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Pampering the Pet Set

Check out a few of our favorite pet-loving hotels

By Christina Cottini



Traveling with pets is all the rage these days. All over the country, chic boutique hotels are offering special packages to entice pet lovers to bring their furry friends along on vacation. You no longer need to leave your companions behind! We have searched high and low to find the ultimate luxury travel experience for you and your pets.

Nationwide

The Jet Set Pets program is offered at all **Affinia Hotels** locations, in New York City, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. (Affinia.com/Page.aspx?name=jet-set-pets). Participation in the program guarantees that your pet will be welcomed with treats, walks, and pampering galore. Jet Set Pets includes an expansive range of services and amenities, like local dog walking, day care, pet taxis, food and water bowls, and a list of pet-friendly local hot spots.

Hilton Hotels recently launched the Hilton Pet Friendly program (Hilton.com/en/hi/promotions/hi_pets/index.jhtml), designed to make traveling with your pets easier. Pets are welcome at most Hilton Hotels throughout the United States and Canada and, in late 2008, internationally. The program includes a welcome package featuring a travel tote loaded with pampering treats. In-room amenities include Hilton's Crypton Clean Pet Pillow, designed by William Wegman, and two Hilton pet bowls.

Loews Hotels loves pets. In fact, the hotel chain offers the Loews Loves Pets program at all of its locations (LoewsHotels.com/en/FamilyComfort/Default.aspx). Loews indulges pets with gifts including a pet tag, bowl, and special treat upon check-in. A Loews Loves Pets room-service menu, dog and cat beds, leashes and collars, and a variety of other treats make Loews the place for pets. This summer, Loews is offering a special "green" package in honor of Earth Day. The "Grrreen Dog" package features a specially created "Dog Gone Green" room service meal, a veterinarian-approved feast with locally grown ingredients. The package is available through September 5, 2009, and includes a 100-percent organic cotton bandana made by Go Doggie Go Green and a Zogoflex Huck, an environmentally friendly toy by West Paw Design.

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East Coast

Travelers heading to the East Coast will find a plethora of pet-friendly destinations. The **Paw House Inn and Resort** at Mount Snow in Vermont does not just tolerate dogs ... it caters to them (PawHouseMtSnow.com/playhouse.html). Mario's Playhouse is a 2,400-square-foot facility for dogs—use of Mario's is included in the rate during your stay. The playhouse is not a day care facility; rather, it is a place for your dogs to pass the time comfortably while you are exploring Vermont. The Paw House staff provides dog services between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., including playful interaction, feeding, and walking. The Paw House operates two pet-friendly inns in Vermont and will be hosting a summer concert series to raise funds for dog charities.

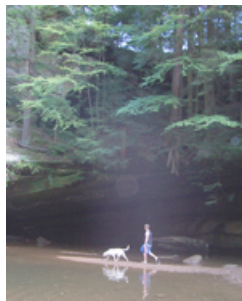
New York City's **Muse Hotel** is an urban oasis that welcomes pets with open arms (TheMuseHotel.com/mse_pet.html). The Muse Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of New York City's theater district. Dogs receive chew toys and a furry dog bed upon check-in. Guest rooms are stocked with an amenity basket filled with treats and food and water bowls. You and your pup can get pampered together—side-by-side massage services are available. Organic, in-room meals are prepared by Chef Patricia Williams. The **Hotel Gansevoort** in New York City's meat-packing district is a stylish, pet-friendly, luxury hotel (HotelGansevoort.com/amenities-services/index.cfm). Upon arrival, pets will receive a personalized amenities package, including premium treats, toys from the Barking Zoo, and a collar tag to let everyone know he or she is a guest of the Hotel Gansevoort.

The **Liberty Hotel** in Boston provides luxurious accommodations for humans and pets alike (LibertyHotel.com/packages_and_specials/index.html). The Liberty's Paw Prints package includes a designer pet welcome amenity and Liberty Hotel pet bed and bowls. There is a dog park just a few blocks away to allow you and your pooch to make the most of your exploration of the pet-friendly metropolis of Boston.

The recent arrival of the presidential pooch in our nation's capital has illuminated the Washington, D.C. area as an elite destination for animal lovers. The Furry Friend "Pet Friendly" Washington, D.C. package at the **Hotel Madera** includes treats, food and water bowls, bed and mat, pickup bags, and tags (HotelMadera.com/html/pet-friendly-hotel-dc.asp). D.C.'s **Hotel Palomar** features the Bark Bar, a three-tiered water bar exclusively for dogs; the Dish, a lounging area for pets; and other pet package items. Complimentary amenities are included, like treats, food bowls, mat, bed, pickup bags, and tags (HotelPalomar-DC.com/paldcp_pet.html). You can celebrate your pooch's unconditional love and devotion with the "My Dog Gets the Presidential Treatment" package at the **Hotel George** (HotelGeorge.com/html/pet-friendly-washington-dc.asp). The package includes a doggie welcome amenity, including food and water, mat, pet snacks, and chew toys; a day at the Doggie Stylepet spa in Washington, D.C.; and complimentary dog walking with hotel staff.

Midwest

The **Dream Horse Guesthouse** is a family-, pet- and horse-friendly bed and breakfast in northeast Ohio (DreamHorseGuestHouse.com/index.htm). This unique spot hosts dogs, cats, horses, and even some nontraditional pets like sugar gliders on its 16 acres. South-central Ohio is home to the **Getaway Cabins** in Hocking Hills (Getaway-Cabins.com/pet_friendly_ohio.asp). These cabins offer the perfect pet-friendly escape for you and your furry family. Ohio State Parks and nature areas provide the perfect opportunity to explore the beauty of southern Ohio with your pet.



