

Dog-Walking Regulations for Westwood Conservation Land

Dog-Walking is allowed on properties in Westwood under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, subject to these regulations. People using these properties for walking dogs shall do so in a manner that allows for the preservation of sensitive resource areas and positive visitor experiences. Further, individuals must take necessary steps to protect wildlife, vegetation, and other visitors. The below rules must be followed on all Conservation Land properties:

1. All Dogs shall be licensed, leashed and under control at all times.

This requirement will be posted at trailheads on Conservation Lands.

2. No Dog-Walkers shall walk more than two dogs at a time.

No person, whether walking their own dog(s) or acting in the capacity of a Commercial Dog-Walker, shall walk more than two dogs at a time on Conservation Land.

3. All Dog-Walkers shall clean-up after dogs.

Dog waste shall be picked up by Dog-Walkers and removed from conservation properties or disposed of in designated onsite waste receptacles, where provided. There are no trash receptacles at most Conservation Land properties.

4. All Dogs shall be kept on established paths at all times.

Unleashed dogs disturb or kill birds and mammals and trample and/or damage vegetation.

5. No Dog shall enter ponds, watercourses, or wetlands.

Dog activity erodes banks and adds sediments to ponds, stream waters, and vernal pools, thereby degrading habitat for aquatic species.

6. No Dog shall not harass wildlife.

Dogs and Dog-Walkers are welcome to enjoy strolling along designated paths throughout Conservation Lands, but only if they do so in a manner that does not disturb wildlife.

7. Special Regulations for Commercial Dog-Walkers:

- a. Any person engaged in the business of walking dogs shall be considered a "Commercial Dog-Walker".
- b. No Commercial Dog-Walker shall enter upon Conservation Land with any Dog(s) unless they first obtain written approval from the Westwood Conservation Agent

in the form of a Commercial Dog-Walker Permit, which permit shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance.

- c. A Commercial Dog-Walker Permit shall be granted upon satisfaction of the following conditions:
 - (i) The Commercial Dog-Walker agrees in writing to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Westwood from any and all loss, liability, damage or cost incurred related to the Commercial Dog-Walker's activities or the activities of dogs under their care;
 - (ii) The Commercial Dog-Walker provides written evidence to the Westwood Conservation Agent of commercial general liability insurance coverage in limits established by the Town, naming the Town as an additional insured; and
 - (iii) The Commercial Dog-Walker is found by the Westwood Conservation Agent to be in good standing and to have not violated these regulations during the past twelve (12) months.
 - d. A valid Commercial Dog-Walker Permit shall be carried by the Commercial Dog-Walker and shall be presented upon request by the Town's Animal Control Officer, a Police Officer or the Westwood Conservation Agent.
- 8.** Violators may be expelled from the Conservation Land property and prohibited from entering any Conservation Land properties for a period of twelve (12) months, and may be subject to additional penalties and/or fines in accordance with Town of Westwood General Bylaw Chapter 184.