



# Why Should I Keep My Dog Leashed?




Charitable Research Reserve

## Safety

 Unsupervised dogs can interact with hazardous plants such as poison ivy

 Encounters with wildlife such as Skunks, Porcupines, and Coyotes can cause injury or illness

 Pets can catch diseases or parasites such as Rabies (infected wildlife) or Lyme Disease (Ticks)

## Conservation



The *rare* reserve hosts ongoing research and art projects which dogs can impact



Dog waste can carry diseases and parasites which can spread to local wildlife



Even just the scent of a dog can stress local wildlife, forcing them to find new habitats



Off-leash pets can trample sensitive and at-risk plants, and spread the seeds of invasive plants

## Accessibility & Inclusion



It's the law in the City of Cambridge that dogs must be leashed in public, with the exception of service dogs



Everyone visiting *rare* trails deserves to feel welcome and safe



Excited dogs can knock some trail users off-balance



Some trail users and their pets may be uncomfortable around unleashed dogs

### Visit Our Dog Friendly Trails:

ECO Centre Trail  
Grand Allee  
Maple Lane  
Deer Run

Always check trail signs before entering!



For more info visit: [raresites.org/trails](https://raresites.org/trails)



# Did you know?



The presence of humans and dogs on trails can have impacts on local wildlife up to one kilometer away.

Conservation, research, art and education projects at **rare** can be impacted by unleashed dogs.

Topical flea treatments have been linked to pollution of water sources as they can be washed-off up to a month after applied. Even a small amount can be deadly to large amounts of insects: one teaspoon is enough to kill 1.25 billion honey bees!

*Echinococcus multilocularis* is a parasitic tapeworm that can infect dogs when they eat infected rodents or feces. It can then be passed onto humans. Infection causes large cysts in the liver and lungs. The tapeworm is difficult to detect and often fatal.

Dog waste should always be disposed of properly in the trash: if not picked up it can spread parasites and diseases to local wildlife and doggie bags that aren't properly disposed of can take hundreds of years to break down even if marketed as "biodegradable".

Dog walking in woodland areas can lead to a reduction of bird populations up to 41% and a reduction of up to 35% in bird diversity.

## Sources

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