

PSRMA
Board Policy No. 2
Pet Access on Museum Grounds

Summary

The Museum recognizes the positive impact that well-behaved dogs can have on visitor experience. This policy establishes guidelines for allowing dogs on the museum grounds, while prioritizing the safety and enjoyment of all visitors and the preservation of Museum equipment and displays.

Policy Guidelines

1. **Dogs Welcome:** Leashed, housebroken, well-behaved dogs are welcome on the museum grounds, with the exception of restricted areas as designated by signage. Restricted areas may include special exhibits, inside static train displays, and in children's play areas.
2. **Leash Requirements:** All dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of a responsible handler at all times. Retractable leashes are discouraged for safety reasons.
3. **Waste Disposal:** Dog waste must be disposed of properly in designated pet waste stations located throughout the grounds. Disposable waste bags will be provided by the museum. Dogs should not be permitted to urinate or defecate on or around museum equipment, artifacts, exhibits, and/or displays.
4. **Prohibited Dogs:** Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior towards guests or other dogs, excessive barking or whining, or any health concerns posing a risk to other visitors or museum property will not be permitted on the grounds.
5. **Train Rides:** Dogs are not allowed on board any museum trains due to safety concerns and potential disruptions to the train schedule and experience.
6. **Special Events:** This policy is subject to change during special events or when the museum expects an unusually high number of visitors. Dogs are expressly prohibited during the North Pole Limited event.
7. **Museum Staff Discretion:** Museum staff reserves the right to deny access to any dog deemed a safety hazard or nuisance. No refunds will be provided to guests that are asked to leave the premises due to issues with their pet.

Responsibilities

- **Dog Owners:** Dog owners are responsible for the care and behavior of their dogs while on museum grounds.
 - Extreme heat is common at Campo and water bowls are not provided by the Museum. Please plan accordingly.
 - Dogs are not allowed to remain unattended at any time, including in vehicles. Any dog(s) left in a vehicle will result in the authorities being contacted.
- **Museum Staff:** Museum staff will be trained on identifying service animals, enforcing this policy, and directing visitors to pet waste disposal stations.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the museum administration and may be updated as needed based on visitor experience and feedback.

Service Animals

Service animals properly trained to assist individuals with disabilities are exempt from these restrictions. A service animal is one that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. The trained task must directly relate to the individual's disability. An emotional support animal is NOT a service animal as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Museum staff are permitted to ask only the following questions:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task is the dog trained to perform?