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Why dogs are not allowed in National Parks . . .

National Parks are conservation reserves which are set aside and managed for the purpose of preserving areas having superior qualities including:

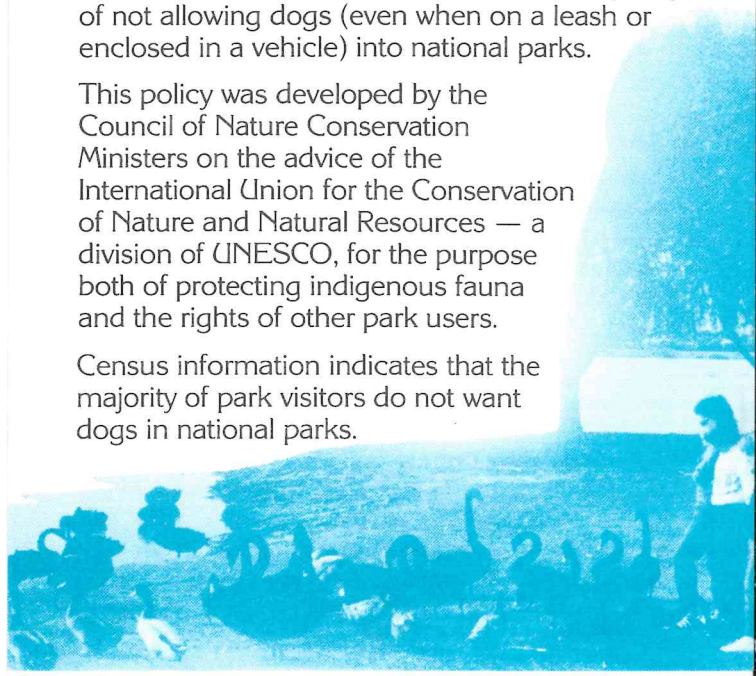
- Scenic beauty and grandeur
- Unusual landscapes
- Representative elements of native plants and animals, and
- Places of scientific importance.

Equally important, national parks are areas where the public can relax in peace and at harmony with nature, away from the metropolis in which they usually live.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management, in association with national park services in Australia, has implemented the policy of not allowing dogs (even when on a leash or enclosed in a vehicle) into national parks.

This policy was developed by the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers on the advice of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources — a division of UNESCO, for the purpose both of protecting indigenous fauna and the rights of other park users.

Census information indicates that the majority of park visitors do not want dogs in national parks.



Reasons. . .

- The scent of a dog (even on a lead) lingers and causes native wildlife to vacate areas for many weeks.
- Some dogs do knock down children and they will frolic in crowded situations which may be dangerous in hazardous areas, e.g. near water, cliff tops, gorges or in any natural environment.
- Dogs foul the ground where people walk, sit and picnic and their behaviour is unpredictable.
- People do let dogs loose when Rangers are not in the vicinity, and other visitors complain.

Unfortunately "the poor old dog" cannot read our signs or understand our need for protection measures, so let's give him a break; don't bring him into a national park, it may cost you a fine and cause him to be sent to the "dog house".



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