

## Travel

# 10 great places to relax, loosen your collars

When you're ready for that post-holiday getaway, don't forget the pets, says Dawn Habgood, co-author with Robert Habgood of *Pets on the Go* (Dawbert Press, \$19.95). "So many people treat their pets like family, and it's more accepted to travel with them," she says. "So hotels go all out, offering room service, vet-created menus and pet concierges." Habgood shares with USA TODAY's Shawn Sell special spots offering "creature comforts" for pet and owner.

## The Ritz-Carlton Hotel

New York

"Conveniently set next to Central Park, this ultra-luxurious hotel wows with five-star service and accommodations," Habgood says. "The VIP (Very Important Pooch) program (for pets up to 60 pounds), provides 22-karat gold-plated IDs, aromatherapy coat spritzes, hand-painted ceramic dinnerware, quilted travel mats and Burberry pet raincoats." 800-241-3333; [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

## W Seattle

Seattle

"This boutique hotel offers some of the best views in the city plus the "Whatever/Whenever" service, enabling guests to borrow any pet item left behind," Habgood says. "The staff lavishes attention on its four-legged guests with pet toys, treats, W tags, a full complement of services, even custom pet birthday cakes. The one thing that separates W from the pack are the signature beds, including those for pets." 888-625-5144; [whotels.com](http://whotels.com)

## Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

Tucson

"The spectacular Ventana Canyon and Catalina Mountain foothills are reason enough to visit," Habgood says. "The 'Loews Loves Pets' program welcomes pets of all sizes and includes a pet concierge, who suggests animal-friendly eateries, shops and scenic hikes into the canyon. The hotel provides a 'Did You Forget' closet filled with pet goodies and necessities, along with special menu items and room service." 800-235-6397; [loewshotels.com](http://loewshotels.com)

## The Paw House Inn

Killington, Vt.

"One of a handful of inns catering to travelers with dogs, the innkeepers balance the historic Vermont country inn experience with dog-themed rooms," Habgood says. "Also featured are doggie living rooms, a doggie daycare playhouse with indoor/outdoor recreation areas, swimming areas and a variety of dog classes. After a busy day on cross-country trails, canines can retire to their own four-poster sleigh bed or puffy Orvis dog bed." 866-729-4687; [pawhouseinn.com](http://pawhouseinn.com)

## The Woof Cottages

Nantucket, Mass.

"Our dogs love exploring Nantucket's stunning beaches and pristine conservation lands and snoozing on the back patio at the Even Keel Café," Habgood says. "The cottages, set on the harbor, feature pet treats, bowls, beds and toys to keep furry friends occupied and comfortable while you peruse the list of pet-friendly activities/restaurants. Dogs and cats are welcome with innkeeper approval." 866-838-9253; [harborviewcottages.com/rooms/withpets.php](http://harborviewcottages.com/rooms/withpets.php)

## Nine Zero

Boston

"Paw's down, our favorite pet-friendly luxury boutique hotel wins highest marks for service," Habgood says. "They know both you and your dog by name and there are specially designed bowls and beds, along with information on pet-sitting, dog walks, and massage services. All are part of the In The Dog House package. While your pets sack out on super-soft beds, it's time to snuggle into your own bed, complete with Frette linens and down comforters." 866-646-3937; [ninezero.com](http://ninezero.com)

## Daufuskie Island Club

Off Hilton Head Island, S.C.

"If you're lucky, a pod of dolphins will escort your ferry to this laid-back island escape, rich with Southern hospitality, plantation-style architecture, golf-cart transportation and room for dogs to romp," Habgood says. "Pets get good care with gourmet treats, bowls and designer pet beds." 800-648-6778; [daufuskieresort.com](http://daufuskieresort.com)

## St. Regis Resort

Aspen, Colo.

"The St. Regis gets everything right," Habgood says. "Any place that puts Frette linens on your bed (and your pet's) embodies luxury. (Pet toys, treats, and bowls round out the offerings). The resort is tucked against Aspen Mountain, with easy access to both the slopes and in-town amenities. The staff will do whatever it takes to make your stay, and your pet's (80 pounds or less, please), perfect." 888-454-9005; [stregisaspen.com](http://stregisaspen.com)

## The Inn by the Sea

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

"The staff at this classic inn has been rolling out the pet red carpet for more than 15 years, and they know how to please pets and their 'people,'" Habgood says. "Treats always are set out in the spacious suites (the best have ocean views), but these are just a prelude to room service's Bow Wow burgers and homemade biscuits. Expansive lawns slope down to the beach, our idea of doggie heaven." 800-888-4287; [innbythesea.com](http://innbythesea.com)



Looking for more travel ideas? Review "10 Great" lists on the Internet at [10greats.usatoday.com](http://10greats.usatoday.com)

## San Ysidro Ranch

Montecito, Calif.

"It's easy to find your well-appointed cottage here: just look for your name, and your pet's, burned into the placard on the door," Habgood says. "Nestled on 500 hillside acres, the elegant ranch (boasts a) privileged Pets Program, featuring 'Pawier' water, homemade treats or gourmet items off the pet menu. Explore the 17 miles of trails, then relax with massages for you and your pet." 800-368-6788; [sanysidororanch.com](http://sanysidororanch.com)



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