

## Traveling with Your Dog

Carole Mulliken

*It's summertime, and the lure of mountains, rivers and beaches is nigh onto irresistible just now. So many of us go off to camps -- with our dogs!*

Traveling taps what dogs do best; they love to run, explore new places, and sniff out novel things. And they love to do it in packs. **You** are your dog's pack.

Dogs are perfectly suited for long walks, short runs, camping, moderate hiking, and even bicycle touring, if the owner plans ahead. We love to share memorable new experiences with our pets, so we camp with our canines. Successful camps for dogs enjoy very high repeat business: 60-75% in some cases; this



proves it must be fun.

Some campers prefer to simply hang out, drift on rafts, laze in hammocks and nap in the sun in idyllic settings. But a day at camp easily can be jam-packed with such things as dancing with your dog, nature walks, lure-coursing, tracking.

Frisbee, swimming and dog-focused campfires as well as agility training, dock diving, cooking-for-canines instruction, and bury-the-bone competitions can follow. Human campers also enjoy doggie socials where they can make new friends among other dog lovers.

Camps focusing on human/dog camping operate in several states. Vermont hosts [Camp Gone to the Dogs](#), a retreat for both species in Stowe and Marlboro, Vermont. Illinois is home to Camp Dogwood [www.campdogwood.com](http://www.campdogwood.com), a one-week camp for humans and their dogs, giving everyone a chance to play, sleep, and enjoy time outdoors together in a camp setting. Long weekend and daily campers are also welcome. California offers Canine Camp of the Redwoods.

Traveling west to Nevada, Lake Tahoe's Camp Winnaribbun [www.campw.com](http://www.campw.com) will serve up hospitality, activities, nature and friendships to your canine/human family. And campers find the fare pretty tasty.

One first time Winnaribbun camper said,

“We’ve never had so much fun in our entire existence!!! The joy of running along the beach, watching my terriers traverse the agility course and the pet blessings were so very special. I loved making the paw print ink stamps, tie dyed t-shirts and cherish the new collars my girls have. The new friends made enrich my life. Camp W is a magical dog’s paradise!! We can’t wait till next year!” – Franny

Another says,

“Three years ago I suggested to my husband that we go to dog camp. He responded that his idea of a vacation was



one without the dogs. When I said we were going without him, he reluctantly agreed to go. That camp was the best vacation we ever had. We are now camp alumnae and counting the days until next year’s adventure. I only wish I could translate the excitement and happiness expressed in our dogs’ faces.”

- Diane

Find a listing of a range of camps operating in the US and Canada in an article from 2004.

<http://www.dogfriendly.com/server/newsletters/dogcamps.shtml>

A suitable camp, however, is not necessary to travel with your dog. Bed and breakfasts may be dog friendly, and many are located in environments better-suited to animals. Call ahead to assure your dog will be welcome. Increasingly, hotels and motels are becoming dog-friendly. Seattle has at least 98 lodging places that will accommodate your pet. New York boasts 148. Albuquerque lists 75. The city of St. Louis has 30 such accommodations alone.

Pet travel need not be expensive — and pampering for your dog, simply means being with you. Many Missouri RV parks are pet-friendly, and another nearby option is to camp, float the pretty Black River near Johnson’s Shut-ins, and stay at Bearcat Mountain Lodge, whose website says it is dog-friendly.

Some hotel and motel chains pride themselves on being pet-friendly nationwide. Find one you like, and you and your pet can hopscotch America!

Pet-Friendly-Hotels lists places to stay in every state in the US. <http://www.pet-friendly-hotels.net/>