

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: B Webb <21impulsesailing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 8:13 AM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Water Dogs

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We have been to many State parks over the years and none of them are consistant about dogs on a beach, the better one's have a fenced in area of a (cleaned beach area with no cattails, black muck, etc.) where dogs can go out into the lake to swim or chase a stick which doesn't work while they have a leash on. We know all about the cleaning up after our dogs, and there will always be a few exceptions out there that don't. The people that don't clean up after their dogs should be fined.

We're retired and enjoy seeing our dogs have fun at the beach, when we lived in Cheboygan we used to take long drives around in the area within 50 miles just to see what their facilities were for dogs. They ALL say they are dog friendly but we have found that not to be true. We would choose not to camp at the truly unfriendly one's.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Deb Scott <tater3025@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Leash laws for dogs - state property

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To whom it may concern,

The draft proposals that you included in the email appear to be concise and clear. I would approve of them if I could make the meeting.

Thank you

Deb Scott
Citizen of Kalamazoo County
269-501-3955

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: S. G. Yaskulski <sgydvms@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Regarding leashed dogs on state property

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Hi, I speak from my cherished memories of being on the beaches in California with my dogs of that time period in our lives.

We loved the walks and my favorite photo is of us walking together, taken by a friend.

BUT, some thoughts/ suggestions to be good human and canine citizens ----- GOOD MANNERS must prevail, sensible behavior must be used.

People have had a leash on their dog but it ran freely dragging the leash, leash unheld by its human who declared the dog was technically leashed. Not courteous and not wise.

Courtesy is to ask if your dog may approach and/or play with another dog. A dog may be elderly, may be recovering from an injury/wound, or for whatever reason may not be allowed or up-to-snuff to the play that another dog desires.

As a veterinarian I always urged my clients and friends with dogs to always have on their person a copy of their dog's rabies certificate, plus an ID tag on their dog's collar, harness, or vest. Incidents may occur and I would like to know the status of the dog injured or that of the dog causing an injury/incident to be able to help dogs and humans. Just as we humans carry ID and car license.

May have more thoughts as memories arrive.

Appreciate the work of the DNR folks.

Dr. Sharon G. Yaskulski, DVM, MS

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: EILEEN OTTO <mstergrdner@wowway.com>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Cc: mstergrdner@wowway.com
Subject: DNR New Leash Rules Open For Comment

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I pray that you do not do this. I live in Saint Clair Shores MI and there are so many unleashed/loose dogs that I started taking my leashed dog to the now DNR managed Belle Isle in Detroit Michigan only to take him for a safe walk. This would be ridiculous. I also walk Detroit Animal Control dogs that are up for adoption (a lot of people do) at Belle Isle to get them out of their kennels. No way would I go to Belle Isle if dogs were off leash. Something also needs to be done about the loose/unleashed dogs statewide in Michigan. This what you are proposing is not an answer! I am tired of getting attacked (me and my dog) by loose/unleashed dogs what you are proposing would make it much worse!.

Eileen Otto
22438 Trombly Street
Saint Clair Shores MI. 48080
586 445-2136

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WOW! Homepage (<http://www.wowway.com>)

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Gary Roehl <gary.roehlo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 8:38 AM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Regarding leashed dogs on state owned /managed land.

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I am an owner/caretaker of an Australian shepherd stock dog. I noticed in your communiqué, that you seem to be referring to hunting dog regulations when they are Offleash. when my dog is Offleash he is always in a training mode under my command. So I would assume that he /I has the same rights as any hunting dog, correct?

I think that you would agree that certain breeds of dogs need room to roam and burn energy as much as any hunting dog. I would characterize my dog as a working /herding dog.

I realize that my dog is always my responsibility, so anything adverse that would happen would also be my responsibility,(as in state law). I am willing to take responsibility for my animal, so therefore, I believe he deserves the freedom of any other type of dog to be off leash. What other dog owners want to do is up to them.

Because canine ownership is so popular in this country it is a part of the fabric of this society and the question of their freedom to roam off leash on state land, is of the utmost importance.

Any feedback you can give me to my concerns would be appreciated.

Sent from my iPad

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Jerry Fahselt <fahzwell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 12:58 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Leash (dogs) laws on state-managed land

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

As an avid hiker, mountain biker and snow-shoer who uses state land almost daily, I am very concerned about unleashed dogs. Due to medication that does not allow my blood to clot like ordinary people, every unleashed dog I encounter in the woods is potentially a deadly threat to my life. A seemingly minor bite could cause me to bleed out before any help finds me deep in the woods. I already carry pepper spray for defense and if leash laws are relaxed, I might even consider a legal carry sidearm...and that's just not the kind of person I want to become to protect my life.

Please keep leash laws in place!

Thanks, Jerry F.

