

FIDO DESTINATIONS

I would recommend to those persons who are inclined to stagnate... to try keeping four dogs, two of which are puppies.

ELIZABETH VON ARNUM

TOP 10 Ski Resorts

Powder hounds rejoice! *FIDO Friendly's* got your destination snow-cation just in time for wintertime fun.

By Carol Bryant


Powder hounds, rejoice! It's that time of the year. Slaloms and slopes, poles and puppies. Puppies? You read right! *FIDO Friendly* magazine clears the snow pathway to uncover the top 10 ski destinations that welcome both two-legged and four-legged varieties. So strap on those boots, bindings and barky best friend and head for the white stuff. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Stowe Mountain Lodge

Got snow? With an average annual snowfall of 333 inches, Stowe Mountain Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, is a perfect northeast winter getaway. Pack the powderhound's snow goggles and head north for whiter pastures. Stowe Mountain Lodge allows guests to utilize their ski valet: have skis and equipment shipped ahead of time and ready to hit the slopes upon arrival.

Meshing refinement with relaxation, each of the 139 luxury guestrooms include oversized windows so Fido can gaze out at Mother Nature's landscape of Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak. www.stowemountainlodge.com

Remember to log on to www.FIDOFriendly.com to search for the perfect getaway for you and yours.



Soar high and aim big while soaring over the slopes at Fairmont Chateau, top; Ski and stay, sit and play, the Fairmont Chateau is readying the slopes for Fido fun, bottom; Fido-friendly Telluride takes you and your pooch to new heights, soaring over the mountains at Mt. Lodge Telluride, right; Whether doing a zig and a zag or a wig and a wag in the snow, Fido's sure to have a snowy good time at Hotel Jerome, far right.



FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS



THE MOUNTAIN LODGE



HOTEL JEROME

The Mountain Lodge

Telluride, Colorado

Truly epitomizing the mantra, Leave No Dog Behind®, the 13-minute gondola ride between Gondola and Mountain Village is free to pedestrians. Hang onto your ski poles because Fido is welcome to ride in specially marked cabins on the gondola. The Galloping Good, Telluride's shuttle bus system, allows leashed Fido to cruise to his next destination.

Mountain Lodge at Telluride is conveniently located between two ski runs. An array of condo rentals, lodge rooms and log-and-stone cabins make for cozy warmth and scenic mountain memories. Unleash worries and star gaze with Fido at the 14,000-foot peaks of Colorado's San Juan Mountain Range. When FIDO Friendly's very own publisher visited, she saw more dogs than people using the gondola. Hitching posts for Fido are scattered about town including at restaurants.

Considered the ultimate mountain resort experience, Mountain Lodge at Telluride is located near specialty shops, including many that are Fido-friendly and focused. Spaniel snow globe, anyone?

www.mountainlodgetelluride.com.

Westin Monache Resort

Mammoth Lakes, California

While at Mammoth Lakes, Fido is also welcome to take a gondola ride up the mountain as well as engage in hiking and water play. Touting more than 400 inches of annual snow-

fall, eternal winter fans are never disappointed. Winter becomes an approximate six-month season here. Take a peek at www.mammothdogs.com for all things Fido while visiting the area.

More the cross-country skier and want to take Fido along? Mammoth Lakes makes a perfect locale to do so. Trails beginning at the Mammoth Visitors Center and merge with other longer trails as you and leashed Fido make snow tracks (and perhaps a few snow angels).

WITH 2,000 MILES OF HIKING AND SKI TRAILS, YOU AND FIDO CAN EXPLORE THE LARGEST MARKED TRAIL IN THE US.

Nearby Mammoth Mountain Ski Area offers 29 lifts, 2 gondolas and 3,100 vertical feet on 3,500 acres. Dogs are welcome to take the gondola ride in the summer months. Nearby Shady Rest Park and Trail welcomes cross-country skiers with their powder hounds as well.

At the end of a long snowy day, seek respite in the rustic mountain charm that is Westin Monache Resort. Each of the 230 guest suites offers comforts and conveniences of home boasting a gas fireplace and plush beds, and most have a gorgeous mountain view. Snuggle up Fido, this view's for you! www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1562.

Lake Placid Lodge

Lake Placid, New York

Considered the jewel of the Adirondack Mountains, this lodge is five miles of Fido-friendly fun for the taking. In the winter months, downhill and cross-country skiing is available, but so is visiting Lake Placid Olympic venues, snowshoeing, bonfires and Smores making.

