

The Missoula area provides many opportunities to enrich your outdoor experience by taking a dog along. Taking your pet can also add an element of risk to your journey. Read on for some tips on how to make your outdoor adventure an enjoyable experience.

Does my dog need a leash?

Consider your dog's behavior and the place you plan to go. Remember, keeping dogs leashed is the best way to prevent conflicts with livestock, wildlife, traps, other people or dogs.

Off-leash Areas: (refer to map)

1. Jacob's Island Bark Park
 2. Fort Missoula Canine Campus
 3. Blue Mountain Recreation Area
 4. Pattee Canyon Recreation Area
- No dogs on groomed ski trails in winter.

Leash Areas: (refer to map)

5. Some areas on Mount Sentinel

Leashes required where posted, such as the "M" trail and some sections of the south face. Dogs must be under voice restraint in all areas.

6. Some areas on Mount Jumbo

Leashes required near trailheads, seasonally and where posted; check with Missoula Parks & Rec.

7. All Parks and Trails within City limits

City parks, riverfront trail system and all other public lands within city limits, unless posted.

8. Maclay Flats Recreation Site

9. Rattlesnake NRA

Main Corridor: Leashes required from S. boundary to milepost 1.7. No dogs allowed 12/1-2/28. **Spring Gulch:** Leashes required to M.P. 1.3. No dogs 12/1-5/15. **Sawmill & Curry Gulch:** No dogs.

10. Some areas in the North Hills

Leashes required unless otherwise posted.

11. Kelly Island Fishing Access Site



Be prepared for what to do if you encounter wildlife with your dog.

Rules and regulations for dogs differ from site to site. For more information, contact:

City of Missoula Parks and Recreation:
Conservation lands, city parks and trails
600 Cregg Lane
(406) 552-6258
www.ci.missoula.mt.us/parksrec

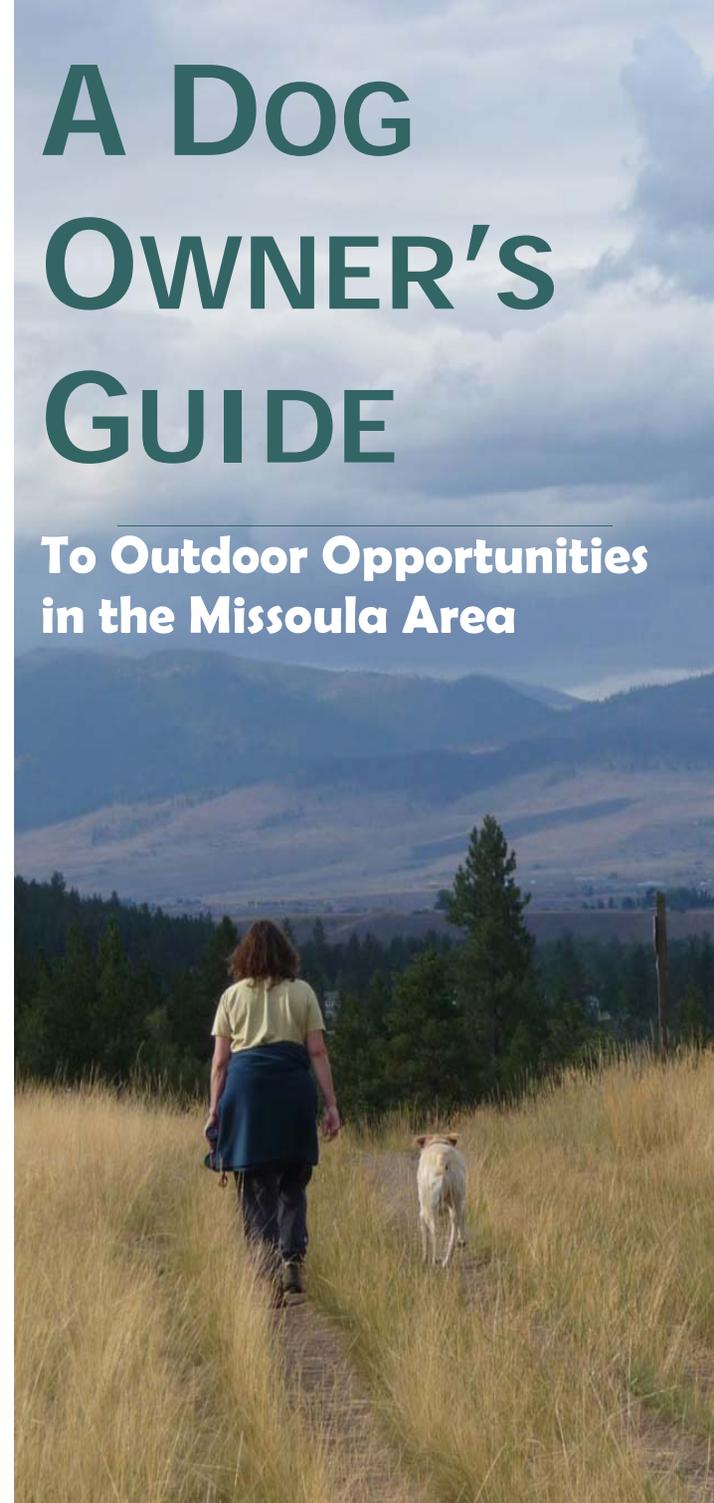
Lolo National Forest:
Blue Mountain, Pattee Canyon & Rattlesnake
Fort Missoula, Bldg 24
(406) 329-3750
www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP):
Fishing Access Sites, State Parks
3201 Spurgin Road
(406) 542-5500
fwp.mt.gov



