

Pet-friendly travel in New England

By Necee Regis | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MARCH 31, 2013



MARYANNE GILLOOLY

The Vanderbilt Grace in Newport, R.I.

IF YOU WANT TO INCLUDE your beloved Fido, Tabby, or even your iguana in your family vacation plans, you'll be glad to learn that many lodgings in the region accommodate pets. With amenities ranging from high-end pampering to simple treats, traveling with your best furry — or even feathered — friends has never been easier.

CAPE ELIZABETH, Maine Your pup is a VIP (Very Important Pet) at the Inn by the Sea. This luxury inn, located on the coast five miles south of Portland, provides pampering in equal measure for animals and people.

“We’ve been pet friendly for about 20 years. We accept pets with no restrictions on size or number, without charge,” said Rauni Kew, director of

marketing and green programs.

Seventeen of the inn's 61 rooms and suites are designated pet-friendly, and feature amenities including water bowls, beach towels, L.L Bean dog blankets, turn-down service with treats, and a seasonally updated brochure offering information on nearby leash-free beaches, dog parks, and pet services.



(PETER OGILVIE)

Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Doggie divas enjoy in-room spa services, massages, dog walking and sitting services, doggie cocktails, plus gourmet menus with house-made dog biscuits, meat "roaff" with natural ground beef, K-9 ice cream, and more. Pets and humans can dine together at the Fireplace Lounge or al fresco on the seaside deck. Rates from \$289. 800-888-4287, www.innbythesea.com

NEWPORT, R.I. Your pets are treated like family at the Vanderbilt Grace hotel. Though their most frequent visitors are dogs, all animals are welcome in seven pet-friendly rooms.

"We've had two or three cats and a parrot stay with us. And we had a request to bring an iguana. They're part of the family. They shouldn't be left behind," said Marina Aslanidou, general manager.

Amenities include the option to buy a custom dog bathrobe, paw rub cream, and organic pet food. If you don't travel with Fido's bed, they will supply one for any size dog. Dining options for canine guests include apple dumplings, biscuits and gravy, and chicken pot pie.

Rates start at \$395 per night. There is a nonrefundable \$50 fee per stay for dogs under 25 pounds; \$100 for dogs over 25 pounds. There is no rule on how many animals are allowed per room. 401-846-6200, www.vanderbiltgrace.com

SHAFTSBURY, Vt. Clifford and Donna Ward welcome well-behaved dogs at Meadowood Farm, a country inn located on 18 acres with panoramic views of Mount Anthony, Mount Greylock, and the entire Bennington Valley.

The bucolic setting, complete with chickens strutting in a fenced-in yard, is ideal for doggie romps through woods, meadows, and mountain streams. Dogs are allowed in the dining room for breakfast, and the innkeepers offer tips on pet-friendly dining options in the area, as well as dog-related shopping opportunities and other activities.

per night, plus \$10 per dog (some breeds excluded). Horses may be boarded at a neighbor's stable for \$35 per night. 800-935-2440, www.meadowoodvt.com

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. The Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel provides pet-friendly accommodations in a pet-friendly town. The hospitality begins on arrival when you receive the basic necessities for your pooch.

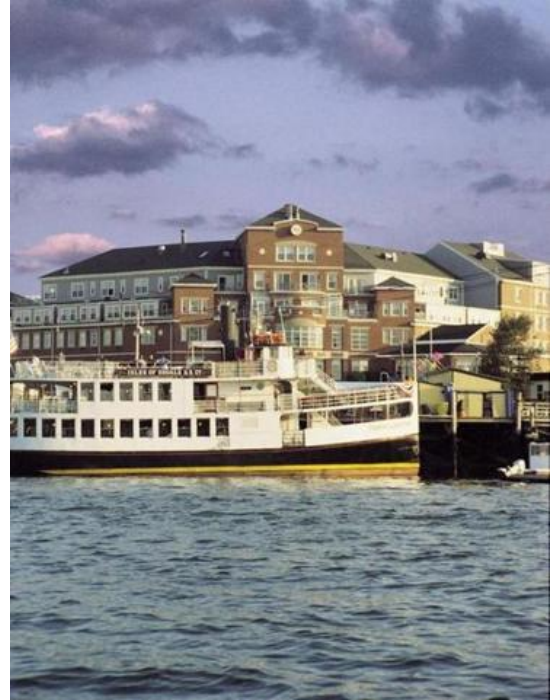
“We provide a doggie package when you check in, with a doggie bed, a bowl for water, and doggie treats,” said Sue Beaudry, director of sales.

The hotel is located near many of Portsmouth’s attractions, including museums, entertainment venues, and shopping.

“Portsmouth is a very dog-friendly town. Many restaurants and retail shops have bowls of water outside for dogs,” said Beaudry.

Dogs up to 80 pounds can stay with you in designated deluxe guest rooms. Rates start at \$159. There is no additional charge for pets, though make sure to mention Fido when making a reservation.

603-431-2300, www.sheratonportsmouth.com



The Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, N.H.

LAKEVILLE, Conn. The Interlaken Inn is an upscale country resort located on Lake Wononscopomuc in the Litchfield Hills. In addition to off-leash play areas and designated pet-walking trails on the property, you’ll find other hiking trails in the area that allow dogs, including sections of the Appalachian Trail.

“People love to travel here with their dogs as we have special accommodations — pet beds and blankets, treats, and more — plus loads of open space and a lake. Most dogs love to swim, and our setting is ideal for this,” said Dan Bolognani, director of sales and marketing.

Interlaken offers a Pet-Away Package that includes deluxe accommodations in a pet-friendly guest room, dinner at Morgan’s Restaurant, continental breakfast for two, welcome gift of wine, local cheeses, pup treats, and more. Available midweek May-October and any day November-April. From \$139 per person double occupancy. Without package, there is a \$20 daily surcharge per pet. 800-222-2909, www.interlakeninn.com

with your four-legged friends in one of six dog-friendly rooms and meet Mr. Pippin and Miss Potter, two dogs who live on the property.

If you forget to bring bowls, pick-up bags, and leashes, they are available in the office along with organic dog treats. Information is available for all kinds of activities for you and your pooch, including Dog Gone Sailing Charters, whale-watch excursions, miles of off-leash scenic beaches, an enclosed town dog park, and a list of restaurants that welcome dogs in their outside seating areas.

“We love all dogs big and small,” said Maureen Cucchiara, sister of the owner.

Mid-season rates from \$160, plus \$20 per night for one dog, \$30 per night for two.

508-487-3232, www.gabriels.com

Necee Regis can be reached at neceeregis@gmail.com or www.necee.com.