The **Sweethaven Resort** in Union Pier, MI, features five pet-friendly cottages on nine wooded acres (SweethavenResort.com). The resort has become a home away from home for pets and their people over the past 15 years. Sweethaven's private cottages provide a unique retreat to get away from it all.

The **Hotel Monaco Chicago** offers the exclusive PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) Chicago Pet

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Package (Monaco-Chicago.com/moncmn_pet.html). The PAWS package includes welcome treats at check-in, a bed and bowl for dogs, and a bowl and disposable litterbox for cats. Ten percent of package proceeds are donated to PAWS Chicago, a nonprofit humane organization.

Southwest

Denver's **Hotel Teatro** is a luxury boutique hotel in the heart of downtown (HotelTeatro.com/teatro/rooms/pet-friendly.aspx). The Pets in the City package features an amenity basket that includes a toy, treats, sidewalk bags, and *Colorado Dog Magazine*. Hotel Teatro offers unique services and amenities, including a bone-shaped mat, personalized silver food and water bowls, ice water, gourmet treats, and Hotel Teatro-branded dog tags. Dog sitting and canine massage can be arranged for no additional charge. Denver's Dumb Friends League receives a \$5 donation from the cost of the Pets in the City package.



Just west of Denver, the **Inn at Keystone** is a pet-lover's haven (Keystone.Snow.com/info/mtnhouse.innatkey.asp). The inn is located between Lakeside Village and River Run in Keystone, CO, and the grounds have been featured in the guidebook *Best Hikes with Dogs: Colorado*. Pets can enjoy the vast open spaces of Keystone's outdoors and are free to roam as they please in the Inn at Keystone—even into the bar! Pups receive a welcome kit, including a special treat, pickup bag, and door hanger.

The Sky Hotel in Aspen is the perfect après-ski hotel in the perfect ski city, and you can share your pampering experience with your furry friend. The Dog Stylin' Summer Package includes guest-room accommodations for two nights, dog bed, doggie dishes, Sky dog treats, and one dog toy from Rocky Mountain Pet Shop. The package is available through November 24, 2009 (<http://www.theskyhotel.com/sky-petfriendly/index.html>).

Another hidden gem is a short jaunt west of Keystone—the **Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch** is situated on Beaver Creek Mountain (RitzCarlton.com/en/Properties/BachelorGulch/Information/Default.htm). The resort provides a signature Loan-a-Lab hiking program featuring the hotel's third resident yellow Lab mascot, Bachelor. He was rescued by the Ritz-Carlton in October 2008, and is available daily for hikes with guests. The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch is the only hotel in Beaver Creek to welcome pets, and the resort is waiving its pet fee from Memorial Day through Labor Day to celebrate Bachelor's first summer there.



Two luxurious Lone Star destinations are located in Dallas' city center—the **hotel Lumen** and **Hotel Palomar** are both pet friendly. The hotel Lumen (HotelLumen.com/lum-petfriendly/index.html) pet package is called Unleash the Light, and includes a plush pet bed, bottled water, and a glow-in-the-dark chew toy. The Hotel Palomar's Bone Appetite Pet Package (HotelPalomar-Dallas.com/dlp-petfriendly/index.html) includes a deluxe pet bed, treats, bottled water, designer pet bowls, personalized pet tag, and a take-home toy.

The **Hidden Meadow Ranch** is a premier luxury guest ranch in the White Mountains of Arizona (HiddenMeadow.com/accommodations/index.html#pets). The ranch offers a limited number of pet-friendly cabins and guest stalls for horses. The cabins feature attached dog runs, mini replica log cabin doghouses, and fenced yards, along with a large pet playpen. Pets will be provided with food and water dishes filled with goodies and comfy fleece sleeping mats. For pet parents seeking a more urban Arizona retreat, Scottsdale's **FireSky Resort and Spa** offers its exclusive BONE Appetit package (FireSkyResort.com/clo-petfriendly/index.html). This deal features an arrival treat, including Bosco's Brew (a pet-friendly beer), gourmet dog treats, a high-quality chew, and a logo leash. Guests can use FireSky's desert doggie bed and water bowl during their stay.



West Coast

The dog-friendly **Borrego Ranch Resort & Spa** is nestled in southern California's Anza-Borrego desert (BorregoRanchResort.com/resort.php). Dogs will receive personal food and water bowls and doggie pickup bags. Your canine companion can make the most of his or her time at Borrego Ranch with unlimited playtime at the adjacent 10-acre pet park and naturalist area—featuring a large duck pond ideal for pooches who love to swim.

The Pacific Northwest is another popular mecca for pets and their people. The **Benson Hotel** in Portland, OR, features the Benson Buddies pet package (BensonHotel.com/reservations/reserv_pkgs.html), which includes a Benson buddy bed, a pet-friendly area guide, and a special take-home gift.

Just outside of Seattle, the **Willows Lodge** is a pet friendly rustic retreat (WillowsLodge.com/resortinfo-pet.php). Willows Very Important Pet program offers amenities, including a doggie room service menu prepared by Seattle's Three Dog Bakery and Willows Lodge bottled water. A recent issue of *Citydog* magazine, dog bed with turn-down service, and a nighttime rawhide bone make your pet feel at home away from home. The **Alexis Hotel** in Seattle is a recently renovated gem in the heart of the Emerald City (AlexisHotel.com/alxpetff/index.php). Upon arrival, a designer doggie bed, water bowl with distilled water, and complimentary pet treats await. Doggie in-room dining and private grooming sessions are available for a fee.

If none of these destinations meet your needs, go to [Luxury Paw](http://LuxuryPaw.com) (LuxuryPaw.com) to search the extensive collection of luxury pet-friendly accommodations. Wherever you choose to travel with your pet, there is an ultimate travel experience awaiting you!



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