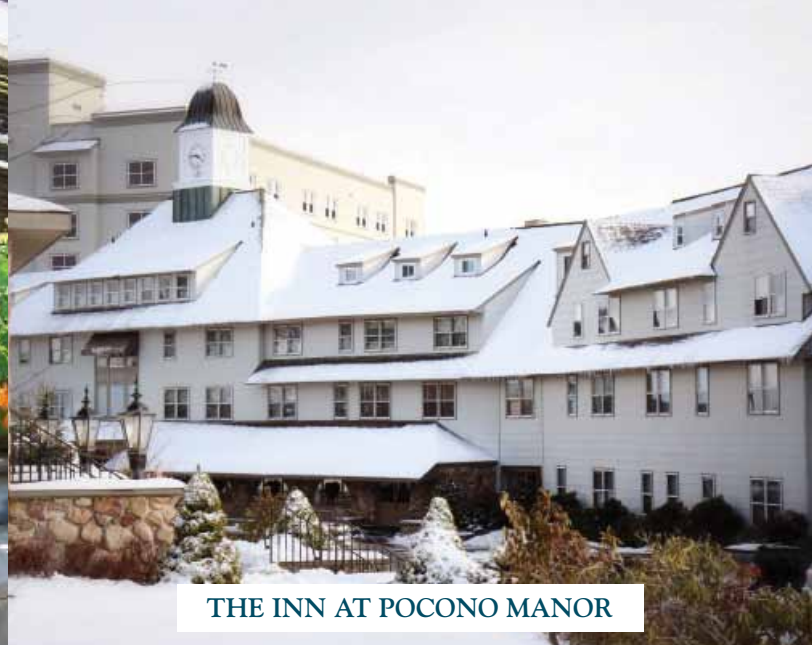
The Adirondack Mountains provide six million acres for exploration and winter fun. With 2,000 miles of hiking and ski trails, you and Fido can explore the largest marked trail in the United States.

At Lake Placid Lodge, dogs are welcome in the cabins. Take a trek through the trails and do not fear getting lost: Maggie, the general manager's Golden Retriever, will ensure you find your way back safely. Upon check-in, freshly laundered beds and bowls are provided for Fido's use. The lake is frozen in winter months, so cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (er, pawing) are two activities Fido would love to join in with you.

Love dogs but do not have one, or need a puppy fix? Consider a dog sled tour. In the nearby town of Vermontville, New York, Thunder Mountain Dog Sled Tours provides some off-the-beaten path fun. Blankets are provided to cut the chill, and a walk onto Mirror Lake will assist in spotting the dogs in action. www.lakeplacidlodge.com.



MOUNTAIN TOP INN & RESORT



THE INN AT POCONO MANOR

Mountain Top Inn & Resort

Chittenden, Vermont

Near the Green Mountain National Forest, this inn extends itself to the traveling-with-Fido folks. Boasting breathtaking views of 350 acres, the Mountain Top Inn & Resort welcomes Fido in their rustic-style cabins. For families getting away on a ski vacation, consider the four-bedroom Horseshoe Ridge cabin that accommodates up to 10 people and is Fido friendly.

On check-in, dogs receive a dog bed, bowls and a welcome snack. Dogs must be leashed but can join guardians on hiking and cross-country ski trails. A minimal \$25 per pet, per night charge applies.

The Mountain Top Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Center is one of the first cross-country commercial ski touring centers in the eastern section of the country. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice skating, sledding hills and snowmobiling offers something for every member of the family. For Fido, ask about specific hiking and cross-country trails upon which to enjoy. www.mountaintopinn.com.

Snow King Resort

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Fido is welcome on the first floor of this Jackson Hole, snow-filled adventure resort. Conveniently located six blocks from downtown Jackson, restaurants, shopping and skiing are nearby. Fido is welcome to snowshoe and cross-country ski with you, as they are surrounded by national parks.

Jackson Hole is considered the gateway to both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. If dog sledding is more your cup of tea, snuggle up and say mush, as dog sledding through scenic Jackson Hole terrain is offered here. How cool would it be to break for lunch and take a warm soak or swim at Granite Hot Springs?

Reward Fido for being your powder hound and venture into town together. Many years ago, Jackson's Town Square was a hub of activity for life's essentials. Nowadays, the area abounds with specialty shops, locally made crafts, galleries and plenty of outdoor shops. Leave No Dog nor souvenir behind. www.snowking.com.

Hotel Jerome, A Rock Resort

Aspen, Colorado

Imagine four mountains coming together to form one giant ski resort, and those mountains are Aspen, Buttermilk, Snowmass and Aspen Highlands. These four mountains await with multi-mountain ski passes for guests staying at Hotel Jerome. In addition, an indoor ice skating rink, The Silver Circle, is available to guests.

Explore the enveloping mountains with Fido in tow while snowshoeing through the snowy

HOW COOL WOULD IT BE TO BREAK FOR LUNCH AND TAKE A WARM SOAK OR SWIM AT GRANITE HOT SPRINGS?

landscape. Canine guests can expect a Hotel Jerome pet bed and signature food and water dishes on check-in. Specially designed Scout's Honor menus feature delicacies upon which Fido can dine during their posh stay at this Rock Resort.

Areas for careful off-leash play time with Fido include the Rio Grande Park, Wagner Park, Smuggler Mountain Road and Marolt Open Space.

