

# Dogs and other Pets/Domesticated Animals

## Animals on the Beach - 2024

Pets: we sure do love them and they bring joy and companionship to individuals and families. It is also the case that they bring responsibilities.

It is important to remember that not everyone feels the same about your pet. For some people, it is a fear of the animal itself, or fear that the animal may cause them to trip or fall, for others it is personal preference.

In advance of the summer season, we wanted to give everyone an update regarding the series of complaints received regarding animals on the beach in 2022.

First, thank you for reaching out about this, and any other concerns in the neighborhood. Where possible, and within our authority, we will collaborate with you to find appropriate solutions.

Members of the SDA Board have reached out to several local and state agencies requesting assistance on this issue and have found no reasonable way to deal with this from a permitting, animal laws or environmental authorities.

Unfortunately, there are no laws beyond the requirement that the animals be legal (which they are) and permitted (which we believe they are) they may be owned. We have investigated and found there is nothing from any local or state agency that restricts them from being on the beach, in the neighborhood, or anywhere else.

Unfortunately, as a voluntary neighborhood association, the Board has no enforcement authority to remove or restrict them from being on the beach. Since our attempts to communicate directly with the animal's owner as well as the property owner/trustee have not been effective, our recommendation is that individual residents consider acting individually or together if there is a valid reason to do so.

If the animals are on the beach and a resident feels that they are creating a public nuisance to them or others, or if you feel that your safety or the safety of others is in jeopardy, you can personally and respectfully request that the owner remove the animals as a courtesy to other people. If that is ineffective, or there is an escalation in the conflict, you can contact the local police department/animal control and report it.

We suggest that if you do make a call to the local police department/animal control, you report the nuisance personally, as a tax paying resident of East Sandwich rather than as an "association member." Unfortunately, reporting it as an association member (especially a private one) will not provide any leverage, and may even make them reluctant to step in. We certainly acknowledge and understand the concerns around these animals and wish we could do more to find a satisfactory resolution.

Sincerely,  
SDA Board of Directors