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: John Tomlin <chefjtomliniv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 12:32 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dog leash

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The law should read that dogs must be under control. Simple as that, under control on leash under control off leash.

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Kay Mattox <mattoxkar@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 8:00 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Leash rules for dogs

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Good evening,

As a resident who camps at state parks and also whose residence backs up to a state park (Wetzel State Park) that is used for hunting I feel I have an insight that most do not have.

As for dogs in campgrounds please enforce the 6' foot rule when walking your dog. I have had dog(s) that I take camping regularly and when walking them I always have them on a 6' leash max. The problem I have is the people who walk their dogs on those retractable leashes and let their dogs roam all over the place. I don't know how many times I'm sitting on my campsite with my pup only to be startled by an uninvited dog on my site barking and running at my dog.

As for the unleashed dogs while hunting, I do understand the reasoning behind it and fully accept it. I have beagles running on my property all the time and that is fine with me as long as the owners are not actively shooting on my property. It's the others who are not hunting but have no leash on their dogs while walking the trails. I hike the trails in the state park behind my house everyday with my dog (on a leash) and have been nearly bitten several times. The dogs that are trained for hunting have never tried to attack my dog or myself, it's the hikers with their off leash dogs that have the unpredictable dogs. Please address this issue. Dogs being used for hunting should be able to be off leash as long as the owner is actively hunting and licensed.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Warne
57917 Werderman Rd.
Lenox. MI

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Lawrence Stranad <617clay@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 12:38 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dog leashing

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My experience on state controlled lands when hiking and small game hunting, I have had my experience interfered with by unleashed and out of control dog(s).
The state law of control for your pet, 6' lease, should be enforced statewide with the exceptions noted above. Thank you.

Larry Stranad
Muskegon, Mi

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 4:00 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: RE: Question about proposed leash-law changes

From: Lori Lickly <llickly@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 1:15 PM
To: Wolf, Jennifer (DNR) <WOLFJ1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Question about proposed leash-law changes

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Hello Jennifer - I am a Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteer in Michigan, and train dogs to find missing people. Those of us who do this training have always assumed that we could train on State Land (Land controlled by...) in any area where hunting dogs can train or hunt. We've been training on State Land for many years. Now, it appears that we may be doing so illegally...? And, the new proposal regarding hunting dogs in Day Use Areas is very specific to hunting dogs, although it does say "other purposes..." Would the "other purposes" clause include Search Dogs? If not, yikes! We heavily rely on State Land to train our dogs. In reading the RIS it talks about dogs being used to find downed game, etc., but it doesn't include anything that is not specifically related to "game". Search Dogs essentially operate exactly the same way as a typical hunting dog – and we are hunting – just not "game". Please clarify how this change will affect SAR dogs, and whether it is, or will be, legal for us to train these "specialty dogs" on State Land. If you're not the correct person to answer these questions, please forward this to the appropriate person, or let me know whom I should contact.

Thank you,
Lori Lickly
989-965-6874
llickly@gmail.com

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: lynec2@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 9:45 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: New rules for unleashed dogs

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To whom it may concern. I believe that not only hunting dogs should be unleashed while on trails and state controlled land. I believe that training service dogs should also be allowed in the same areas. Also training detection dogs for swim rescue, survivor recovery, drug and bomb detection, and search recovery dogs should be allowed on the same lands.

Thanks for receiving my input.

Best regards,
Lyle Nichols

Sent from my iPhone

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: nmthomas511@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dog Leashing

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Hello,

What is a "field" trail? Is this a trail in a remote area of the park? I am ok with dogs being unleashed in these areas. However on more populated walking trails accessible to and frequented by the general public, I would prefer that dogs be leashed.

Thank you.

Nena Thomas

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: paula wurm <phwhorse@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)

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You know, I love dogs as much as the rest of them! I always had one. And I understand people can't leave dogs in their cars. But... After being up at Tahquamenon Falls this past week, I found it very disconcerting that there were just dogs everywhere! And I mean everywhere. It got to be totally insane!! my husband now has a few mobility issues due to a very bad car accident a few years ago, through no fault of his own, and having all these dogs around really can be a detriment to his and so many other peoples safety. I don't know what you can do about this, because Yep once again dogs cannot be left in the car but to have that many dogs roaming around even on leashes where there's so many older people to me, seems to be quite a public health issue.

Thank you for letting me give you my two cents about this.

Paula Wurm

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Rick Crawford <rcrawford515@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dog leash law

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Does this include trails where dogs go off paths and chasing rabbits, deer and other animals. And during hunting seasons? And does it include hunting areas that trails go thru?

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Joseph, Robert (EGLE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 12:22 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: DNR to host public hearing Oct. 19 regarding leashed dogs on state-managed land

Hello Margaret,

This correspondence is regarding leashed dogs on state-managed lands as I am not available to attend the hearing and reside in southwest Wayne County. I like dogs, but I do not trust other owners' dogs nor ones that do not know me. This is a slippery-slope topic and it is always better to err on the side of caution. In other words, allowing dogs to "roam unabated" in general without a leash poses a safety threat and discomfort for many.

