

Rules & Regulations - Duxbury Beach

The following rules shall be in effect on Duxbury Beach property from April 1st to September 15th.

- 1) Any dog on Duxbury Beach property shall be leashed at all times and under immediate and effective control of its handler. NOTE: “Immediate and effective control” is determined by Duxbury Recreation Department Beach Operations Division personnel.
- 2) Any person wishing to take a dog onto Duxbury Beach shall register with the Town of Duxbury and obtain a Walking Permit and Walking Permit Dog Tag. Permits and Tags will be available at the Duxbury Town Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. Each permitted dog must wear the Tag on its collar / harness at all times while the dog is on Duxbury Beach property.
- 3) In accordance with all rules and regulations, dogs are allowed on the Duxbury Beach property between the hours of 8:00am and Sunset, unless these hours are amended by the Duxbury Recreation Department Beach Operations Division. Dogs are prohibited on Duxbury Beach property between the hours of Sunset and 8:00 am.
- 4) Unless specifically amended within these rules or by action of the Duxbury Recreation Department Beach Operations Division, all other Duxbury, state, or federal dog control regulations shall continue to apply. These include regulations under these "Special Dog Regulations" contained within the General Beach and Motor Vehicle Regulations pamphlet, Section 7.1 of the General by-laws of the Town of Duxbury.
- 5) Dogs and their handlers are prohibited from all dune, vegetation, marsh grass, posted bird or wildlife areas, and all fenced areas.
- 6) Dog handlers are required at all times of the year to remove droppings from the Powder Point Bridge, beach parking lots, and all beach areas and dispose of droppings in provided trash receptacles or removed from the beach.
- 7) All dogs are prohibited from the front beach, known as the Resident Beach, to the poles delineating the start of the 4x4 beach from April 1 to September 15.

- 8) All dogs are prohibited from the bayside beach north of the Powder Point Bridge adjacent to the Resident Parking Lot from April 1 to September 15.
- 9) Dogs and their handlers are prohibited from disturbing any endangered species or wildlife on Duxbury Beach. Dogs are not permitted to pass through Restricted Areas on the ocean side or bayside beach or dunes.
- 10) Any violation of these Rules & Regulations, Duxbury General By-Law, or other federal or state law may result in non-criminal, criminal process, or provisions found in the Duxbury General By-Laws involving the revocation of the dog permit for the remainder of the season. *If a dog permit is revoked, such revocation shall be recorded at the Duxbury Town Hall, and the dog's owner and immediate family will not be eligible to re-apply for another permit until the following year.*

Limitation of Liability

- 1) The Town of Duxbury and the Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. accept no responsibility or liability for any personal injury or property damage sustained on Town of Duxbury / Conservation land and/or Duxbury Beach.
- 2) Entry upon or use of Town of Duxbury / Conservation land and/or Duxbury Beach by any person by foot, bicycle, motor vehicle, boat, or horseback shall be at his/her own risk and such entry or use shall constitute a release by such person of the Town of Duxbury and the Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. from any and all claims for personal injury or property damage sustained on Town of Duxbury / Conservation land and/or Duxbury Beach, and such release shall be binding upon such person, his/her personal representative, and all persons claiming through or under him/her.
- 3) Dog Owners/Responsible Walkers are responsible for ensuring that the Permitted Dog's activities on Duxbury Beach and/or Town of Duxbury / Conservation Land conform to the Walking Program Rules and Regulations and such individuals shall be jointly and severally liable for any and all damage, injury, or violation.

Remember that our parks are for the enjoyment of all, both humans and dogs. Please respect the rights of humans and share the space as needed. We are a better community when we cooperate with each other.

Town of Duxbury



Dog Walking Permit Rules & Regulations

Permitting Requirements

- 1) A Town of Duxbury Walking Permit (“Walking Permit”), as issued by the Duxbury Town Clerk, must be obtained by the Dog Owner prior to walking a dog on Town of Duxbury/Conservation Land & Duxbury Beach.
- 2) In order to obtain a Walking Permit, the Dog Owner must supply proof of a current dog license from the Town of Duxbury or other issuing Jurisdiction.
- 3) The Town Clerk will issue Walking Permit Dog Tags (“Tags”) to each dog registered to the Dog Owner; each dog shall have its own tag.
- 4) Each Permitted Dog must wear the Tag on its collar / harness.
- 5) Town of Duxbury Walking Permits are valid for a calendar year.

Rules and Regulations – Town of Duxbury / Conservation Land

- 1) Pick Up After Your Dog - Town of Duxbury By-Laws require that owners pick up after their dogs, and violations are punishable by fines. Be prepared and always have bags or other tools on hand to pick up dog waste, which can be deposited in trash barrels found at walking areas.
- 2) Only dogs with a valid Walking Permit shall be allowed on Town of Duxbury/Conservation Land and only pursuant to the foregoing Rules and Regulations.
- 3) Any person wishing to take a dog onto Town of Duxbury/Conservation Land shall obtain a Dog Walking Permit and Walking Permit Dog Tag(s) from the Town Clerk.
- 4) A Dog Owner/Responsible Walker must carry a leash for each Permitted Dog at all times.
- 5) Whether the Permitted Dog is on or off leash, the dog must be under the immediate and effective control of the Dog Owner/Responsible Dog Walker.
- 6) An Enforcement Officer shall have the authority to determine whether or not a Permitted Dog is under the immediate and effective control of the Dog Owner/Responsible Walker. The Dog Owner/Responsible Walker of any Permitted Dog that is not under immediate and effective control may be found by the Enforcement Officer to be in violation of these rules and regulations.
- 7) A Dog Owner/Responsible Walker may not walk more than three (3) Permitted Dogs at any one time.
- 8) No dogs shall be left unattended on Town of Duxbury/Conservation Land. Unattended dogs may be picked up by an Enforcement Officer and the owner may be subject to applicable enforcement actions.
- 9) Except to the extent they conflict with these Rules and Regulations, a Dog Owner/Responsible Walker must comply with all other regulations applicable to Town of Duxbury/Conservation Land.

