

People, Plovers and Pups

To the editor:

May 9, 2026

At Annual Town Meeting on May 16, Truro's dog owners will introduce a (non-binding) warrant article to modify the rule and allow dog owners to help our town further protect the plovers.

Please vote **YES on Article 41**. This won't change the rule right now, but it will show our Town's leaders how important this is to so many who live here and visit here.

Truro may be the most dog-friendly town on the Cape. And Truro's dog-owners may be the town's most responsible stewards of our beaches, woods and wildlife.

For as long as anyone can remember, before 9 and after 6, owners have been permitted to allow their well-behaved dogs to, well, to be dogs on the beaches. They can run, play, swim and socialize off leash, while their vigilant owners catch up with friends and make new ones. It's Truro's version of a dog-friendly coffee bar, and part of what makes this town so wonderful.

Truro is also home to nesting plovers and their chicks who need to be protected, both by law and out of respect for a threatened species. These are delightful little birds, and no one is more aware of this than the dog owners, who give a wide berth to the birds and the nests, and remind visitors to do the same.

The birds, the dogs and their people have always lived in harmony.

Until now.

This year, based on someone finding two dead plover chicks on one beach last summer—without a dog in sight—the Town has enacted a rule forbidding non-leashed dogs on Truro beaches in spring and summer.

For the dogs, it's like forbidding a kid from eating ice cream in an ice cream store. For the people, it discourages the kind of socializing that makes for a great summer in a small town. And for the plovers, it does nothing.

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