

What you can do if you see dogs harassing cranes?

If the owner is with the dog(s), kindly ask the owner to put the dog(s) on a leash to avoid causing injury or death to the cranes. If the owner is not with the dog(s), but you know the owner, call or leave a note asking the owner to keep the dog(s) under control to avoid affecting wildlife and to prevent possible injury to the dog(s).

If the owner does not comply, then your next step involves law enforcement. Which law enforcement agency should be contacted depends on where the incident is occurring.

Within Homer City Limits

Contact Homer Animal Control at **907-235-3141** or the Homer Police Department at **907-235-3151**.

Outside Homer City Limits

Contact the Alaska State Wildlife Troopers at **907-235-3009**.

Cranes are protected migratory birds, and it is illegal to harass them.

Sandhill Crane Viewing Etiquette

Rather than approaching cranes, use binoculars or scopes to observe them.

When possible, use your car as a "blind" by staying in or near the vehicle.

Keep pets leashed.

Teach children good viewing etiquette by keeping them with you.

Respect private property.

Never bother cranes at a nest or nighttime roost.

Watch for crane pairs along the roads to avoid hitting young chicks.

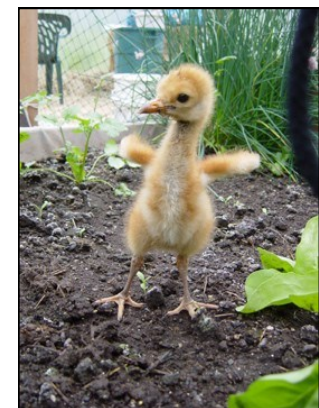


Kachemak Crane Watch
907-235-6262
reports@cranewatch.org
www.cranewatch.org

Photos by: Michelle Michaud, Nina Faust, Dale Conn, Nan York, and Marsh and Betsy Pitzman.

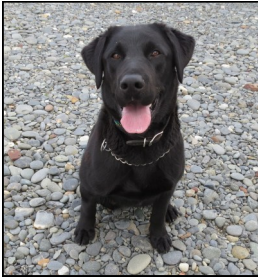


Human Induced Threats to Sandhill Cranes in Homer



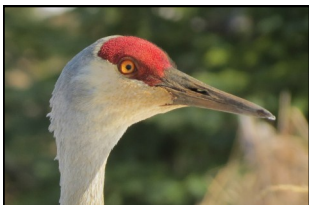
Dogs

Loose dogs in the Homer area are a serious threat to Sandhill Cranes, especially nesting cranes and colts (chicks). Loose dogs and cranes do not mix.



Dogs that chase cranes can:

- kill the young;
- stress cranes and prevent adult pairs from mating;
- injure cranes;
- steal and destroy the eggs;
- chase cranes away from their nesting areas often causing them to abandon their territory; and
- attract other predators to their nesting area due to the commotion of being harassed.



Additionally, dogs can be injured by cranes. Cranes have 4-inch long, sharp

beaks which they use for defense. Keep your dogs under control to avoid injuries.

Be A Responsible Pet Owner

Keep your dog restrained while it is outside or leashed when on a walk with you.



A strong fence keeps dogs away from wildlife, protecting both wildlife and dogs. Wildlife, while protecting themselves and their young, may injure your pets.



Remember, cranes return to the same place year after year if not harassed. Let's please keep dogs away from cranes so we can continue to enjoy the cranes for years to come as they grace our town and neighborhoods.



Eagles

Bald Eagles are already abundant in Homer, Alaska. Eagles can attack and kill Sandhill Crane adults and their young.



Feeding Bald Eagles, the top avian predator, results in an unnaturally high population of eagles in the Homer area, and it is illegal within Homer City limits.



Sandhill cranes usually flush (fly away) when a Bald Eagle flies nearby. This flushing causes stress and can make the cranes, especially the colts, more susceptible to injury or death.



While humans cannot control eagle attacks on cranes, we can modify our indirect effects.

Please do not feed the eagles.