

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S  
**MOUNT ★ VERNON**

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GUEST EXPERIENCE

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**Dog Visitation Policy**

Date Updated: February 1, 2016

*“It happened that upon a large company sitting down to dinner at Mount Vernon one day, the lady of the mansion (my grandmother) discovered that the ham, the pride of every Virginia housewife’s table, was missing from its accustomed post of honor [...] but lo and behold! who should come into the kitchen, while the savory ham was smoking in its dish, but old Vulcan, the hound, and without more ado fastened his fangs into it [...] and bore off the prize [...] The lady [...] uttered some remarks by no means favorable to old Vulcan, or indeed to dogs in general, while the chief [Washington], having heard the story, communicated it to his guests, and, with them, laughed heartily at the exploit of the stage-hound.”*

George Washington Parke Custis, Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington

General Washington loved dogs, and so do we. Mount Vernon invites guests to enjoy this landmark property along with their pet(s). For the comfort of all our guests, and to preserve the home and final resting place of Washington, we ask pet owners to observe and adhere to the following guidelines:

- I. Guests are welcome to bring dogs on leashes during daytime public visitation hours. Pet owners must stay with their leashed pets at all times. Unless otherwise noted, dogs are not permitted during evening events.
- II. Leashed dogs are permitted on the property with the exception of the following areas: the Mansion and all other historic buildings, the Ford Orientation Center, and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, the Shops of Mount Vernon, the Food Court Pavilion, the Mount Vernon Inn, and the Distillery & Gristmill. (Please note: Service animals are exempt from these restrictions.) *Leashed dogs may pass through the lobby of the Ford Orientation Center and the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center to access and exit the historic area.*
- III. When accompanying a dog on the estate, pet owners or dog walkers must pick up and properly dispose of any waste.
- IV. Pet owners are asked to be respectful of other guests, maintaining a safe and comfortable distance from others, and to discourage their dogs from excessive barking.
- V. Water bowls are located at the entrance to the property and at the entrance of the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center.