

## Outreach FAQ

### *My dog never chases birds.*

Even if your dog is not actively chasing plovers or terns, the dog's presence alone (even leashed) causes stress to these and other birds. Plovers, for instance, weigh less than an ounce. If their energy is used excessively to fly away from disturbances or they are distracted by assessing constant threats, it can jeopardize their ability to raise their chicks and, in some cases, they will abandon the nest.

### *So, where can I run or walk my dog at the beach?*

Dogs are allowed on beaches such as Hollywood (before 9 am and after 5 pm), Marina Park and Silver strand before 9 am and after 5 pm, however they must be kept on a leash and picked up after. There are also local dog and city parks, the closest is College Park on Rose and Raiders Way, which has both a large and small dog area to enjoy.

### *Why can't the birds just move somewhere else?*

Plover and Terns need a specific type of beach environment to breed, rest and feed. The beach needs to have wide open and flat areas so they can see potential predators. They use the dunes for nesting and to escape high tides. Items like umbrellas and tents can obstruct their view. We are trying to maintain as much of a natural environment for them as possible.

### *Why can't I lean my surfboard and other items against the fence?*

Although your surfboard and or other items may not seem threatening, to a plover or a tern, they can be perceived as such. Items left along the fence line can attract predators (like Ravens and Crows) and your presence even for a short amount of time can be a disturbance to nesting birds. Please leave your items on the beach away from the habitat fence.

**Dog Rangers at Hollywood Beach** \*we won't ask dogs to take the pledge at Ormond Beach due to the ordinance that doesn't allow dogs, but we can give them the program info and let them know to follow us on social media and visit our website if they are interested in the program outside of Ormond Beach.

### Why take the pledge and become a Dog Ranger?

- All dogs are seen as predators to shorebirds and seabirds, no matter the size or age of the dog.
- Unleashed dogs frighten shorebirds and seabirds. This leads to nest abandonment and interruptions to eating and resting. Disturbances cause loss of precious energy when the birds use distraction displays to protect nests and chicks from unleashed dogs, people, and anyone who approaches too closely.
- These birds have no other home. From nesting to feeding, shorebirds and seabirds are specially evolved to live in beach habitats.

