



**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CENTER**

P.O Box 251
SEA GIRT, NEW JERSEY 08750

08 May 2019

An Open Letter to the Pet Owners of Sea Girt:

We are writing in reference to the “no pet” policy currently in place at the National Guard Training Center (NGTC) in Sea Girt. Dog walking, comfort and/or emotional support animals, or pets of any kind are prohibited from the entire facility, including the facility beach area. Service animals are allowed on the facility provided, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is a dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals must be leashed at all times and under control of the owner at all times. If the service animals cannot be controlled or does not behave in a manner that is trained, it will be required to be removed from the facility. Dog walking on the NGTC facility beach has been a particular problem in years past.

Enforcement of the NGTC “no pet” policy within the beach area is particularly essential due to the presence of sensitive wildlife habitat and Federally–threatened species onsite. Protected species include the Federally-threatened beach plant, Seabeach Amaranth and a ground-nesting bird, the Federally-threatened Piping Plover, as well as several State-listed endangered and threatened species. These sensitive species or their habitat could be impacted by the presence of pets or feral animals on the beach. As part of Army Environmental Regulation (AR 200-1), the National Guard Training Center must protect these species to prevent a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act and to continue its military mission. Please refer to the current Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for additional information at

<https://www.nj.gov/military/construction-facilities-management/environmental-management/documents/>.

“No pet” signage will be posted at the northern and southern NGTC beach property boundaries and the Sea Girt Lifeguards working the beach will be notified of the policy. Individuals observed walking dogs or carrying pets within the facility beach area will be politely asked to exit the facility grounds. Because of the seriousness of the issue and its potential interference with the day-to-day training mission at the Center, the NGTC staff will take the names of any individuals who consistently violate this policy. These individuals will be reported to both the Sea Girt and Manasquan Police Departments. Observation of any feral dogs or cats on the beach will be referred to Monmouth County Animal Control.

The National Guard Training Center will make every effort to work with surrounding communities and enforce this policy in an appropriate way. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you would like to meet with us to discuss possible cooperative efforts to increase community awareness or have any questions about the NGTC pet policy or its enforcement, please feel free to call me at (732) 974 – 5951.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

DANIEL DREHER
COL (Ret)
Superintendent