Hiking with your dog checklist

What to pack for your dog, and the trail rules to remember.

For your dog

- [ ] Leash, 6 feet or shorter
- [ ] Collar or harness with ID tag
- [ ] Water and a collapsible bowl
- [ ] Dog food and treats
- [ ] Poop bags (and pack them out)
- [ ] Dog first aid: tweezers, gauze, vet wrap
- [ ] Booties for hot or rocky ground
- [ ] Towel for the car

Trail rules

- [ ] Check the trail allows dogs (most National Park trails do not)
- [ ] Keep your dog leashed
- [ ] Step aside for other hikers and horses
- [ ] Keep away from wildlife
- [ ] Bag it and carry it out
- [ ] Remember BARK: Bag, Always leash, Respect wildlife, Know where you can go

Watch for

- [ ] Heat: hot pavement and rock burn paws
- [ ] Signs of tiredness or limping
- [ ] Ticks after every hike
- [ ] Foxtails and burrs in fur and paws
- [ ] Blue-green algae in ponds and lakes
- [ ] Rattlesnakes in warm months

After the hike

- [ ] Water and a rest
- [ ] Check paws and pads
- [ ] Tick check: ears, armpits, between toes
- [ ] Log the hike with your dog’s name

BARK Ranger is a National Park Service program for dogs and their owners. Ask a park ranger about where dogs can go.