A DOG OWNER'S GUIDE

To Outdoor Opportunities in the Missoula Area



- ◆ how to handle encounters with livestock & wildlife ◆
- ◆ Where to go ◆ leash requirements ◆ what to expect

A Dog Owner's Guide to Missoula

◆ Where to go ◆ How to handle dog encounters with wildlife & livestock ◆ Leash requirements ◆ What to expect

Where to go: From urban dog parks to hiking trails, there are many places near town to take your dog. This map shows a few good options.



Encountering livestock: You may encounter cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, llamas or other livestock on

Keeping your dog safe: You and your dog could encounter mountain lions, black bears, wolves, moose, elk, deer, and other wildlife.



Protect your dog: Keep your dog nearby and under control to prevent conflicts with wildlife.

★ Areas where wildlife trapping is not allowed. In addition, trapping is not allowed on any other city lands, including conservation lands or open space.

Some of Missoula's favorite dog destinations



public or private lands. Dogs may spook livestock, especially horses, which may cause injury to the animals and people involved. Dogs have injured and killed domestic sheep that were working to help control invasive weed species on city lands. Keep your dog leashed when livestock are nearby.



When approaching livestock, leash your dog and move to the downhill side of the trail.

Keeping wildlife safe: Dogs can harm wildlife. A dog chasing wildlife sometimes separates adult wildlife from young and can lead to the wild animal dying from stress or a direct kill.

Dogs sometimes uncover wildlife that is bedded down. Wildlife, including newborn animals, should be left undisturbed and untouched. Such animals are almost always hiding, not injured or abandoned, and will be rejoined by an attending adult when the danger has passed.

Use caution at trailheads: Keep your dog on a leash at trailheads and parking lots to minimize interactions with other visitors or dogs and to protect your dog from vehicles and other hazards.

Respect others: Remember that others may not be as comfortable with dogs as you are. Keep your dog nearby and don't allow your dog to run after or make physical contact with other dogs or recreationists.

Do remove the doo: Dog owners are responsible for the immediate removal of dog waste on public land or private land other than their own. Carry a bag with you and pack out the waste. Don't leave bagged waste along the trail.

Protect wildlife: A dog that has taken off on a chase will often not respond to commands. The best way to protect wild animals is to keep your dog leashed. Never touch or remove wild animals—especially young animals.



For protection, the number one rule is to keep your dog nearby and under control. Dogs running off-trail can follow wildlife scent and trails, which can sometimes lead wildlife back to you or provoke a wildlife attack on your pet.

If you see a wild animal, leash your dog and back away from the wild animal. If your dog is not trained to come, keep it leashed at all times. Do not allow your dog to linger around dead animals, as these may have been killed by a lion or bear, which may be resting nearby, guarding its kill. Always carry bear pepper spray and have it accessible (NOT stuffed in your pack).

Traps: Reduce the risk of dogs being captured in a trap set for coyotes or other wildlife by keeping dogs on roads and trails and by not allowing them to roam. An instructional brochure to help dog owners release a trapped dog is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

★ Trap-free areas:

Public land managers in Missoula County have designated some areas as "trap-free" for dog owners that want to use areas where they know their dog will not encounter a legally set wildlife trap, even if traveling off-trail.

Trap-free areas are Blue Mountain and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas and Rattlesnake National Recreation Area outside the Wilderness boundary. More detailed maps of these recreation areas are available from the Lolo National Forest. Trapping is also prohibited on all lands administered by the city of Missoula.