



# OFRC Animal Policies

Updated 1/9/23

## SERVICE ANIMALS

We request that all campers bringing a service dog to camp let us know at least two weeks in advance of arrival. A service dog is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

The dog must be trained to take a specific action when needed to assist the person with a disability. For example, a person with diabetes may have a dog that is trained to alert them when their blood sugar reaches high or low levels. A person with depression may have a dog that is trained to remind them to take their medication. Or, a person who has epilepsy may have a dog that is trained to detect the onset of a seizure and help the person remain safe during the seizure.

While emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are often used as part of a medical treatment plan as therapy animals, they are not considered service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA. These support animals provide companionship, relieve loneliness, and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. Even though some states have laws defining therapy animals, these animals are not limited to working with people with disabilities and therefore are not covered by federal laws protecting the use of service animals.

Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals either. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. It does not matter if a person has a note from a doctor that states that the person has a disability and needs to have the animal for emotional support. A doctor's letter does not turn an animal into a service animal. In California, falsely claiming an animal to be a service animal is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for six months or a fine up to \$1,000 or both.

Service animals must be allowed to accompany their handlers to and through self-service food lines. Staff may ask only two specific questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

The ADA requires that service animals be under the control of the handler at all times. The service animal may not be passed onto another individual while the handler participates in an activity or left in an accommodation (such as a hotel room). The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these devices. In that case,

the person must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the animal. Under control also means that a service animal should not be allowed to bark repeatedly in a lecture hall, theater, library, or other quiet place. However, if a dog barks just once, or barks because someone has provoked it, this would not mean that the dog is out of control. If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, staff may request that the animal be removed from the premises.

## **DOG POLICIES**

Pet dogs, emotional support dogs, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are allowed at Oakland Feather River Camp only during Memorial Day Work Weekend or during other pre-arranged and announced sessions, if any. They must be registered and approved ahead of time and must adhere to the following policies.

**Leashing and Behavior** – Dogs must be leashed at all times (we recommend at least a 6' lead, in order to allow for appropriate physical distance between you and other Campers who may want to pet your dog). Dogs must always be under supervision of an owner over the age of 18 at all times. Owners must be in view of their dogs and have their dogs under strong voice control at all times. Because our campers' safety is our number one priority, we cannot tolerate aggressive dogs, or dogs with an inability to interact socially with other canines or humans.

In addition to behavioral and distancing concerns, we require dogs to be leashed due to rattlesnakes and other living things on the property. If your dog has never been camping or to OFRC before, behavior might vary from what you are used to at home.

Please also be courteous to other campers by:

- picking up after your pet and use proper disposal
- not allowing your dog to dig holes
- leaving dogs who like to bark at home.

If you sense that a situation involving your dog might devolve into something injurious, please remove yourself and your dog from the area immediately.

**Vaccinations** – Dog owners in California are required by law to make sure that their dogs are licensed and vaccinated against rabies. All dogs must have up-to-date vaccinations. These vaccines must be completed at least 5 days prior to your arrival at Camp.

**Other Health Issues** – Upon admission to camp, all dogs must be free from any condition that could potentially jeopardize other campers. (No coughing, vomiting, diarrhea 48 hours prior to arrival at the facility). Guardians will certify that their dog(s) are in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition in the last 30 days. If your dog has had a communicable condition within the last 30 days, we will require a Veterinarian certification of health to be admitted or re-admitted.

All Dogs Must be free of parasites (fleas, ticks and heartworms). Since May and June are peak season for ticks in Northern California, we strongly recommend dog owners utilize preventative medication for ticks prior to your arrival at Camp.

All dogs must be spayed or neutered to come to camp. Unaltered dogs destabilize the pack, and are at greater risk for injury by other dogs, and females in season show more aggression.

**Identification** – Please keep a collar with ID tags securely on your dog at all times. Even well behaved dogs can slip out of a loose collar and chase after a wild animal if they become too excited. Microchipping and registering your dog is an added measure you can take to ensure that you will be contacted if they are found. This will increase the chance of them getting back to you in case they get lost.

**Responsibility & Supervision** – Owners are solely responsible for any actions, harm or damage caused by their pet/s while at Oakland Feather River Camp, including but not limited to any physical or property damage, medical bills, and or/legal bills. Owners are responsible for their pet's actions and will accept financial responsibility for any damage their pet causes.

As an owner, you are solely responsible for all acts and behavior of their pet/s while at Oakland Feather River Camp and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Oakland Feather River Camp and its staff from injury of any kind to third parties.

A long leash or tether is a great way to allow your dog to explore the campsite while you relax knowing he'll stay in the area. Feel free to tie your tether to a tree or put in a stake near your tent or cabin.

**Bites** – It is our policy that any animal bite, even if it does not break skin, must be brought in for medical attention. Animals can carry a lot more bacteria than just rabies. Getting the victim to the ER in a timely manner will allow the medical professionals to start appropriate treatment.

**Restricted Areas** – Dogs are not allowed inside the Dining Hall, on the patio during meals, in bath houses, the Tot Lot or camp swimming hole. We encourage campers with dogs to utilize any of the off-site swimming holes a short walk away from camp. Ask the office staff or another Camp staff member for directions.

**Food and Feeding** – Dogs should not be on the dining patio during meals. Feeding should only occur at your tent or cabin. Please remember that food is not allowed to be stored in your cabins due its propensity to attract wild animals. Since dog food is not allowed in the dietary kitchen, we suggest pre-packaging your dog's meals into single service, sealed containers and storing food in your car. Any refrigerated dog food should be stored in a cooler that is stored in your car. Ice is available for purchase in the camp store.