

## Why Cloudbridge does not allow dogs on the reserve trails.

One of the major functions of Cloudbridge Nature Reserve is to protect the cloud forest and the native wildlife. Cloudbridge provides refuge for many species that are rare, endangered or endemic.

Dogs and other pets are not allowed on the Cloudbridge trails and most national parks around the world for a number of reasons:

- For starters, dogs are predators by nature and they often mark their territory in order to keep competitors away. These scent markings can infringe on the terrain of wide-ranging wild species such as monkeys, peccaries, and ocelots, and interrupt essential contiguous wildlife corridors.
- Carnivore species as a group show a strong aversion to trails heavily used by dogs. This effect is not present on trails where dogs are not allowed.
- Numerous scientific studies show that in natural areas where dogs are not allowed, people see more wildlife and get closer to it.
- Our wildlife is vulnerable to the predation, disturbance and disease that dogs may cause. For example, we have a number of ground-nesting and foraging birds which are easy prey to dogs.
- Barking, scents, and waste products are enough to scare away native wildlife and spread disease, as well as disturb other hikers and research activities.
- Escaped and off-leash dogs can pose a major threat to the dog. Off the trails, the landscape is steep and often unstable, with lots of dense vegetation, making it difficult to find an escaped or off-leash dog, and may result in the dog becoming badly injured or killed.
- As well, there are many predators and wild animals in the reserve that are potentially dangerous to dogs (including cats, coyote, snakes, etc.).
- Cloudbridge is engaged in a wide variety of research activities that can be disturbed or impacted by the presence of dogs.