

# 5 Reasons to Leash Your Dog on Sanibel



- 1. IT PROTECTS SANIBEL'S SEA TURTLES!** Wildlife has a place too. Don't let your best friend become nature's enemy. An unattended dog can dig up a sea turtle nest in the blink of an eye! With as few as one in 1,000 eggs reaching adulthood, the destruction of only a few nests can have a devastating effect on our sea turtle population.
- 2. IT PROTECTS SANIBEL'S SHOREBIRDS!** Sanibel's beaches serve as nesting grounds for shorebirds, including threatened least terns and snowy plovers. An unleashed dog can destroy a colony of beach nesting birds in minutes.
- 3. IT PROTECTS SENSITIVE BEACH DUNE VEGETATION!** In addition to providing wildlife habitat, native beach dune vegetation protects the beach from erosion and aids in the protection of structures from wind and wave energy. Foot (and paw!) traffic can easily damage this unique plant community.
- 4. IT'S THE RESPONSIBLE THING TO DO!** It is often the actions of just a few irresponsible people that cause local governments to ban dogs from a popular area. By keeping your dog on a leash and making sure to ALWAYS "scoop the poop", you can help keep Sanibel's beaches "dog-friendly".
- 5. IT'S THE LAW!** Section 10-62 of the Sanibel Code states that it is unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit such dog to be at large (without a leash) in or on any public right-of-way, beach, or other public property, or upon any private property without the consent of the owner of such property. A leash must be no more than eight (8) feet in length. Sanibel's laws also require cleaning up dog waste as dog waste poses additional hazards to people, water quality and wildlife habitat.

**Thank you for protecting Sanibel's unique natural resources and keeping our beaches safe for humans, dogs, and wildlife!**

For more information regarding Sanibel's leash law and natural resource protection, please contact the Natural Resources Department at (239) 472-3700. To report a violation of the Sanibel leash law, please contact the Sanibel Police Department at (239) 472-3111.