Allegheny Land Trust Non-Conservation Use Policy
Pets on Conservation Lands

Adopted by ALT Board of Directors  May 24, 2017

Allegheny Land Trust Pet Amendment to Non Conservation Land Use Policy

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) understands that pets are a part of the family and enjoy open spaces as much as any other ALT property user. Pets may be prohibited on properties (as posted) where conflicts with wildlife and ALT programming are a concern. ALT reserves the right to deny any pet owner from frequenting an ALT land. Where pets are permitted on leash the following rules apply:

1. **Pets must be on a leash and under control of the owner** at all times. Keeping your pet on a leash keeps people, other pets, and wildlife safe while enjoying the natural world.
2. Bringing a leashed pet to a site requires a commitment to remove all feces. Please pack a pick up bag – scoop your pet waste, and pack the waste out. Un-contained pet waste is a significant contributor to water quality pollution and poses a health hazard including for young children who utilize our properties in educational programming.
3. No more than two pets per person are allowed at any one time and owners must carry a leash at all times for each dog. All pet care businesses are required to follow all rules. A pack of dogs overseen by one individual is not permitted.
4. All pets visiting ALT sites must be licensed and current on all shots, including rabies.
5. Do not allow your pet to dig holes, chase wildlife, damage plants, or destroy habitat on the property.
6. Pet owners accept all liability for any injury caused to any person or to another pet when on ALT property.

**Exception 1. Wingfield Pines:**

A: No Dogs in Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) System and Wetlands
To protect the more sensitive marsh area, the entire AMD system and wetlands will be closed to all dogs 365 days a year. Through significant efforts and financial costs, ALT has successfully created a unique habitat not widely found in Allegheny County, wetland emergent marsh. This habitat is important for a number of secretive marsh birds and many migratory bird species as well as many additional flora and fauna. When acquired, Wingfield Pines primary conservation value was identified as biodiversity, as it was part of the Mayview Valley Biologically Diverse Area as identified in the Allegheny County Natural Heritage Inventory. As such, ALT must manage the site with biodiversity as the guide, for this reason, ALT must limit pet use on site, as research shows that dog walking, in particular, leads to a reduction in bird diversity and abundance. This restriction not only addresses the threat of wildlife and pet conflicts but also the need to foster an appropriate environment for educational programs offered at Wingfield Pines, as the majority of teaching occurs within the AMD system. Eliminating pets from this area will prevent any disruption of the group, as children and adults alike may have varied comfort levels towards pets, especially dogs. Another reason to limit pets in the AMD system is to eliminate the dog waste concern. Dogs can harbor lots of viruses, bacteria, and parasites including e coli, giardia and salmonella. Having no dogs in the area will reduce the concern of water contamination and remove the chance of students encountering any un-scooped piles.

B: OFF Leash Area
A portion of Wingfield Pines will permit dog off leash walking. Take into account that the likelihood of encountering other visitors (dog walkers and non-dog walkers) is extremely high at Wingfield Pines. Consider your dog’s temperament before allowing them off-leash. Aggressive dogs and their owners will be asked to leave and not return. See attached map for no dog, on leash and off leash zones.

These are the rules which everyone must follow when walking a dog at Wingfield Pines Conservation Area. Failure to respect this area of prohibition and the on-leash pet policy in general will result in permanent prohibition of pets from Wingfield Pines. Regular review of the pet policy and exceptions will occur in order to evaluate any new science, community input, educational and/or ALT needs and may be modified accordingly.

**Exception 2. Audubon Greenway, Fern Hollow Greenway, Hunt Road and any other property identified as a permitted horseback-riding location for the Sewickley Hunt. During Sewickley Hunt events, hound dogs are permitted to be off-leash.**