

THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA Johannesburg and Magaliesberg Sections

MCSA Security Dog Policy (Oct 2017)

Motivation: Several incidents of muggings & break-ins have in the last few years affected MCSA members on some of the MCSA properties. For this reason it is deemed a reasonable response that Dog Owners be allowed to take their dogs with them while hiking or patrolling on certain MCSA properties, provided they can control them properly and abide by some basic rules. We are proposing a trial period where we will test whether this is a workable and practical solution. Should the initial assessment phase have a positive result there will be further meetings to discuss the way forward. At this point these rules have not been perfected and can be refined at any time, but at this point they are as follows:

MCSA Dog Rules

1. Dogs are only allowed into certain areas that are accessed by MCSA members. Which areas are open to dogs and which access routes are to be taken will be determined by the committees from time to time. At the moment it only applies to Grootkloof and Wilgepoort.
2. This privilege is only available to *MCSA members*, not permit holders.
3. Dogs are *not allowed on club meets*.
4. The owner is responsible for the dog's actions at all times when on MCSA land.
5. A *one dog per handler* ratio will be enforced, to ensure that the dogs can be controlled and managed properly.
6. Dogs *need to be on a lead/ leash at all times*. It is recommended that a **retractable leash** is used, as that gives the dog freedom, but the leash can be retracted when necessary.
7. Dogs should be well-trained, socialised, have an even temperament and *be controllable under all the possible different situations* in the veld. They should not be a nuisance to other people that are around.
8. The owner should take care to avoid any incidents, and efforts must also be made to prevent dogs from becoming provoked by others.
9. *Problem dogs* will be reported and their access revoked. Should you feel a dog is being a nuisance, please first address this with the owner and request that the dog be brought under control. If not successful, the problem needs to be reported to the MCSA admin person who handles access and permit matters.
10. The *MCSA will not be held liable for any incidents* that occur. The owner must therefore take care to avoid any serious incidents.
11. The owner must ensure that water sources are not contaminated. Owners/handlers should *remove their dog's faeces – take along and use your toilet trowel and bury their faeces*, as for humans.
12. The owner must undertake to prevent the dog from damaging the environment. At no time must the dog be a threat to any of the *indigenous wildlife*. In particular, dogs must be kept away from baboons. They must also not be allowed to dig or damage vegetation.
13. The dog owner may not leave the animal alone at any time whilst on MCSA land, **so members going to climb are advised not to take their dogs.**