



TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 3, 2021

Truro Beaches closed to domestic pets in nesting shorebird areas.

Shorebird nesting season is upon us, and we have increasing numbers of conflicts between beachgoers with dogs, in places where we have nesting shorebirds.

Truro beach rules and regulations state: All Animals Are Prohibited Between the Hours Of 9:00 am And 6:00 pm, from the third Saturday in June through Labor Day. In addition, beach restrictions for pets may be increased due to the presence of shorebirds. Shorebird nesting areas are posted with signage for the public, and can be found on the Ocean side beaches, and some bay beaches, such as Corn Hill and Fisher Beach.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF PET CLOSURE
Head of the Meadow Beach	NO PETS ALLOWED - Beach closed to pets traveling north and south of beach access path.
Coast Guard Beach, Truro	NO PETS ALLOWED - Beach closed to pets traveling north and south of beach access path.
Longnook Beach	Beach Closed to pets traveling approximately 1/8 mile north (left) of beach access path. Beach Closed to pets traveling approximately 1/4 mile south (right) of beach access path.
Ballston Beach	Beach Closed to pets approximately 1 mile south (right) of the beach access path. Beach Closed to pets traveling north (left) approximately 1/2 mile of beach access path.
Ryder Beach	Beach Closed to pets travelling to the south (left) of beach access path. Beach Closed to pets travelling to the north (right) approximately 1/2 mile of beach access path.
Bound Brook (Ryder)	Beach Closed to pets travelling to the south (left) of beach access path. Beach Closed to pets travelling to the north (right) approximately 1/2 mile of beach access path.

The Town of Truro has contracted with shorebird experts from Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary to monitor the nesting birds and adjacent areas in order to protect the birds, and their eggs. These contractors are authorized to educate the public about restrictions necessary to protect the birds.

The Town is obligated to protect these nesting shore birds under State and Federal law and relies on the cooperation of the public to comply with the laws that protect these birds for the short period of time the birds are using the beach. Nesting shorebirds have specific requirements for their nests and can only nest in certain conditions. Sometimes their nest location conflicts with how we want to use the beach, but this period of time lasts just a few weeks until the eggs hatch and the chicks fledge. We ask that you find alternate walking locations for your dog, for any periods where beaches are closed to dogs.

We also encourage the public to check the National Park Service website for beaches closed to dogs: <https://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/nature/birds.htm>

Dog owners who do not have their dogs in control shall be subject to fines pursuant to non-criminal violations cited. Failure to comply with these requirements under Truro's General Bylaw 4-2-1 *Failure to Restrain or Control Dogs* is \$50.00 Per Offense enforced by the Truro Animal Control Officer.

Federal penalties for the take of a piping plover adult, chick or egg under the Endangered Species Act.

Criminal up to 6 months imprisonment and/or Up to a \$25,000 fine

Civil \$12,000 – for a knowing violation \$500 – for a strict liability violation

https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pdf/Plover_management.pdf

Please respect wildlife and keep your dog on a leash while on a Public beach.

Contact:

Administration Office

Town of Truro

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