



Dog Days of Summer

by Christine McLaughlin



Fire hydrants aside, the author of *The Dog Lover's Companion to Philadelphia* gives us the inside scoop on what to do in Philly with your dog.

Philadelphia gets it about dogs. It's more than dog-friendly; it's dog-lover-friendly. The City of Brotherly Love embraces your canine companions, too. And with the abundance of outdoor activities and events here in Philly this summer, we've ensured a tail-wagging good time for both of you.

Explore the Sights

You and your dog can envision our nation's history firsthand while strolling the streets of Philadelphia together, including the grounds of Independence Mall and the Liberty Bell (dogs are not allowed inside any buildings), as well as Ben Franklin's grave. Self-guided audio walking tours featuring 20 historic sites are available for purchase from the Independence Visitor Center (which also has a dog lover-friendly outdoor café), as well as a new walking-tour app for iPhone, iPad and Android called "Philadelphia History This Way" (Sixth and Market streets, 800.537.7676; independencevisitorcenter.com).

If Fido gets along with horses, the two of you can hop aboard an old-fashioned horse and carriage for a one-of-a-kind ride around the historic district with 76 Carriage Company. (Fifth and Chestnut streets; 215.925.TOUR (8516); phillytour.com)

Grab a Bite

All that activity can make any pup — and person — hungry. If you're in Old City, which includes the historic district, you'll find many dining options that happily provide water for your pooch outside. In the mood for tangy pulled pork or brisket sandwiches? Then check out Q BBQ & Tequila (207 Chestnut St., 215.625.8605; goldcity.com). If you've got a hankering for a cheerful libation first and then a

tasty salad or sandwich, try Continental Restaurant and Martini Bar (138 Market St., 215.923.6069; continentalmartinibar.com).

Maybe a bowl of water is simply not enough sustenance for your discriminating canine. If so, head over to Rittenhouse Square to dine together at Tavern 17. Here, you'll find artisanal fare for you, and a canine menu for your dog that includes Bow Wow Cluck pulled chicken and Hound Dog Heaven ground beef patty. (220 S. 17th St., 215.790.1799; tavern17restaurant.com)

Stay in Style

Dog tired? A number of Philadelphia hotels open their doors to pampered pooches. No matter what your price range, you can find decent accommodations that include your pup. Two of the most centrally located, comfortable and pet-friendly are moderately priced Loews Philadelphia Hotel (1200 Market St., 215.627.1200; loewshotels.com/en/Philadelphia-Hotel) and the more exclusive Rittenhouse Hotel (210 W. Rittenhouse Square, 215.546.9000; rittenhousehotel.com)

Pack for Your Pooch

He may not have a monogrammed suitcase, but your dog still requires his own travel checklist. Here are some handy items to pack in your dog's vacation kit: bowls, bedding, a brush, towels (for muddy days), a first-aid kit, pooper-scooper and bags, water, food and prescription drugs. When traveling with your dog, always be sure he's wearing his license, identification tag and rabies tag. It's not a bad idea to snap a disposable ID on your dog's collar, too, showing a cell phone number or the name, address and phone number of where you're staying. visitphilly.com/find-a/tag/pet-friendly, uwishunu.com.