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**From:** [Cyndy Holda](mailto:Cyndy_Holda)  
**To:** [apitt@jewettautomation.com](mailto:apitt@jewettautomation.com)  
**Cc:** [Paul Stevens](#); [John McCutcheon](#); [Jon Anglin](#); [Kenny Ballance](#)  
**Bcc:** [Mike Murray](#)  
**Subject:** RE: "Press Release: Dogs Must Be Leashed on National Seashore Beaches"  
**Date:** 04/09/2009 11:24 AM

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Good Morning Alan,

The park boundary along the ocean side is the mean low tide. If the dog is swimming in the ocean, he is evidently further out than the mean low tide so he is outside the park boundary. But he must be on a leash at all times when on the shoreline.....as the dog is moving from the upper beach or shade of the umbrella to the water, he must be on a leash until he passes the mean low tide....and then as he comes out of the water and passes across the mean low tide mark onshore, he must be put back on the leash.

Does this help?

As always, we appreciate your interest in Cape Hatteras National Seashore and compliance with the regulations.

Cyndy M. Holda  
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**"Alan Pitt"**  
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To <[Cyndy\\_Holda@nps.gov](mailto:Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov)>  
cc

04/09/2009 10:32 AM

Please respond to  
<[apitt@jewettautomation.com](mailto:apitt@jewettautomation.com)>

Subject RE: "Press Release: Dogs Must Be Leashed on National Seashore Beaches"

Cyndy,

A question has come up recently concerning this issue:

Are there any leash rules that apply when a dog is swimming in the water?  
IE: Does the owner have to be in physical contact/holding the leash while a dog is in water over its head?

(For instance, when retrieving a ball, etc., there may be times when the dog is more than 6 feet away from both the shoreline and the owner.)

Can you please clarify that, if possible?

Thanks in advance, and have a great Easter!

Alan Pitt

-----Original Message-----

From: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov [mailto:Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:58 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Subject: "Press Release: Dogs Must Be Leashed on National Seashore Beaches"

(See attached file: 040909.Dog Off Leash Violations.doc)

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2009

CONTACT: 252-473-2111 ext. 148

DOGS ON NATIONAL SEASHORE MUST BE LEASHED

Superintendent Mike Murray announced today that, due to concerns about potential negative impacts to wildlife, there will be a focused effort this season to improve compliance at Cape Hatteras National Seashore with the existing National Park Service (NPS) regulation requiring dogs to be leashed in all units of the national park system.

The national seashore serves as breeding habitat for a variety of protected shorebird and waterbird species and as nesting habitat for several species of sea turtles. Many of these protected bird species nest on bare sandy beaches and the nests are often not readily apparent to park visitors. The disturbance from dogs running off-leash can interrupt breeding behavior and cause incubating birds to leave their nest, which exposes the nest to predators. Once disturbed, birds may abandon nesting at those locations altogether.

In 2008, NPS law enforcement rangers documented over seven hundred cases of dogs off leash at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, which included numerous violations on beaches near resource protection areas that had been established to prevent disturbance or harm to nesting or foraging protected wildlife species.

"To minimize impacts to wildlife and still allow as much visitor access as possible under the terms of the consent decree, we are intent on improving the level of visitor compliance with the leash requirement," said Superintendent Murray. "I have directed park staff to step up their efforts to inform pet owners of the federal leash regulation and to target enforcement of the regulation in wildlife areas."

Park Rangers can issue federal violation notices carrying a \$150.00 fine to any pet owner who does not comply with the leash requirement. Pets are prohibited in resource protection areas. Elsewhere, pets must be physically restrained at all times on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length.

--NPS--