



## **Best Practices for a Pet Friendly Event**

The following are best practices and guidelines for event holders and operators looking to host a pet friendly event or make their event pet friendly.

Tennessee is becoming more and more pet friendly. These days you will find that community events that are family friendly are beginning to welcome all two- and four-legged friends.

Be sure to fill out our "Submit Your Event" form found on our site. This will promote event awareness and allow both visitors and residents of the state to find your event details.

### **A. Recommendations:**

- It is important that all pets be well contained in the event of emergencies. Depending on your event type, determine how pets should be contained (i.e. Dogs should be on non-retractable leashes for an outdoor kids' event")
- Determine what kinds of pets you will allow in your event. Consider the environment and attendees in making this decision.
- Providing "pet-menities" for dogs and other pets will bring great success and promote the support you give to being pet-friendly. A few great examples of how you can achieve this could be by:
  - o Have water stations for pets. This will come in handy as most owners do not carry water bowls with them. Treat stations will also be useful.
  - o Encouraging playtime by including an off-leash area for pets.
  - o Dog waste stations with a bag dispenser placed throughout the event. This will relieve the stress for owners or workers to worry about cleanup.
- Communicate with attendees prior to the event of these rules. Some pets do not do well being off-leash and if your event is an off-leash kind of event be sure to communicate this information.
- Bring attention to the types of foods you may have at your event and consider the dangers that some may create for certain pets (i.e. chocolate for dogs).

### **B. Best Practices:**

- Dogs must display on collars a current license tag along with current rabies vaccination (or owner must have information available). Visible collars and identifiable tags should be worn at all times.
- Owners are responsible for looking after their pet and picking up all waste immediately after occurring
- If food is present be sure that all pets are well contained

### **Sources:**

1. [Smoky Mountains: Paws-itively Great Dog-Friendly Activities in Gatlinburg](#)
2. [BIZBASH: 10 Ideas for Pet-Friendly Events](#)
3. [Ticketbud: How-To Host a Dog Friendly Event](#)
4. [Visit Knoxville: Pet Friendly Activities in Knoxville](#)