

Below are just a few of the shops, parks, beaches and hotels that are not only dog-friendly, but actually dog-inviting:

SHOPPING

you with open paws and a wiggling tail.

Anyone who ventures to L.A. will at some point want to explore the true shoppers' mecca, otherwise known as Beverly Hills. Home to some of the largest eye-candy stores that cater to the chic stars of Hollywood, there's a little-known factoid about this town of glitter and wealth: while you're exploring the town where dreams are made and deals are closed, you can take your little friend with you. (And who knows? Your pooch may even be discovered and put in the next blockbuster film!)

Somewhat surprisingly, many of the bigger stores in Beverly Hills invite your dog to roam the aisles stocked with Prada dresses and Jimmy Choo shoes while you closely guard your wallet from that oh-too-tempting handbag that's on sale. Neiman Marcus has an open door policy for all dogs who are on leash and good-tempered, and as long as there are no mishaps you're free to wander to your heart's content.

Other posh stores also follow suit. Your pampered pooch will be welcomed at Barneys New York, Sax Fifth Avenue, Niketown, Dolce and Gabbana, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Polo, Hugo Boss and more. So as long as you are both well-behaved, you may even be approached by a celebrity who is star-struck by *your* glamorous companion.

1 of 3 6/25/10 4:17 PM

PARKS and BEACHES

There are several outdoor spots in the L.A. area that are dog-friendly. While a few neighborhoods require you to be a resident, you can still find a handful of places where the two of you are welcome to stretch your legs and take in the beautiful weather.

The **Bone Yard** is a popular canine haunt located in Culver City that offers a clean, well-kept environment for you both to catch up on some well deserved 'us' time.



Corner of Duquesne & Jefferson Culver City, CA Operating Hours: Dusk to Dawn (310) 253-6470 www.dogparkusa.com/california/los-angeles/boneyard-culver-city-dog-park

If you're someone who prefers a little more workout during your together-time, **Runyon Canyon** may be just the ticket. This is a great place to catch some rays and a good hike.

2000 N. Fuller Los Angeles, CA 90046

Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

www.dogparkusa.com/california/los-angeles/runyon-canyon-off-leash-dog-area

The **Sepulveda Basin** is where you should head if exploring is your thing. There's a large area for sniffing out the local (squirrel) fare, and the grass really is always greener here. Plus it's a great place to meet the locals.

17550 Victory Blvd. Encino, CA 91316

Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset, Days Closed: Friday to Sunrise 11am www.dogparkusa.com/california/los-angeles/sepulveda-basin-dog-park

One of the oldest and best-known parks (located near the observatory) is the **Griffith Dog Park**. There are many places and spaces for you to explore, and the park is well-maintained with an inviting atmosphere. And talk about expansive! Much like the universe that surrounds us, this park goes on and on...

North Zoo Dr., north end of John Ferraro Soccer Field Los Angeles, CA 90027Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset www.dogparkusa.com/california/los-angeles/griffith-dog-park Californians aren't the only ones who can get wet behind the ears. Just a 35-minute drive south of Los Angeles is **Huntington Dog Beach**, a non-profit park, where dogs are allowed off leash in the water and wet sand along a 3/4 of a mile stretch. They have employees who work at Dog Beach to ensure visitor safety and to make sure the beach remains clean. You'll both be able to dip your toes in the ocean, catch a Frisbee, or chase a ball. And don't forget to bring the towels!



Pacific Coast Highway between 21st St. and Seapoint St Huntington Beach, CA 92648 Operating Hours: 5am – 8pm www.dogparkusa.com/california/los-angeles/huntington-beach-dog-beach

HOTELS

For those of you wanting to stay near the water, **Loews Santa Monica** is a pet-friendly hotel where you can both unwind and get re-energized. Located right on the beach south of the Santa Monica Pier, this hotel has everything you'll need to give you the perfect California experience, including a menu just for Fido. Plenty of shops and good places to eat are within easy walking distance.

1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 458-6700 www.loewshotels.com

Radisson Hotel & Resort is another spot where you and your furry friend can feel comfortable and relaxed. This hotel knows dogs and the concierge can direct you to many dog-friendly places around town. The staff will make you both feel welcome and well-accommodated.

6161 W Centinela Ave Culver City, CA 90230 (310) 649-1776 www.radisson.com

Photo credits: iStockphoto.com

Posted January 2010

Site Map