

Delaware Valley Chapter - AMC
Chapter Policy

Title: **Pet Participation on Hikes and in Other Chapter Activities**
Owner: **Leadership Chair**
Status: **Approved on 12/3/2011**
Effective Date: **1/1/2012**

1. Unless specifically stated in the activity description pets are not allowed to participate in Chapter activities. If allowed, the activity description will contain unambiguous language, such as “Dogs Allowed.”
2. The decision on whether to allow pets is at the discretion of the activity leader.
3. Disclosure is an important element in our policy. If the leader’s decision is to allow pets, the appropriate language should be included in the initial write-up, which includes the on-line trip database, Meetup, or other medium used to publicize the activity.
4. If a Leader decides subsequently to the original posting to allow pets, the changes should be made at least one week before the start of the activity in order to allow adequate notification to potential participants. Notification may take the form of updates to the on-line trips listing and the other channels that were used to publicize the activity. Under this circumstance leaders are not under any obligation to personally notify each participant. As an exception, a change should not be made in the listing for a fee-based activity without agreement from each participant if cancellation would result in a monetary forfeiture.
5. If a pet is allowed the pet handler is solely responsible for the behavior and control of the pet. The handler is responsible for complying with all park and venue ordinances regarding leashing and waste cleanup. Trip leaders may impose additional pet requirements at their discretion such as leashing when not required by law, or life jackets on paddling trips. In addition, the handler must respect the rights of other participants by not allowing the pet to come in contact with or annoy other participants.
6. This policy does not pertain to service animals, as defined by the Americans’ with Disability Act (ADA). Service animals are not pets but working animals, as defined by the Act. Participants wishing to bring a service animal on an activity must be allowed to do so. Additional information regarding obligations under the ACT can be found on the ADA website at: <http://www.ada.gov/svcanimb.htm>.
7. Should a participant arrive with a pet on a non- pet sanctioned activity, the leader will disallow the participant and their pet from participating in that activity.
8. If a potential participant has a question regarding our Chapter policy please direct it to the Activity leader.