

Canine-friendly finds in Aspen

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO UNFORGETTABLE COLORADO GETAWAYS



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE The hot question on the heels of the economic downturn is, "Has Aspen gone to the dogs?" A quick visit to Aspen, and you see that it undoubtedly has—in a good way, as dogs are often as welcome as people.

Aspen is a famously canine-friendly town to live in as well as visit with your four-legged friends. The top-rated hotels welcome families and their pets with open arms—or shall we say open paws—combining luxurious elegance with the comforts of home. Whether you spend a night or stay for a month,

plenty of services and activities are available for you and Fido to embark on a remarkable excursion.

Begin your visit at The Bar at the Little Nell Hotel, undeniably the in place to see and be seen for locals and visitors—plus the premier watering hole for hotel guests and their party animals. If your best pal prefers a more home-like atmosphere for mealtime, however, room service at The Little Nell offers an exclusive pet menu for in-room dining. Should you forget a dinner bowl, do not despair as The Little Nell will pro-

ASPEN'S

WELCOMING AND

PAMPERING

APPROACH TO

POOCHES MAKES

'GOING TO THE DOGS'

A GOOD THING

vide Rover with a silver bowl bearing its "TLN" monogram.

FROLIC AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Although reliable dog walkers are plentiful, you may prefer to walk your pooch to one of the dog-friendly parks where he can frolic with other furry-friends. The Saturday Farmers' Market is not to be missed as the ideal spot for meeting new canine comrades. Moreover, it is commonplace to witness an energetic reunion between friends and their pet pals who have neither seen nor sniffed one another since the last season. The doggies indulge in dropped kettle corn and croissant crumbs among the vendors selling Colorado's delectable produce and crafts.

The Aspen Animal Shelter also staffs a booth, which promotes its dog adop-

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tion program. As a matter of fact, if you feel left out of the dog-eat-dog world during your stay, the shelter bestows temporary pet adoptions.

If the Saturday Market doesn't satiate your thirst for shopping, whirl over a few blocks to the trendy dog boutique, CB Paws, or a real pet store, Rocky Mountain Pets, for any necessary accoutrement. Stores, banks and art galleries routinely offer the polite four-paw visitors loving hugs and a yummy treat.

PAMPER YOUR PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Looking a bit dog-eared and in need of royal treatment? Hasten over to see Laura at Barking Beauties Spa, located in town, or should you and your pooch prefer grooming at your home-away-from home, call Cari with the Pet Laundry, for on-site pet grooming. It's wise to call soon as there can be a three-week waiting list.

WORK LIKE A DOG Do not be misled in thinking that dogs in Aspen are here only to enjoy the dog days of summer.

Local canines oftentimes accompany their owners to work. Suitable dogs diligently toil as rescue dogs, operating with firemen and mountain rescue teams. Other breeds contribute to the community's philanthropy by participating in various annual dog fun runs.

Aspen is renown for its "cat calls," but this is definitely a doggy haven! Just sit at the most popular corner in town, outside Paradise Bakery and PE 101, to see an explosion of wagging tails ranging from a 1-pound teacup poodle to a 150-pound mastiff. Speaking of breeds—you are likely to catch glimpses of dog hybrids, aka designer dogs, such as labradoodles, cockapoos or puggles.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH The city of Aspen is indeed welcoming to pet lovers as long as you follow the city's ordinances. The pick-up rule is strictly enforced and litter bags are conveniently accessible. Leash laws require furry pals to stay on the leash, regardless if they are at an al fresco concert or on a mountain hike.

THE DETAILS

ASPEN TOUTS MORE THAN 300 DAYS OF SUNSHINE A YEAR. SUMMER OR WINTER IS AN IDYLIC TIME TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS! IN ADDITION TO SKIING, MAKE PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS.

ASPEN FOOD & WINE CLASSIC: JUNE 18-20, WWW.FOODANDWINE.COM

ASPEN FARMERS MARKET: COLORADO PRODUCE AND VENDORS, SATURDAYS ON HOPKINS STREET, JUNE-OCTOBER, WWW.ASPENCHAMBER.ORG

ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL & SCHOOL: THE INTERNATIONALLY CELEBRATED CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & SCHOOL IS SLATED FOR JUNE 28-AUG. 2, WWW.ASPENMUSICFESTIVAL.COM

ASPEN ANIMAL SHELTER: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TEMPORARY PET ADOPTIONS, 970-544-0206 OR WWW.ASPENDOGS.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.ASPENCHAMBER.ORG OR EXPERIENCE ASPEN AT 970-372-4628

GET FIT The more robust Rovers experience the idyllic climate with their able-bodied masters, walking, biking, or running up one of the busy trails, such as Smuggler, and even join foursomes for golf at the Roaring Fork Club. Gondola rides are so popular with pooches that there are "paw print" designated cars reserved exclusively for them.

There is no doubt that you and your best furry friend will have a dog-gone good time in Aspen! Bone-jour! **CE**

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