



## The Dog Gone Rules

As a general rule, La Foret continues to ask that your dog does not come with you to La Foret. This is hard for us, as many of us on the staff are dog lovers and owners. Staff who live on the grounds, may have a dog as a pet.

Your dog, no matter what size or breed of dog, no doubt is loving and supportive to you, and we think that is just great. Enjoy your dog, remember, you are their whole world.

Your dog, however, despite size or breed is a natural predator. When your dog is out sniffing around, your dog is actually tracking to see who else has been through the area. Many animals in the La Foret forest have a natural fear or dislike of dogs and the scent your dog will leave behind. The Black Forest is home to moose, mule deer, elk, black bears, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, porcupines and many other creatures. Your dog encountering some of these creatures may not end well for your dog. We would hate for that to happen.

In addition, some of your fellows group members, or others at La Foret with you, may have allergies or a natural fear of dogs. We don't want your fellow guests to be uncomfortable. We also want to avoid the un-pleasantries of your dog having an "accident" while in a cabin. That's not pleasant at all for those who will come after you.

**Service Dogs** are acceptable and allowed in all public places. In fact, they are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Service Dogs or Guide Dogs should be assisting people to deal with the effects of their disability. These disabilities can be sensory or physical in nature. If you have a service dog, your dog should be individually and specifically trained, to perform services for you, and be a necessary benefit to you as the person with a disability. Your dog, while at La Foret, should wear their harness or vest indicating they are on duty, and they should remain on duty anytime they are with you. Service dogs are allowed in all buildings and areas of La Foret. Service dogs are not required to be registered, but registering yourself and your dog with <http://www.servicedogcertifications.org> is a good idea.

**Emotional Support and Therapy Dogs** have become increasingly common. Under the law, your emotional support or therapy dog/animal does not carry the same rights as a service animal. Please note, a therapy dog normally provides affection and comfort to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities. Emotional support and therapy animals do not require any specific training. You, as the handler, must qualify by having an emotional or mental need to have the animal with you, to provide emotional support to you at all times. To legally qualify to have an emotional support or therapy animal, you must be considered emotionally disabled by a licensed mental health professional (therapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.), as evidenced by a properly formatted prescription letter. Medical doctors cannot prescribe an emotional support animal. If you want to bring your emotional support or therapy animal to La Foret, you must contact La Foret at least 2 weeks ahead of your arrival. You may also be asked to produce a prescription letter from an appropriate mental health professional. Your emotional support animal should always be in their harness and vest indicating they are on duty.



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Service dogs and emotional support dogs must always be leashed and under your control. You are responsible to always clean up after your dog.

For specific questions about dogs at La Foret, please contact the La Foret office: 719-495-2743.