10) The Dog Owner/Responsible Walker of any (Permitted) Dog found in violation of these rules and regulations and as more particularly set forth in the Violations section shall, in the judgment of the Enforcement Officer, be subject to one or more fines and penalties as provided in said Violations section and may be ordered to immediately leash the (Permitted) Dog to cease any such violation. Additionally, the (Permitted) Dog may be impounded until all fines/fees are paid. A violation of any provision of the Permitting Procedures and Requirements shall be considered a violation of these rules and regulations. A record of all such fines and penalties will be maintained by the Town Clerk or his/her designee.

Violations

- 1) A dog Attack on a person or animal.
- 2) Leaving the scene of a dog Attack without providing identifying information including the Dog Owner's / Responsible Walker's name, address, telephone number and Walking Permit number to an Enforcement Officer responding to a dog Attack or to an aggrieved person that has suffered from a dog Attack.
- 3) Refusal to display a Dog Walking Permit to an Enforcement Officer or to an aggrieved person that has suffered from a dog Attack.
- 4) Dog walking without a current Walking Permit Dog Tag or using a Walking Permit Dog Tag belonging to another Permitted Dog.
- 5) Dog Owner/Responsible Walker not carrying a Walking Permit or using a Walking Permit belonging to another Dog Owner.

The following fines may be imposed for any of the above violations or any violations of Section 7.1 (Dog Control) of the Town of Duxbury General By-laws:

First offense:	\$25.00;
Second offense:	\$50.00;
Third offense:	\$100.00; and
Fourth and all subsequent offenses:	\$200.00

Definitions

Attack. Aggressive physical contact initiated by an animal (as defined in MGL c. 140 §136A).

Dog Owner. The person who files and signs the application for a permit hereunder to the Town Clerk.

Duxbury Beach. The portion of Duxbury Beach extending from the north end of the north resident parking lot to the southern boundary as shown in the Duxbury Beach brochure (https://www.town.duxbury.ma.us/sites/duxburyma/files/uploads/beach_brochure_final_0.pdf).

Enforcement Officer. The Animal Control Officer and any Assistant Animal Control Officer, as appointed by the Town Manager, shall be the primary enforcement agent for violations of these Rules and Regulations and Town of Duxbury General By-Laws. However, other town officers may enforce these provisions as secondary agents including: the Health Agent, Conservation Administrator, Harbormaster, Assistant Harbormaster, Coastal and Natural Resources Department Personnel, Recreation Department Personnel, and Police Officers.

Permitted Dog. A dog that has been issued a Dog Walking Permit by the Town Clerk of Duxbury.

Responsible Walker. Any person who brings a dog onto Town of Duxbury/Conservation land, including but not limited to the Dog Owner, person in charge and/or keeper of the dog (the term “keeper” shall have the same meaning as the definition contained in M.G.L. c. 140, § 136A).

Town of Duxbury / Conservation Land. Land owned/controlled by the Town of Duxbury or the Conservation Commission as identified by posted signage or as shown on a map entitled “Town of Duxbury Open Space ” [verify title] or as shown on a list found on the Town Clerk’s page of the Town’s website under the tab “Dog Walking Permits” [*insert link here*].

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do I need a Dog Walking permit? And where does my money go when I pay for the Dog Walking permit?

A: The Dog Walking Permit program has rules to protect the experience of all users of Town of Duxbury / Conservation land and Duxbury Beach. There are also costs associated with this program (waste bag dispensers & bags, signs, maintenance, and spot-checking to see that rules are being followed). A Dog Walking Permit Program gives the best chance of providing walking experiences that are enjoyable for all concerned.

Q: Why do I need to license my dog?

A: Massachusetts State Law Ch. 140, Section 137 requires that all dogs over the age of 6 months be licensed, and have a current rabies vaccination. Licensing is critical to ensuring the health of our canine friends and other people, and can help identify your dog if they become lost.

Q: How do I report violations?

A: To report violations, particularly aggressive dogs, contact the Duxbury Animal Control Officer at 781-934-6424. For emergencies, dial 911.

Q. Why do I have to pick up after my dog?

A. Picking up after your dog is required by Duxbury town bylaw, and is punishable by fines and/or removal from the park and the Dog Walking Permit program. Mutt Mitt bags are provided at recreation areas for cleaning up after dogs. Since all our parks are shared by many users, it is particularly important to remove feces so other users don’t come into contact with these messy, potentially unhealthy remains.

Q. I saw an aggressive dog in a park. What should I do?

A. We encourage you to contact the Animal Control Officer if you witness or are involved in incidents of aggression towards people, other dogs, or wildlife. They are available at 781-934-6424. For emergencies, dial 911.