

Help Protect People and Pets at Rowe Woods

Cincinnati Nature Center has always been a dog-friendly place. As a local animal shelter volunteer and a mom of three wonderful dogs, I am one of many CNC staff, members and guests, who love to walk the trails at Rowe Woods with our four-legged companions. All visitors, including pets, can enjoy their experience at CNC by respecting each other and the guidelines we've put in place to help keep our members, guests, wildlife and pets safe.

Sadly, a dog was fatally injured by another dog this June at CNC. The owners of the aggressive dog were identified and their visitation privileges revoked. CNC's dog walking guidelines have always required dogs be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control at all times as a precaution against such incidents. As always, all visitors are required to stop at the entry gate. New check-in procedures allow us to know each owner and his/her dogs that are on the property at all times. A daily record of the owner's name, license plate number and description of dogs will be recorded.

You are our best source of information about daily happenings on CNC grounds; please continue to be our eyes and ears on the trails. If you see dogs off-leash, out of control, wading in ponds or streams or in distress, please report it to our visitor services staff at 513/965-4245 or 513/831-1711. The new check-in procedures make it easier to identify those involved in any incidents.

Help protect your privilege to share nature at CNC with your best friend!

Connie O'Connor

CNC Education & Visitor Services Director

Tell us what you think by emailing coconnor@cincynature.org.



Connie O'Connor With Her Dogs Tayla, Harely and Bourbon.

Why Are Leash Rules Necessary?

- Leash-aggression is common, especially when an unleashed dog approaches a leashed dog who may believe it must protect its owner.
- Not everyone is fond of dogs; visitors may not appreciate a greeting by a free-running dog. Unleashed dogs disturb these visitors and may disrupt plants and wildlife.
- Thousands of children visit Rowe Woods each year, some of whom are afraid of dogs, and others who haven't been taught to ask before approaching strange dogs. With dogs leashed and under control, owners can determine if/when children interact with them. Use each encounter as a teaching opportunity by reminding others to ask before petting a stranger's dog. Remind other dog owners to ask before allowing their dog to approach yours.
- The trails at Rowe Woods are narrow, which means that dogs pass each other close and head-on. This is a recipe for trouble, so it's important to keep a short leash. We recommend sturdy leashes, no longer than 6 feet, to avoid entanglement and maintain control. If you must use a flexi-leash, at no time should it extend past 6 feet.
- By keeping dogs close, dog owners will be there to clean up after their dog.