



# You, Your Dog, & Nature in London



A guide to help you and  
your dog enjoy and protect  
nature in London

**Your dog must be on a  
leash (max. 1.8m/6ft)  
at all times.**

Parks and Recreation Area By-law PR-2  
Dog Licensing and Control By-law PH-4

## Natural areas, including **Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)**

**need to be protected by  
minimizing human and pet  
disturbance.**

### **For the safety of wildlife, visitors and your pet:**

-  Keep your dog on a leash at all times.
-  Stay on marked trails.
-  Dispose of all pet waste in garbage bins or carry it out.
-  Be aware of dangers such as vehicles, other animals, ill-willed individuals, traps and snares, toxic products, algae blooms, poisons, sick animals, parasites, rabies, distemper and other diseases.

## **Wild Animals**

A wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians call our urban neighbourhoods and ESA's home. Almost all conflict situations between wildlife and dogs occur when dogs are off-leash.

Off leash dogs may injure, orphan or separate wildlife offspring from their family.

The mere presence of your dog can disrupt the feeding, foraging, mating, denning, and nesting of rare and endangered birds and animals.

Wildlife expend vital energy reserved for survival when chased by dogs.

Birds of prey may perceive small dogs as a potential food source.



Coyotes and other wildlife are highly protective of family members and perceive dogs as a threat, especially near nesting/den sites or established territory.

Coyotes may 'escort' or 'shadow' a dog walker out of an area when coyote pups or a den are nearby.



## Plants

Off-leash dogs run, roll and dig in natural areas, damaging and destroying rare and endangered plant species. Many plants can cause seriously harm or kill your dog. Some include:

Poison Oak      Poison Ivy  
Poison Sumac      Giant Hogweed



## Safety Tips

Always obey by-laws or ordinances that apply to wild spaces you visit.

Be aware of the wildlife in areas where you walk your pets.



Keep a respectful distance from wildlife.

Never feed wildlife; this includes indirect feeding, such as leaving food waste in wild spaces. Feeding wildlife disrupts natural foraging behaviors and encourages unnatural proximity and tolerance to people.

If a coyote is nearby, small dogs can be lifted and carried for safety. Do not run; leave the area slowly, keeping your dog close to you.

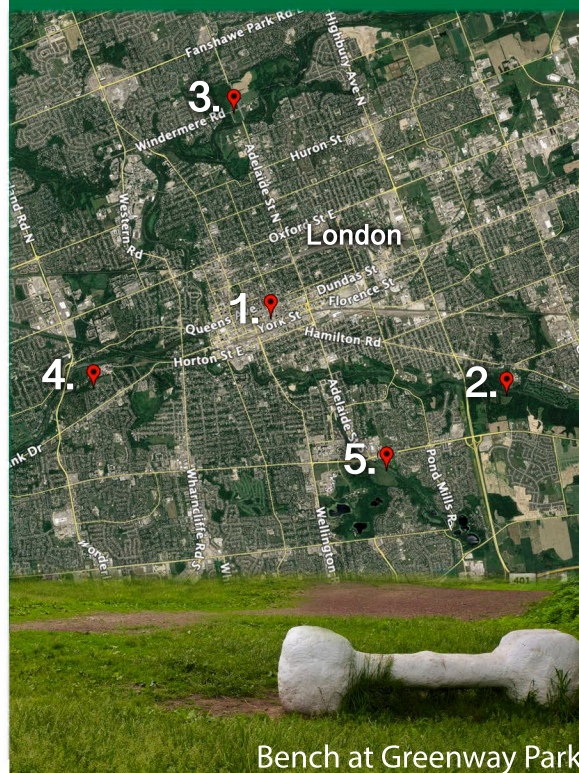
## Ticks & Lyme Disease

There is a possibility that your dog may encounter infected ticks in almost all wooded or brushy areas in Ontario, including London.



## There are 5 off-leash dog parks in London:

1. Campbell Memorial Park
2. Pottersburg Park
3. Stoney Creek Park
4. Greenway Park
5. Caesar Park



## Need More Information?

City of London  
519-661-2489  
[www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca)



Coyotes In  
The City of London  
[www.london.ca/coyotes](http://www.london.ca/coyotes)



City Planning  
Feeding of Wildlife Regulations  
Public Nuisance By-law PH-18

Middlesex London Health Unit  
519-663-5317  
[www.healthunit.com/lyme-disease](http://www.healthunit.com/lyme-disease)

Upper Thames River  
Conservation Authority  
519-451-2800 ext. 281  
[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)

London Animal Care Centre  
(PH-4 By-law Enforcement)  
519-685-1330  
[www.accpets.ca](http://www.accpets.ca)

London Dog Owners' Association  
[www.ldoa.ca](http://www.ldoa.ca)

London Humane  
Society  
519-451-0630



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