Now, I've briefly read the guidance documents regarding this so it should not pertain to state area parks (trails, beaches, rest areas, etc) because dogs should definitely be required to be leashed (although many owners at state parks allow their dogs freely sadly). Allowing dogs to roam freely with the assumption that the owner will be present or make proper safety decisions regarding this is reckless and naïve. As state employees, it is our job to ensure the protection of Michigan residents when out enjoying the state's beautiful landscape and this is one way of ensuring that. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Joseph
Senior Environmental Engineer
Air Quality Division - Warren District Office
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
586-506-9564 | JosephR4@Michigan.gov
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Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Thomas Cardinal <tecardinal60@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 6:04 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: leash free dog comment

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I am in full support of letting obedient non-aggressive dogs leash free in designated areas. Dog owners with non-obedient or aggressive dogs should not be allowed to let their dogs go unleashed. After years of trail hiking with our dog, this spring, a loose pit-bull attacked our leashed dog, sending it to the vet for stitches and me to the hospital with an infected hand from dog bites. Our dog is well socialized and very obedient and I know she could easily be trusted off leash. Only, changes in dogs allowed off leash laws should have some wording to disallow aggressive or non-obedient dogs from being off leash. It's unfortunate we have dog owners that go out with aggressive dogs, they can't control and are not on a secured collar and leash. I agree that most hunting breeds are usually non-aggressive and focus on hunting and not attacking other dogs or people. I would just hate to think off leash law changes would open it up for all dog owners to think it's safe to let their aggressive family friendly pet run loose around other dogs or people. Thanks for asking and your consideration with any law change wording is appreciated.

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Thomas J <bigtomjay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dogs

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Hello, I want to submit by comment.

Dogs should be on leashes at all times in public areas.

Please, let's not break what is not broken.

One problem: Guys (and I've recently witnessed this) with their pit bulls wandering around unleashed on bike trail north of Sidney. Children walking on the trail under eight years old. A lethal mix.

Thank you, Sincerely.
Thomas Joswiak

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Tim Purk <tpurk70@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)

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You should start doing classes to show dog hunters how to safely release their dogs from foot hold traps. And help them understand it is against the law to damage or destroy the trap. This is my opinion and only my opinion, but would be good sense to limit potential disputes.

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: Todd Rockwell <toddrock12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: State Land Leash Law Review

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Hello,
Regarding Michigan Department of Natural Resources public hearing on Thursday, Oct. 19 regarding proposed language updates to a rule governing the use of leashed and off-leashed dogs on state-managed land.

I am unable to attend this hearing but would like to propose the following: I train and deploy an Area Search, Search and Rescue K9 as part of Michigan Search and Rescue and Lapeer County Search and Rescue. Area Search K9s are trained to cover large areas of woods off leash to find missing people.

We currently train and deploy on DNR controlled properties. I would ask that you please consider giving Search and Rescue K9s the same access off leash as hunting K9s (working and training). This will allow us to continue to train and deploy to help families find missing loved ones.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,
Todd Rockwell

K9 Team Glory
Certified/Deployable
MISAR
LCSAR

248-219-0251

Rost, Margaret (DNR)

From: William Kern <wtkern56@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Rost, Margaret (DNR)
Subject: Dog Leash Rules on State-managed land.

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Ms. Rost:

Thank you for your involvement and inquiry in this issue.

In our view, dogs in recreation areas are the single biggest danger and nuisance, as most dog owners do not obey leash laws and rules. Of course, the "dog people" who left the dog(s) at home don't get into the "data set", but of the park users you actually see with dogs, far more of them are breaking the rules, than complying. In many cases, it's clear that they needed to walk their dog directly past a "No dogs on beach" or "Dogs must be on six foot leash" sign to be where we observed them.

Additionally, I recently stayed at a remote campsite on the Au Sable (in a Federal park), and the camp site stunk of dog droppings, which my wife and I collected from three locations and escorted to proper disposal. Despite this unpleasant experience, it's been my observation that droppings rules are better-complied-with than leash rules, and this is the lesser problem.

I would be hesitant to walk some of the trails I've used with a small child because of this nuisance.

I would like to see the Park Service post new (bigger) notices of dog leash rules, a posted notice that violators could be (better yet... "will be") ticketed and fined. And I would like to see stepped-up enforcement of rules, and ticketing and fining of violators. I would like a hotline number to report violations, and I'd like to see that number posted on the information boards at recreation sites. This situation IS out of hand.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me by email, phone or text.

William and Kathy Kern
(248) 515-8048 (William, phone or text)
wtkern56@gmail.com