



## Visiting with Pets

Pets are an important part of our lives, providing companionship, love, and joy to their caretakers. While park regulations do not allow pets to join you on hiking trails, in the backcountry, or in park buildings, there are many great alternative areas to explore on a pet-friendly visit to Joshua Tree National Park.

Pets are permitted, **on leash**, no more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from any road (paved or unpaved), picnic area, or campground.



Photo / Sarah Jane Pepper

### “Why not take my pet with me?”

For many visitors, seeing wildlife is a highlight of a national park visit. Unfortunately, the mere presence of pets in the park alters the natural behavior of native wildlife. In national parks, the native species have priority.

Odors, especially urine and feces, left behind by dogs may prevent wildlife from returning to important habitats such as fan palm oases.

Sensitive archeological sites are often not obvious and may inadvertently be disturbed by inquisitive four-legged visitors.

The safety of your pet is important. Abundant cactus spines, rattlesnakes, and sharp rocks

are good reasons not to let your pet roam free. Dogs are natural hunters, but can easily become the hunted. Predators, such as coyotes and mountain lions, are known to kill pets, even during daylight hours.

Even though your pet follows instructions and may be well behaved, others do not know your pet and may feel uneasy when encountering a leashed or unleashed animal.

By following the park’s simple regulations and respecting fellow visitors, you and your pet can have a happy and safe park outing.

### Pet Regulations

- Pets **must** remain on a leash at all times.
- Leashes **must** be 6 feet (1.8 m) long or less.
- Pets are not permitted more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from any road, picnic area, or campground.
- Owners **must** pick up any droppings.

Violators of these regulations are subject to fine.

Remember to bring plenty of water for your pet. Leaving pets in unattended vehicles is strongly discouraged—especially on warm days.

### Picnic Areas and Campgrounds

These areas offer many opportunities to experience the park’s diverse scenery with your pet. Pets are also permitted on the paved Oasis of Mara trail. See park map for locations of picnic areas and campgrounds. Be aware sidewalks and pavement are hot and may burn your pet’s feet.



## Unpaved Roads

Unpaved roads see little vehicle traffic, making them feel a lot like wide trails and a great place to hike with your pet. Anywhere you can drive your vehicle, you can go with your leashed pet.

Some unpaved roads require 4-wheel drive and/or high-clearance vehicles. Be sure you are prepared with food and plenty of water before beginning your trip. Most roads have pullouts or nearby parking areas where you may park and begin hiking. See park map for locations of unpaved roads.

Please move out of the way of vehicles and be aware of traffic.

### All Vehicles (all distances one way)

- Bighorn Pass Road  
3.2 miles (5.1 km)
- Desert Queen Mine Road  
1.2 miles (1.9 km)
- Geology Tour Road (to mile 5.4)  
5.4 miles (8.7 km)
- Odell Road  
1.5 miles (2.4 km)
- Stirrup Tank Road  
1.5 miles (2.4 km)
- Queen Valley Road (one-way traffic,  
east to west)  
2.9 miles (4.7 km)

### 4-wheel Drive (all distances one way)

- Berdoo Canyon Road  
11.5 miles (18.5 km)
- Black Eagle Mine Road  
9.6 miles (15.4 km)
- Geology Tour Road  
18 miles (29 km)
- Old Dale Road  
12.6 miles (20.2 km)
- Pinkham Canyon Road  
19.2 miles (30.9 km)
- Covington-area roads  
9.9 miles (15.9 km)



Unpaved roads offer spectacular scenery and a chance to get off the beaten path. You can immerse yourself in the desert landscape with your pet while following park regulations and protecting park resources.

## Boarding your Pet

Boarding your pet will give you the freedom to explore the park freely and more thoroughly. Boarding information can be found online, by searching in the local communities: Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley. Boarding options may also be available in Palm Springs, Palm Desert, and the surrounding area.

## Service Animals

The 2010 revision to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a “service animal” as an animal that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Animals that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including animals that are used to provide comfort or emotional support (e.g. therapy animals), are considered pets and **not** service animals.

Service animals in training and pets are subject to the park’s pet regulations and are not allowed on trails or more than 100 feet (30.5m) from any road, picnic area or campground. **Falsely portraying a pet as a service animal is considered fraud and is subject to federal prosecution under 36 CFR. 2.32(a)(3)(ii).**