

# 9 Hot Tips for Taking Your Dog to the Beach

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It's a long hot summer, and many of us are excited to bring our dogs to the beach! Planning to hit the sand with your pal for the first time? **Here are the top 9 tips for taking your dog to the beach for maximum fun and safety.**

[Flickr/Andrew Becraft](#)

1. Choose a dog-friendly beach
2. Teach your dog to swim
3. Find fresh water and shade
4. Steer clear of choppy water
5. Watch what they drink
6. Provide sun protection
7. Look out for dangers in the sand
8. Rinse their fur
9. Pick up their poop

## 1. Taking your dog to the beach? Make sure that beach takes dogs!

First things first. Always check the local rules—they're usually posted publicly—to make sure it's okay to bring your dog to the beach. Luckily, there should be a few within driving distance. From [Norfolk](#) to [Oahu](#), [San Diego](#) to [New York City](#), dog-friendly beaches and swimming spots abound.

You can also soak up the sun at an off-leash dog park or dog beach. More and more dog owners are discovering [pet-friendly destinations](#) to visit with their dogs. If your idea of a great outing or vacation includes racing along the shoreline with your canine bud, you certainly have options.

## 2. Teach your dog to swim