## AMC “Hikes with Dogs”

Welcome to AMC’s Hikes w/Dogs! Please read ALL of the information below and fill out the simple questionnaire. **Pre-registration is required** so e-mail the completed questionnaire to Mary Hodess at mlhodess@cox.net ASAP. Thank you!

HIKE RULES & INFORMATION

* Registration for dog hikes is required, and must be done in advance as space is limited on these hikes.
* Please use a leash that is not the expandable-type since they can be very dangerous around other people and dogs.
* When you arrive at the hike parking area, please leave your dog in the car with the windows cracked open. We really can’t have a bunch of excited dogs tugging our arms off in the parking area. After a brief introduction, the leaders will advise you when to return to your car to get your dog and start off.
* Oddly enough, there seems to be some hunting in season every month in Rhode Island except for the month of August so please be sure that you and your dog have ORANGE on ESPECIALLY during deer hunting seasons in the fall, and regardless of whether or not hunting is allowed in the hiking area.
* Every dog needs to be leashed at the start of the hike at least until we are out of harm’s way and we know that everyone will get along with one another.
* For the entire hike, you must keep your dog under positive control at all times. If he/she acts out, and trust me, all of our dogs do from time to time, then YOU are responsible for leashing your dog and moving to a position in the pack that is compatible with the group. We walk a fine line here since this is an AMC GROUP hike, we want to keep the group together, but we also need to make it enjoyable for everyone…canine and human.
* Please make certain that your dog is physically capable of enjoying the length and type of hike planned. The hike leaders purposefully plan some hikes that are shorter, about 3 miles, and some that are longer; 6 or 7 miles. Make sure that your dog is ready for the hike for which you sign up. Remember that your dog will travel twice the distance you do on a hike running back and forth along the way.
* Speaking of which, watch your knees! Dogs will charge back and forth on the trail and you need to be prepared to withstand their wrath! Any children you bring with you need to be with you at all times and near the tail of the group where you can watch to be sure they are safe.
* You need to understand that hikes with dogs at least on the surface can seem confusing and chaotic until the hike is underway. Dogs tend to try to establish a pecking order and it works best just to keep them moving. We don’t take regular breaks on these hikes because just like two-year olds, when given a little lag time, dogs get into trouble. This said, these are AMC hikes and it is important that humans have as good a time as canines. So if/when you need a separation break (potty break), time to readjust clothing, or a water break, please alert one of the hike leaders so we can make proper arrangements.
* About the poop…I know it’s the woods and most dogs go off trail, but imagine what a mess we’d have if 8 or 9 dogs all went on the same trail on the same day… Ewe! The rule is that every little treasure they leave behind, YOU have to carry out in a bag! No flinging, ignoring, or casually covering it up. When we’re in the woods on these hikes, we represent the AMC, and we want/need to leave a nice impression about the way we feel about the woods.
* Please bring ample water for you and your DOG! Also, bring snacks for you and your DOG!
* Our AMC hikes are fun group activities, not competitions. Therefore, the group stays together to ensure safety for all.
* Please be aware that you dog will find every mud hole and take every opportunity to get wet and disgusting that he/she can, so bring towels for the ride home.
* If your dog is involved in a disruption, a leader may ask you to keep your dog leashed or change position in the pack. As with humans, dogs occasionally have issues with other dogs and may be happier with a different dog either ahead or behind, or back on the leash with you. These decisions are absolutely necessary at times and the group leaders appreciate your full cooperation with their decisions.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

NAME of HUMAN HIKER (if more than one, please fill out below):

Phone number – preferably a cell phone:

E-mail: (personal email-not work)

Home address:

Type of Walks or Hikes usually taken (level of experience):

Describe your experience hiking with dogs:

Are you an AMC Member? If yes, which Chapter?

Have you hiked with us on an AMC-sponsored dog hike before? If yes, which one(s)?

NAME of HUMAN HIKER (if more than one):

Phone number:

E-mail:

Home address:

Type of Walks or Hikes usually taken (level of experience):

Describe your experience hiking with dogs:

Are you an AMC Member? If yes, which Chapter?

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NAME of DOG (if more than one, please fill out below):

Breed:

Age:

Spayed or Neutered?

Gender:

Is he/she up to date on rabies vaccination? Dog must be current with Rabies protection

Does your dog have a tag with ID information?

Is your dog protected from woods-related pests, i.e. ticks, fleas?

(It is important to protect your dog all year, not just in warm weather months - Ticks are highly prevalent throughout RI)

Has the dog ever bitten anyone or another dog? *If yes – please contact me immediately to discuss the situation and circumstances. This would be a safety concern for all others on the hike*

What is your dog’s usual activity level? (circle one)

 a. Mostly couch

b. Daily short walks

c. Occasional long walks

d. A strong hiker

 e. Other

Does the dog have any health problems? (Describe):

How well does your dog get along with other dogs? (Describe):

What’s your dog’s behavior like when meeting new dogs or humans? (Describe):

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Our AMC dog hike leaders and their dogs are very experienced at leading these fun dog hikes, and we really enjoy hiking with “old” and new friends. We try hard to make the dog hikes safe, fun, and interesting for everyone! Please feel welcome to give suggestions or ideas on ways we can make them even more enjoyable. We look forward to hiking with you!