

“pets are welcome here..”

Local pet-friendly places to stay this summer

Summer is so short in the Maritimes, it's no surprise that we want to share it with the entire family, including the family dog. Often that has presented a problem when our destination of choice is not prepared to welcome pets. But things are changing. More and more vacation venues are opening their doors to the pet loving population and we couldn't be more excited about it!

Furry's has done a little research on some of the niftier places you can visit in Nova Scotia, where the whole gang is welcome. Where your dog gets a special place along with the humans. Where the reception desk has treats and adventures abound. Naturally, all the usual rules about canine good citizen behaviour apply here. Your dog should be happy meeting new people and must have a

modicum of good behaviour training. Indeed, this is where all the work you do with your dog really pays off! A well behaved dog is a pleasure to have around and as a result gets to go with you so much more often.

There's so much good news here. The benefits are many, you save money on gas and reduce your carbon footprint. There are no more boarding fees or worry about how your furry kids cope with kennel life. Plus, you get to support local innkeepers!

Our tour begins up on the Eastern Shore and we work our way around the province. So come along and imagine the adventures that await you and your whole family - including Sparky!



Osprey Shores Golf Resort

by Angela Mombourquette



Osprey Shores is a dog-friendly golf resort nestled on a picturesque peninsula on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. Five of their ten rooms are pet-friendly, and the resort welcomes travelers with pets, as their website puts it, "We understand your pet is an important member of your family when you travel."

General Manager Audrey Firth puts it this way: "All of us at Osprey Shores are pet-friendly people. One of our Chefs has his pet living with him in staff accommodations, Our front desk manager, who was with the property many years before we bought it, is a real pet lover."

down stairs. It was less stressful and they found the dog really appreciated that." She laughs, "They travel with him a lot – they even come with their own vacuum cleaner!"

But don't worry – bringing your own fur-sucking implement is not a requirement. Being prepared to have a restful and relaxing time is.

"We're at the tip of a peninsula, we've got water on three sides, (and the view is) absolutely stunning," Audrey says. "We encourage you to experience the beautiful walks that you can take your pet on – there's a path down towards the water, and one towards the dock and marina."



"I think Spot was a golfer in his other life!"



She points out that this is the first year Osprey Shores has advertised that they are pet-friendly "In the past we were pet-friendly, but it wasn't an advertised thing. So we're looking forward to a great season in welcoming pets."

And of course, there are Audrey's two "furry kids," Spot and Millie.

"They are Cardigan Corgis, four years old, and they love the golf course. I think Spot was a golfer in his other life! He just realized that this is where he was supposed to be."

Audrey tells potential travelers, "If you're coming with your pet, we like to know if it's a boy or a girl, because we have little cookies, and we like to tie them with the appropriate colored bow. And we have dishes for them, and we have a pet bed." She adds that all their treats come from Katie's Farm, a maker of certified organic treats based here in Nova Scotia.

Audrey says one of the things about Osprey Shores that appeals to dog lovers is the fact that all of the rooms are on the ground floor, and they open directly to the outdoors.

"I find this works really well, and people have commented that it's so much better to be able to open the door and go right out with your dog. Some dogs are not that keen on the elevator, and some are older and can't do stairs, so it works out really well.

"We had someone who stayed almost a week with their golden retriever, and they did say that it was a great place to stay largely because they could take the dog in and out without going up and

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