

## **Dogs and Other Pets**

Pets are not allowed in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, encompassing not only Sabino Canyon, but also the trailhead to Bear Canyon entering from Bear Canyon Road. The FS closure to pets was deemed in the best interest to the land, our wildlife, and our visitors and has been in effect for about 40 years.

Sabino Canyon is unique in that it has lots of wildlife. Pets cause a problem because they are regarded as both predators and prey by wildlife. To us, dogs look like dogs; to our wildlife, they look and smell like wolves or coyotes, and this provokes predator-prey response. Pets are subject to attack by animals such as javelina, bobcats, and mountain lions. This may result in attacks on humans because of their pets' presence.

Dog odor and markings have negative effects on some wildlife, provoking flight-fight stress response.

Pets can carry diseases that can be transmitted to our wildlife with detrimental effects.

Finally, the sheer volume of visitors in the Canyon makes it impracticable to allow pets.

The exception is riding or pack animals and trained service dogs. These animals are not required to wear special identification nor have registration papers. See *Service Dogs* below for details.

Dogs are also prohibited in the Bighorn Sheep Management Area. The Management Area covers much of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness from the boundary with Catalina State Park on the west, to Ventana Trail on the east end, and north through Romero Pass over to Cargodera Trail. Major trails within the Management Area include Cathedral Rock, Sutherland, Romero Canyon, Ventana Canyon, Pontatoc, Finger Rock, and Pima Canyon.

In addition, signs may be posted at trailheads with

“No Dogs Allowed,” and visitors may not enter with dogs at any point.

In areas where dogs are permitted (for instance, Mt. Lemmon), they must be on a leash at all times.

The Wilderness Area N-NE from the West and East Fork Trails is also open to dogs on a leash.