

Enjoying Humboldt's WILD PLACES with Your Dog

Responsible dog owners help ensure that everyone can enjoy Humboldt's wildlife by choosing to keep their dog on a leash, knowing where and when it is appropriate for dogs to be off-leash, and by cleaning up after their dog.

GUIDE KEY

The following color symbols are intended to be used as a general guide to understanding dog use regulations. Additional site-specific regulations are listed under the site name.

- ✘ RED: No dogs on trails or beaches.
- ▼ ORANGE: Dogs allowed on trails and beaches but must be on a leash at all times.
- BLUE: Dogs may be off-leash under voice control* only in specified locations and/or seasons.
- ◆ GREEN: Dogs allowed off-leash if under complete voice control*. Dogs must be leashed in parking areas.

*"Voice Control" is defined as the dog 1) is within view and within voice range of the owner; 2) comes at first calling; and 3) is not allowed to approach people in a threatening manner or in any way harass people, wildlife, other dogs, or horses.



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER (Charadrius nivosus nivosus)

The western snowy plover is a small, sparrow-sized shorebird that nests on beaches, estuaries, and river beds along the Pacific

coast. The Pacific coast population is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. You can help western snowy plovers recover by learning more about their behavior, threats to breeding success, and what you can do to help.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR:

- Breeds March through September.
- Lays three small camouflaged eggs in the open sand.
- Adults and chicks forage on invertebrates in the wrack line and in open sand. They do not typically feed in groups along the water's edge; those are most likely sanderlings.

THREATS:

- Predation of eggs and chicks. Ravens and crows are the biggest concern in our area; other culprits include foxes, raccoons, and skunks.
- Loss and degradation of breeding habitat, such as the encroachment of European beachgrass. Plovers prefer to nest in open sandy areas with sparse low-lying vegetation.
- Human activities. Encounters with dogs, horses, vehicles, and even Frisbees or kites can cause adult birds to waste energy fleeing and leave their nests unattended.
- Inclement weather such as winter storms, river flooding, high tides, and strong winds can be taxing on adult birds and destroy nests.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Be aware of seasonal regulations where plovers nest.
- Pick up after yourself. Trash attracts ravens and crows.
- Keep dogs on leashes in designated areas.
- Use designated trails in the dunes. Walk on the waveslope* in areas where snowy plovers may be present. Always be alert for sneaker waves.

*"Waveslope" is defined as the area between the high tide line and the ocean



Keeping your dog on a leash helps protect wildlife.

SAFETY

BEACH

- Do not attempt to rescue your dog if it gets caught in the surf. Dogs are much more likely to make it out on their own than you are.
- Never turn your back on the ocean and stay away from the surf. Sneaker waves can strike at any time, even when most waves are small.
- Ground shaking or the ocean receding or suddenly changing is your warning to leave the beach and go to high ground. A tsunami may be coming.

FRESHWATER LOCATIONS

- Blooms of blue-green algae in mid to late summer months can be harmful to your pets. It is recognizable by a blue-green or brown mat or foam on the surface of the water in freshwater lakes, rivers, or lagoons.

