



MEDIA RELEASE

Pets Not Welcome at Ellery Big Hole

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service today urged people to leave their dogs at home when visiting popular recreation spots such as Ellery Big Hole.

Parks and Wildlife Service acting director southern region parks Chris Day said people who brought dogs to Ellery Big Hole, located in West MacDonnell National Park near Alice Springs, and in fact most other parks and reserves would be asked to leave or face possible fines.

“The Parks and Wildlife Service has a strict Pets in Parks Policy that it strives to uphold,” Mr Day said.

“The Parks and Reserves of the Northern Territory are set aside as conservation and recreation areas for the public to enjoy and for native animals to live in safety.

“We need everyone’s help to protect Australia’s wildlife in our parks and reserves and therefore ask that people leave their pets at home.”

Mr Day said pets such as dogs were only allowed in parks and reserves in sign-posted areas or in situations where a seeing or hearing guide dog was required, but even then the dog must be held on a leash by the owner at all times.

“Dogs and cats are hunters by nature and will kill native birds and animals if given a chance,” Mr Day said.

“Barking dogs scare native animals, annoy visitors and can create a health hazard by fouling recreation areas such as waterholes and picnic areas.”

Mr Day urged people to contact the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service on 8951 8250 should they have any queries about pets in parks or any other matter.

Alternatively, people can go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/permits/petsinparks.html website to read the Parks and Wildlife Service pets in parks policy or obtain an application form to bring pets onto parks and reserves.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Chris Day on 8951 8201

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