



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
FORT MASON, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 4, 1996

To: Superintendent  
Through: Chief Ranger *G.S. Sorenson*  
From: South District Ranger  
Subject: Compendium Revisions to GGNRA's Pet Policy

This memo will outline specifically what changes the new pet policy will have from the existing policy; what the park is giving up and what the park is taking back. The new pet policy compendium revision is a reflection of information I gathered from meetings with Resources Management, Chief Ranger's Office, U.S. Park Police, GGNPA, SPCA and discussions with the Superintendent's Office.

For the purposes of consistency throughout the entire GGNRA, I have approached the pet policy revisions from a park-wide perspective. This is to ensure consistent policy for Marin, San Mateo and lands in San Francisco.

#### **Marin Headlands:**

The policy designates Rodeo Beach, Muir Beach and Oakwood Valley as off-leash voice control areas. The significant change in the Marin Headlands pet policy is that in most trails where dogs were once allowed off leash, they are now required to be leashed (see map). This is the trade off for designating Muir, Rodeo and Oakwood Valley as voice control areas. By insisting on leash enforcement on the trails of Marin, we are now consistent with the San Mateo lands to the south where all pets are required leashed. The reason for this is to protect wildlife (deer, foxes and bobcats that are seen often throughout the Marin Headlands).

Off leash-voice controlled dogs are allowed to romp on the Rodeo and Muir beaches from the crest of the dunes west to the ocean. Pets are not allowed off leash from the crest of the dunes inland towards creeks, lagoons and ponds (see illustration).

#### **San Francisco County:**

Fort Funston and Crissy Field are the two areas we have already designated as voice control sites, and these are the two areas that the SPCA and dog walking public have passionately rallied around. In my opinion, all other areas of the park that we designate as voice control are major concessions to the special interests of the

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dog walking community.

**Ocean Beach:** Daphene Hatch and her research volunteers found the snowy plover from Wawona Street north for two blocks past Lincoln Way. Daphene Hatch feels strongly that we should designate dogs be leashed to Fulton. From an enforcement point of view, it is probably best to require pets leashed the entire Ocean Beach, from Sloat to the Cliff House. Sergeant Warren Boyer urged in his comments that the Seawall portion of the beach be leashed because of the high visitation in this area. Signs are already posted here requiring dogs leashed, but presently there is no enforcement. Hatch believes if more of the beach is protected from running dogs, the snowy plover habitat will expand.

**Fort Funston:** All of Fort Funston, including beach, will be designated as a voice control area with the exception of Battery Davis Hillslope Closure and the Bank Swallow Habitat Area. Pets must be leashed on the trails system through the Bank Swallow Habitat Area (Currently enforced). Pets are allowed under voice control on the beach below Fort Funston from Sloat Blvd. to the San Mateo County line. Dogs are not allowed to chase shorebirds.

**Lands End and Sutro Heights:** Pets must be leashed.

**Presidio (Crissy Field, Baker Beach and West Pacific Avenue):** Pets must be leashed throughout all of the Presidio with the exception of West Pacific, Crissy Field, and Baker Beach. Bob Chandler has taken the position that West Pacific Avenue be a dog walking corridor for the neighbors along the park boundary. Crissy Field is limited to the Promenade and the old Airstrip and does not include the beach area west of the West Gate which is designated as a shorebird protective zone. For the most part, Crissy Field remains as it is currently managed today. Baker Beach voice control area includes most of the beach, except for the beach west of Lobos Creek. Sharon Farrel wants the creek free of disturbance from dogs which is consistent with Rodeo and Muir Beach aquatic management recommendations.

**San Mateo County:**

Pets must be leashed on all GGNRA lands in San Mateo County.

**Phleger Estate:** Pets prohibited because of intense equestrian use, this is consistent with selected trails in the Marin Headlands.

In conclusion, by designating the above areas "voice control" the remaining portion of the park will strictly enforce the mandatory leash law. I believe this is a good compromise and will give us a solid policy that protects the natural resources and the park visitor experience.

*James F. Nickerson*

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