. Preventing these issues means your pet will be a good camping neighbor.

Here are some commonsense suggestions that should help avoid problems with camping neighbors.

- Don't leave your dog alone in a closed vehicle or tent. It may whine or bark while you're away.
- Clean up after your pet. It only takes a few moments and it ensures forest health and neighbor appreciation.
- Whenever possible, select a campsite on the edge of the campground and away from any shorelines.

Other visitors' reactions to your pet's behavior will help determine future pet policies at our Stanislaus National Forest recreation areas.



**If you have any questions, please contact the nearest Forest Service location:**

**Stanislaus National Forest**  
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-3671

**Summit Ranger District**  
#1 Pinecrest Lake Road  
Pinecrest, CA 95364  
(209) 965-3434

**Groveland Ranger District**  
24545 Hwy 120  
Groveland, CA 95321  
(209) 962-7825

**Calaveras Ranger District**  
5519 Hwy 4  
PO Box 500  
Hathaway Pines, CA 95323  
(209) 795-1381



To view Forest Order 2017-04 and all other Forest Orders, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus](http://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus)