

Rules of Conduct for Dog Walkers on East Quabbin Land Trust Properties

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 rules of conduct 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. When encountering other visitors with pets, we request that you leash your dog.

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 farm animals 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 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.

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

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.

The training of sled dogs is not allowed on East Quabbin Land Trust properties. The training of hunting dogs is only allowed at certain times of year on certain properties and requires a special use permit from the Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust.

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 or horses 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.
- An individual dog walker can bring a maximum of three dogs.
- Dogs are not allowed in ponds, watercourses, or wetlands.
- Dogs are not allowed to harass wildlife or farm animals of any kind.
- 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.
- Dog owners must clean-up after dogs.