

Expectations for Pets Included on WFCKC Outings

The WFCKC provides opportunities for like-minded paddlers to enjoy our local rivers. Because some club members occasionally enjoy taking their pets with them on trips, pets may be permitted on some club outings. In regards to pets, the WFCKC has two classes of trips: 1) People only and 2) Well-behaved pets welcome. (Unless stated otherwise by the trip leader, trips are assumed to fall under the first category.) *Because ALL of the WFCKC trips are people friendly, we have established guidelines for pet behavior for trips on which they are allowed.* The intent of these guidelines is to define some basic expectations for good behavior and assure that all of our trips are enjoyable for all participants. This list is not all-inclusive; good manners and common sense should always apply.

1. The pet will not be left unattended while the owner runs the shuttle. The pet owner should not expect to take the dog on the shuttle; only drivers may shuttle. If the dog gets anxious while separated from its owners, it should be left at home. The pet owner should arrange in advance for a fellow paddler to watch their pet on the shuttle.
2. At the put-in, take-out, shuttle locations, and all group stops along the river, pets must be controlled on a short leash. This does not rule out allowing pets to run or swim unhindered down a river as long as they are well-behaved, reliably come when called, and they are put on a leash when the club stops. Pets should not be allowed to jump on or harass club members or others.
3. The pet will be controlled by the owner while people are eating, and the pet owner will bring food for the pet. Begging or trying to steal food is not acceptable. At club parties and campouts, pets will be kept away from pavilions where activities are ongoing or food is being served.
4. Pets must have current rabies vaccination tags on them. It is also suggested, but not required, that pets have tags with the names and contact information of their owners.
5. The pet owner will assume responsibility at all times for the pet and not expect others to hunt for or rescue the animal. If the animal is not a good swimmer, putting it in a life jacket is highly recommended.
6. The occasional bark is fine, but continuous barking is unacceptable. If a dog is the type to bark with anxiety while the owner is running the shuttle, it should stay at home. If the owner cannot or does not want to control the dog's barking, it should stay at home.
7. If the dog likes to chew, it should be kept away from the gear of others. The animal should not be allowed to climb on or scratch any other paddler's gear. Destruction of the property of others is unacceptable and will automatically result in exclusion from future trips.
8. Any pet that bites, or has bitten, anyone is prohibited from attending any club event. The club has a zero tolerance policy regarding aggressive behavior by pets. Any pets displaying any aggressive behavior will be automatically excluded from all future trips.

Pets that do not adhere to these guidelines can have a negative impact on the quality of club outings and will not be allowed to participate in ANY trip. As noted above, only well-behaved pets will be permitted on trips that are open to pets. It is expected that pet owners will take it upon themselves to exclude pets that do not meet these guidelines. If a pet owner does not act accordingly, the trip leader or a participant should bring this to the attention of the WFCKC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, at their discretion, may exclude the pet from future trips.