

Hiking With Your Dog at a Nature Reserve

The Couchiching Conservancy is a charitable land trust whose goal is to safeguard special, natural places for future generations. This ensures the flora and fauna of Ontario can thrive despite pressures of urban sprawl and habitat fragmentation.



We're happy to allow the public to enjoy our nature reserves, however it's essential to respect those who call these special places home. This is done by following the rules when visiting.

Common Responses

1. My dog comes when called. They should be exempt.

A. Rules are not set on a case-by-case basis. This rule protects everyone, and ensures every walk of life can enjoy their time on our nature reserves.

2. My dog doesn't walk well on a leash.

A. There are alternative locations that allow you and your dog to experience the outdoors off-leash:

- Dog park
- Sniffspot

Please **do not** take your dog to a nature reserve to let them off leash.

3. My dog is friendly, and should be allowed off-leash.

A. Not all dogs or people using the trails enjoy the company of unfamiliar dogs. As an exclusive on-leash area, no one should fear an off-leash dog encounter.

The Couchiching Conservancy needs your support to continue safeguarding natural places for the future.

Leave a gift at:
www.couchichingconserv.ca/donate

*The Couchiching
Conservancy*



Why Can't I Let My Dog Off Leash?

Alysha Henry



couchichingconserv.ca
[@couchconserv](https://www.instagram.com/couchconserv)



Risks for Your Dog

- There are off-trail dangers such as poison ivy, thorny bushes, broken branches, and other debris. Staying on trail is the safest way to explore the wilderness.
- Not all dogs you will encounter are dog-friendly.
- Wildlife who call nature reserves home pose a risk to you and your dog. Examples include:

- **Bears**
- **Ticks**
- **Porcupines**
- **Coyotes**
- **Skunks**



Risks To Wildlife

- Off-leash dogs harass wildlife, which causes unnecessary stress and predation.
- Many of our nature reserves are home to species at risk and sensitive species. Our top priority is to ensure our nature reserves are safe habitats.



Spread of Invasive Species

- Seeds hitch a ride on the fur of dogs to spread long distances.
- Invasive species threaten the biodiversity of our nature reserves, as well as surrounding properties.



Kyla Fratt, K9 Conservationists

Risks To Others

- Leash rules reassure our visitors that they (or their dog) will not come across an unfamiliar, off-leash dog while enjoying their time in nature.



Waste

- Waste from off-leash dogs can be hard to locate, and stepped in.
- Introduced dog waste releases parasites, bacteria, and an overload of nutrients into the environment, causing damage.

