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Department of Biodiversity,
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SOUTHERN FOREST REGION

WHY DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN NATIONAL PARKS

National Parks are conservation reserves which are managed to fulfill the demand for recreation by the public provided the activity is consistent with the conservation and protection of the natural and cultural environment.

National parks often contain areas of:

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

Equally as important, National Parks are areas where people can relax and enjoy the natural environment, away from the normal hustle and bustle of their daily lives.

CALM has a policy of not allowing dogs (even when on a leash or enclosed in a vehicle) into national parks.

This policy aims to protect 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.

Some of the main reasons that dogs are not permitted in National parks are:

- 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.
- Wide scale aerial baiting with 1080 has been carried out in the area to control foxes and feral cats. 1080 baits are lethal to domestic dogs
- Leaving your dog in the car is not an acceptable answer. In a hot car a dog can die from heat stroke in as little as four minutes

Please help by leaving your dog at home when visiting National Park areas. That way the environment and the enjoyment of users is not compromised.

