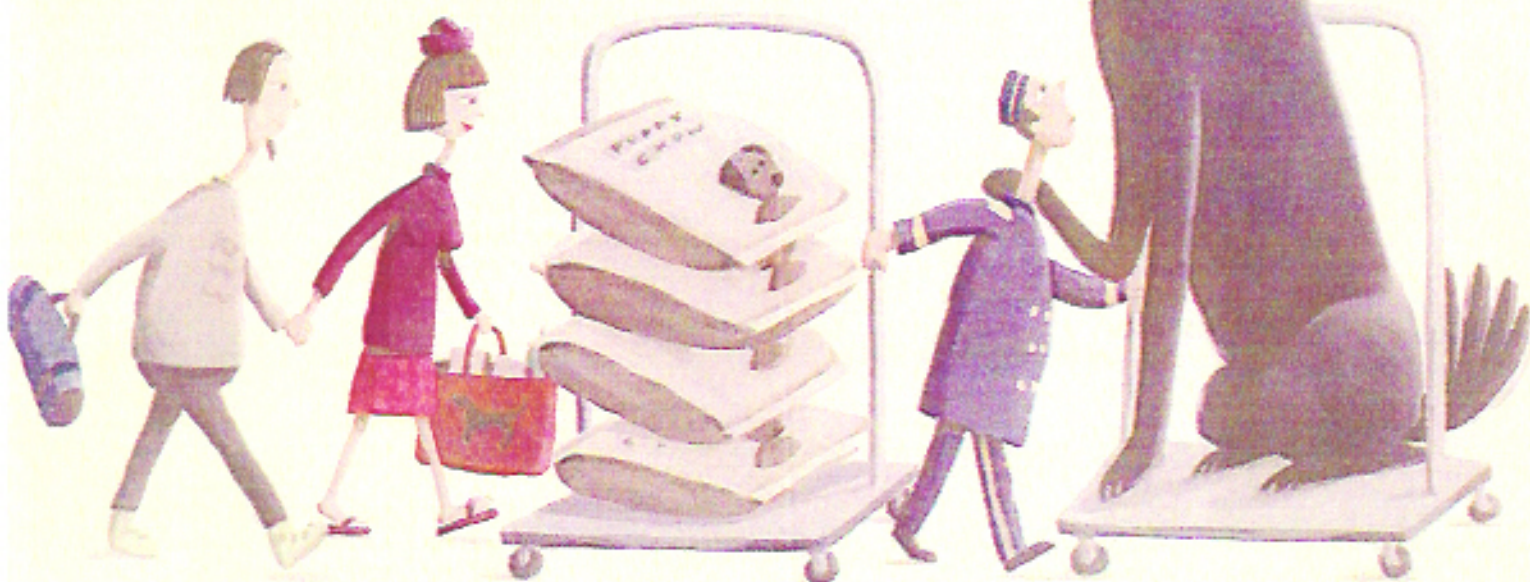


Traveling with a dog is one thing.
But a 130-pound Great Dane?



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Come in, pet: These inns welcome you

By Neece Regis
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Pet owners, dust off your suitcases. In New England, a growing list of pet-friendly places will welcome you and Sparky for overnight adventures with their inns as your base.

A few things to keep in mind:

- When making your reservation, be sure to let the proprietor know you are bringing a pet. Some places provide specific rooms for such guests.

- On arrival, introduce your pet to the staff. Ask where he is not permitted to go and where you can take him for a walk.

- Always clean up after your pet and avoid leaving him alone in the room. (Some places forbid you to leave your pet without a cage or crate. Some rare places will "baby sit" while you go out.)

- Place a mat under his food and water bowls in the room.

- Keep your pet on a leash unless there is a free-run policy. Wipe off muddy paws before entering your room.

So, now there's no excuse to stay home. Here are some places to check out:

The Paw House West Rutland, Vt.

Mitch and Jennifer, dog lovers and travelers, saw a need for an inn to accommodate bipeds and their pets, and opened their inn last month. The 18th-century farmhouse has seven spacious "tail-proof" rooms, each with a cozy doggy bed for Spike, plus a double bed and private bath for you. In the morning, homemade biscuits await your pup while you can dine on a full-course country breakfast.

No other dog foods are available, so B.Y.O. Don't feel guilty while you're off skiing at nearby Killington or Okemo Mountains; The Paw House has an on-site dog day care facility. "Mario's Playhouse" is a 1,200-square-foot barn (kept at a pleasant 67 degrees)

with eight doggie living rooms, each with a bed, water dish, and view. An outdoor fenced-in area is adjacent to the playhouse for frolicking opportunities. A local vet is available for emergencies.

Canine hosts are yellow lab Shakespeare and black lab Mario D. Dogg. Sorry, no cats allowed.

Neece Regis is a freelance writer who lives in Miami and Boston.

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