



Dogs in Green Land

What a difference a bridge makes. Marin County, across the Golden Gate from San Francisco, is a little different and a little "out there" in many ways—but certainly not by accident. Residents have fought hard for many decades to create and preserve the vast tracts of open space that contribute so much to the views and the outdoor lifestyle cherished by most who live here. From redwood forests to ocean beaches and rugged, trail-laced headlands, this land is custom-made for visitors with four-legged friends.

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Paws for the Night

[Marin](#) is loaded with pet-friendly lodging, but why not follow the "green" theme for which the county is known and choose a property that [verifiably](#) adheres to sustainable practices?

[Inn Marin](#), a mission-style motor inn richly reinvented for the 21st century, is a family owned, award-winning "green" property on Highway 101 in [Novato](#). All 70 bamboo-floored rooms are dog-friendly, and the pet fee is just \$20 per stay. Ask for a room facing the leafy interior garden, where you can walk out your door to enjoy morning coffee with Rover at your side.



Completely different in feel, [Inverness Valley Inn](#) is a woody retreat

Reason to Howl

Environmental management policies on public lands often conflict with visitor experience, and where dogs are concerned, common ground can be hard to find. Some [serious growling](#) is going on now as the National Park Service prepares to adopt a 2,400-page [dog management plan](#) outlining preferred alternatives and environmental impacts for the [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#), a 70-mile greenbelt spanning San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties. Proposed rules would reduce or eliminate long-enjoyed privileges at [Muir Beach](#), [Rodeo Beach](#), the [Marin Headlands Trail](#) and 18 other currently dog-friendly areas within the GGNRA's 84,000 acres. In addition, canine companions would be banned entirely in "[new lands](#)" acquired by the park service.



snuggled on 15 acres between [Tomales Bay](#) and [Point Reyes National Seashore](#). Most rooms have kitchenettes, and

there's a fenced-in play area for visiting canines. To make things even more interesting, the inn supports a "mini eco-farm" populated by sheep, goats, chickens and even a resident llama. [Pet fee](#) is \$25 the first night, \$10 for each additional night of your stay.

Up for a splurge? [Cavallo Point Lodge](#) is a stunningly romantic Civil War-era military compound sitting almost in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge. It's the first national park lodge and first hotel on the National Register of Historic Places to receive [gold-level certification](#) from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Design ([LEED](#)) program. The lodge encompasses 34 buildings—some historic, some new—on 45 acres in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. [Pet fee](#) is \$75 per stay, and as a bonus, Spot is welcome to lounge by your side on the veranda at [Farley Bar](#) and the Michelin-starred [Murray Circle](#) Restaurant.

Chow Time

Sunny days are made for [Fish](#). That's "Fish." with a period, which is what this dressed-up New England seafood shack in [Sausalito](#) is all about. Order your chowder, barbecued oysters or daily special at the counter, then retreat to a table on the big, dog-friendly deck perched above a harbor where sailboats bob and the views are smile-inspiring. Enjoy your meal knowing that the seafood on your plate came from healthy fisheries and was caught by sustainable methods. But don't be caught with your credit card out: Fish. is a cash-only establishment (there's an ATM next door.)

[Point Reyes National Seashore](#) is one of Marin County's top visitor attractions, and what's a day at the beach without a picnic?

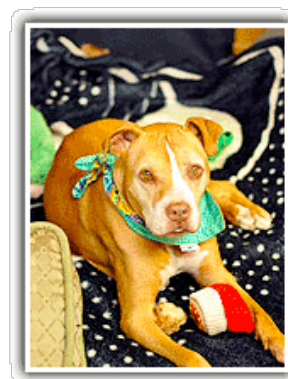
Someone will have to wait outside with Rover while you select artisan cheeses, fresh fruit or prepared dishes at [Cowgirl Creamery](#) in [Point Reyes Station](#), but



Many dog-advocacy groups throughout the Bay Area are speaking out against the plan. The [Eco-Dog](#) coalition has prepared maps, videos, timelines and other resources to help explain the issues. A public meeting to discuss what dog owners can do to influence the outcome is set for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the [San Francisco SPCA Training Annex](#). Public meetings hosted by the park service are [scheduled](#) March 2, 5, 7 and 9. A 90-day public comment period ends April 14, with new rules to be implemented in 2012. [Submit your input now](#) or forever hold your leash.

Pet Rescue: Marin Humane

Founded in 1907, the [Marin Humane Society](#) looks out for the animals of Marin County—wild and domestic—with dozens of innovative, nationally known programs. The organization also is charged with enforcing local and county animal ordinances. Along the way, they provide a wealth of enrichment and [services](#) to community members of many species.



Dogs in Marin Humane's adoption center benefit from the extra time and TLC they need to make them ready to become perfect family members. Take the formerly

you can enjoy your meal together at an outside table or get your goodies packaged up to go.

Hit the Trails



What dog wouldn't love to live in Marin County? More than 60,000 of them do, according to estimates from the [Marin Humane Society](#). That's twice as many as the 30,000 children enrolled in the county's public

schools. Open space is the draw for residents and visitors alike, with tens of thousands of acres available for on- and off-leash activities. The [Marin County Open Space District](#) alone manages 34 preserves totaling 15,000 acres open to public recreation; at all but 10, well behaved dogs under voice control can romp unleashed on fire prevention roads. Another 130 miles of trails are managed by the [Marin Municipal Water District](#) within the Mount Tamalpais watershed. Four-legged hikers are welcome both on and off the pavement, but a "[love 'em and leash 'em](#)" policy is strictly enforced.

obese [Sweet Pea](#), found wandering the streets and brought to the shelter by a good Samaritan. Off to the Big House she went for some spa treatment and training as part of the [Pen Pals](#) program. In search of an easygoing lifestyle, this mellow girl will be happy with leisurely walks and snuggles on the couch.

Photo Credits:

"Dog in the Headlands" - Wade Roush
"Man and Dog Rodeo Beach" - Ingrid Taylar
"Happy Dog in Grass at Point Reyes Seashore" - Baroque Flutist
"Cowgirl Creamery" - Klatie K.
"Laika With a View" - Terrie Schweitzer
"Sweet Pea" - Marin Humane Society

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