

East Quabbin Land Trust Dog Walking Policy
Adopted by the Board of Directors 03/09/2015

East Quabbin Land Trust properties are open to the public from dawn to dusk and visitors are welcome. In order to protect these special places and provide a pleasant experience for all, we have developed the following policy for dog walkers.

An owner or keeper of a dog must accompany and restrain the dog on a leash or accompany with leash in hand and maintain effective voice control of the dog, or in certain situations, in a manner directed by a law enforcement officer or East Quabbin Land Trust personnel. An obedient dog which is under the effective control of its owner may be permitted to be unleashed unless otherwise directed by a stricter leash law within that particular town by-law. When encountering other visitors with or without dogs, we do request that you leash and restrain your dog on a short tether.

The East Quabbin Land Trust may post rules requiring that dogs be excluded or on leash in designated areas and/or at certain times of year when sensitive wildlife are breeding or livestock are kept within an area.

When your dog is off your property, it must be under your control at all times. The purposes of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131 Section 82 and Chapter 140, Section 173 are intended to protect people and wildlife from free roaming dogs. No person may leave a dog unattended. No person may cause or permit any dog owned by him/her or in his or her custody or under his or her control, to roam or be at large in, on, or through East Quabbin Land Trust property.

East Quabbin Land Trust may direct that a dog be removed from its property by the dog's owner or handler. Failure to abide by such direction may subject the owner or dog to eviction or banning from the East Quabbin Land Trust property, and may subject the owner or handler to a fine and determination that the animal is a "nuisance" or "dangerous" animal by a local animal control officer or police officer authorized to enforce provisions of local by-laws.

No person may have in his or her possession, care or custody more than three dogs on any East Quabbin Land Trust property at any one time without a special use permit from the Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust.

No person or organization may use any East Quabbin Land Trust property for organized animal shows, events, or field trials without obtaining a special use permit from the Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust.

The training of hunting dogs is only allowed from Labor Day through April 1st on EQLT properties. Hunting with a dog is allowed on certain properties with a valid sportsman's license and within the appropriate fall and winter harvest season as annually determined by Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife.

The training of sled dogs is not allowed on East Quabbin Land Trust properties.

We must respect the rights of those with whom we share these special properties to ensure a clean and safe environment. All persons who bring dogs onto East Quabbin Land Trust property shall properly remove and dispose of their pets' feces.

In Summary:

- Dogs are required to be under the owner's control at all times. "Control" is defined as the dog being within the owner's sight and hearing at all times and being trained to come immediately when called.
- Dogs must be restrained by a leash immediately when encountering other walkers, with or without dogs.
- Dogs are not allowed to harass people, wildlife, or livestock of any kind.
- An individual dog walker can bring a maximum of three dogs.
- Training of sled dogs is not allowed on EQLT properties.
- Dogs may be restricted from certain properties or under leash requirements in sensitive wildlife areas or farm lands during certain times of year. Watch for signs at preserves.
- Hunting with a dog is allowed on certain EQLT properties in fall and winter with a valid sportsman's license. Check the web site for properties open to hunting. Training of hunting dogs is only allowed from Labor Day through April 1st.
- Dog owners must clean-up after dogs.