Get your shopping mojo on and visit the downtown pedestrian mall. At the corner of Hyman and Mill, fountains spurt to and fro. Many of the stores allow Fido inside. www.normankoren.com/Boulder.html.

The Inn at Pocono Manor

Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania

A serene getaway resort in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania, the Inn at Pocono Manor is touted as the only historic Fido-friendly inn of the Pocono Mountains. Within driving distance of several ski mountains, 250 guest suites are themed in this century-old hotel but with modern flare and touches.

If visiting during the kickoff of the Christmas shopping season (aka Black Friday), take Fido and head to the annual downtown



LITTLE NELL

Cozy up to your best friend at the Little Nell in Aspen, CO; From the Great White North to the great Northeast, the Inn at Pocono Manor is within miles of several nearby ski resorts, LEFT; Leave No Dog Behind® and that includes on the Fido-friendly Mountain Top Inn & Resort specially marked cabins, FAR LEFT.



Leaving no trail behind, mammoth sized snow trails of fun await Fido at the Westin Monache Resort in Mammoth Lakes, California; Slopes abound, views spectacular, and snow made for a king (his queen and her royal Fido court) in Stowe, Vermont, at the Snow King, right; The quiet respite and home of Olympic proportions, Lake Placid Lodge is ready for Fido's triple axel, FAR RIGHT.



WESTIN MONACHE RESORT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WESTIN MONACHE



SNOW KING RESORT



LAKE PLACID LODGE

Stroudsburg tree lighting. Do the jingle bell rock with Fido alongside as the spirit of the holidays begins.

Nearby ski resorts include Alpine Mountain, Blue Mountain, Camelback Mountain Resort, Jack Frost (Big Boulder), Shawnee Mountain, Ski Big Bear and Tanglwood.

Fido is welcome to explore the grounds of The Inn at Pocono Manor with you. Call ahead to each resort for activities that allow pets. Bring the snowshoes and a camera for plenty of pawprint pictures in the snow. Conveniently located less than two hours from New York and New Jersey, the Inn is easily accessible. www.pocomanor.com.

Fairmont Chateau, Lake Louise

Alberta, Canada

All dogs welcome with the aptly-named “furry friends pet package” upon arrival. In addition to a customized letter, Fido will receive a luxury pet bed, food and water bowls, organic dog biscuits and pet activity information. A portion of the pet fee supports the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind program.

Engage in a host of downhill, uphill and cross-country fun in Canada. Recreation at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise includes dog sledding, cross-country skiing, ice skating, heliskiing and downhill skiing. Dubbed the “Diamond in the Wilderness,” this upscale chateau is located at the heart of Banff National Park, which is Canada’s oldest national park.

Explore the Canadian countryside Fido-style and hit the open road! Start at Fairmont

for a scenic drive along the Icefields Parkway. If by foot is your transportation of choice, check with the chateau’s Heritage Interpretive guides. They can lead you and Fido on exhilarating landscapes around the lakes to hiking the taller peaks. With the Rocky Mountains as a background, Fido is sure to love this Canadian find, eh? www.fairmont.com/lakelouise.

Pan Pacific Whistler Village Centre

British Columbia, Canada

Stay with the Great White North and head for the numerous Nordic trails of the Pan Pacific. Located in the heart of Whistler Blackcomb, this 83-suite hotel allows guests access to over 8,000 acres of skiing terrain, including North America’s steepest mile vertical drop. (The time when Fido should stay behind.)

From slopes to shops, Fido’s ready to sniff for bargains. Shops galore (about 200) encompass the Whistler Blackcomb, considered to be a shopper’s paradise. Use the pedestrian walkways and explore your inner shopaholic at the base of Whistler Mountain. Another area called Function Junction offers a pet store and other unique home furnishing. From powder hound to bargain hunter, Fido’s sure to have a memorable time here. www.panpacific.com/WhistlerVillageCentre.

HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES, ICE SKATING, SLEDDING HILLS AND SNOWMOBILING OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

The Little Nell

Aspen, Colorado

Spaniel feel less than spunky? Weimaraner whining from a tummy ache? If the plethora of puppy products Fido will receive on check-in do not cheer him up, the Puppy Jet Lag Kit for less-than-altituding Airedales is sure to do the trick.

Not only is Fido welcome at The Little Nell, but staff reports he/she will be spoiled. With 92 guest rooms and having been awarded the AAA Five Diamond Hotel award, modernity meets meticulous measures provided to guests staying here.

Located in the Rocky Mountains, Fido will feel the comforts of spoil. Dog beds, pet menus, recommended pet hiking trails and more await. Do not get too cozy because we know Fido wants to feel the snow beneath his toes. In addition to the standard fare of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, check out the shopping and dog sledding.

On a side note, the Ajax Tavern located at The Little Nell was voted the 2010 Best Place to People Watch. Of course, room service is available for Fido and his guardians—“bone” *appétit!* www.thelittlenell.com. 

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY LAKE PLACID LODGE