



RULES FOR ROVER

Ensuring safe environments for wildlife in the reserve and for dogs on trails

Many dog owners enjoy bringing their dog along trails within San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Following the rules of the reserve ensures the outing is safe for your dog and does not threaten the natural resources of the reserve.

- Dogs must stay on leash (no more than 6' long) on trails at all times.
- Owners must pick up after their dog and dispose of waste properly. There are trash cans at Rios and Santa Helena trailheads, Nature Center, and Dike trailheads.

A recent survey revealed 40% of dogs in the reserve were off-leash. Dogs that explore off-trail are a major threat to the wildlife the reserve was created to protect. They can disturb nesting birds, terrorize native animals, and trample indigenous plants. In addition, there are serious threats to dogs:



Rattlesnakes live in the reserve, in addition to...



coyotes, skunks (can be aggressive) and ticks.



Foxtails (any cactus) can painfully embed in a dog's skin, ears, and nasal canal.

Dog waste is more than a nuisance on trails; it's a biological time bomb. Parasites and bacteria present in the waste pollute the lagoon and ultimately the ocean, contributing to beach closures. Within the lagoon, diseases and parasites can be transmitted to wildlife and to other dogs.

Thank you for respecting the rules of the reserve and have a safe and enjoyable outing with your dog.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a community-spirited nonprofit land trust based in Encinitas, California. Our mission is to protect and restore the resources of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. For more information, please visit SanElijo.org or call (760) 436-3944.