

Fido-friendly🐾

Las Vegas welcomes vacationing pets

By Jeannie Borbe
Vegas.com

Your pets. You tell them everything. They don't judge you. You come home to them. And they're always there for you when you need them.

So why not let your pets get lucky and reward them with a Vegas vacation? Forget worrying about finding a pet sitter or wondering if your pets will be okay alone for the weekend.

These days, palm-sized pups aren't the only ones who get to have all the fun. Pet policies are no longer limited to tiny Chihuahuas you can put in a doggie purse. So pack that leash, the favorite toy and get ready to party with your pet in Vegas.

Loews at Lake Las Vegas

Located only 30 minutes south of the Las Vegas Strip, Loews at Lake Las Vegas is a luxurious resort where guests are welcome to bring their pets. Perched on a sparkling lake with a desert mountain range serving as a beautiful backdrop, Loews offers a peaceful setting for guests and their pets.

"Loews hotel has always had a keen understanding that a pet is a member of the family," said Jennifer Duffy, director of public relations at Loews Lake Las Vegas. "We do our best to make sure that our guests, even the four-legged kind, have a comfortable experience."

With the "Loews Loves Pets" program, the VIPs (Very Important Pets) enjoy first-class comfort such as gourmet room service, specialized bedding, pet amenities and guests services catered to making pets and owners feel right at home.

"Having accepted pets for years, Loews Hotels has been at the forefront of the pet travel trend, and the 'Loews Loves

Pets' program allows us to formalize that welcome," said Emily Goldfischer, vice president for public relations for Loews Hotels.

In addition to dogs (of any size), Loews allows cats, iguanas and even pet goats. "Loews welcomes any domesticated pet," Duffy mentioned. "People are thrilled!"

For only \$25 per pet for the entire stay, animals receive royal treatment from the start. Once guests check in, the hotel manager includes a personalized letter for the pet. This note features a list of pet services available at the hotel, along with a map of dog-walking routes, veterinarian contacts, pet shops, groomers, pet attractions, pet-friendly restaurants and more.

Each pet-friendly guest room includes special pet placemats with food and water bowls, toys, treats and a "Do Not Disturb" sign that lets housekeeping know the pet is in the room.

Cats and dogs are also in for a treat—or two or three. Felines and canines have their own room service menu developed and approved by licensed veterinarians. This menu is designed to provide proper nutrition to help pets deal with travel stress, including jet lag.

Cats can enjoy roasted salmon, tuna or chicken, while dogs can munch on Bow Wow burgers, tenderloins, chicken and rice or grilled filet. All ingredients are fresh and natural.

"The animals love it and something tells me they know they are getting the four-diamond, luxury treatment!" Duffy said.

Loews also loans dog and cat beds in different sizes, as well as leashes and collars. Kitty litter boxes and litter, scoopers and a selection of pet toys

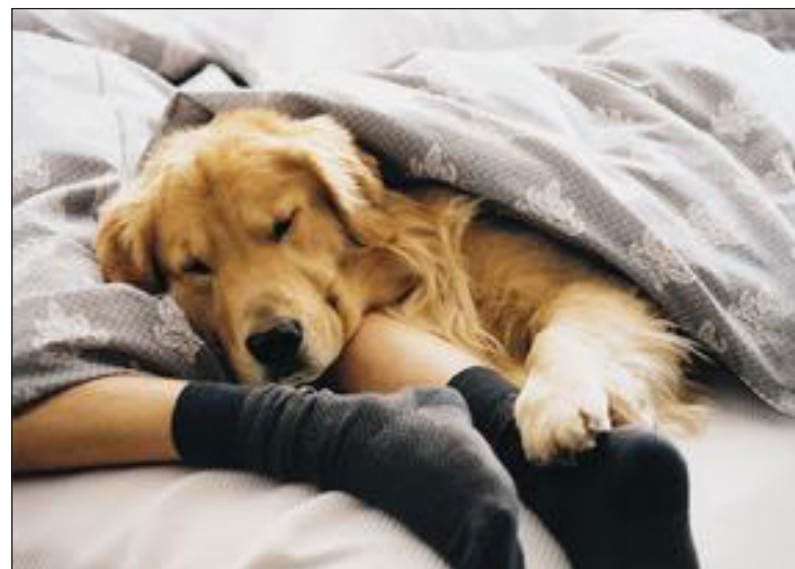


Photo courtesy of Loews Hotels

From pet-friendly hotels and fancy pet boutiques to peaceful surroundings and top-of-the-line services, bringing your furry friend to Vegas is the ideal vacation.

(like catnips and scratch poles) are also available for purchase.

Just next door, MonteLago Village offers a pleasant atmosphere to take your pet for a walk. Stroll through the cobblestone walkways while admiring the breathtaking outdoor views of Lake Las Vegas.

"The Village is a great way to get out and walk around, shop and dine," added Duffy.

With such a fine list of pet amenities offered, many guests end up bringing their animals back with them. "Being able to bring the entire family creates lifelong memories," said Duffy. "Once guests learn that their pet can stay with them, they're hooked on the idea of including them into their travel plans."

Green Valley Ranch

If you're not planning on bringing a cat, iguana or pet goat, Green Valley Ranch Resort (located only a few minutes away from the Las Vegas Strip) is also an option.

"Green Valley Ranch has become known as one of the more dog-friendly hotels in the Las Vegas area," said Norm

Thom, assistant hotel manager at Green Valley Ranch Resort.

Guests can bring their pets to The District, a beautiful outdoor shopping village adjacent to the hotel. Pet owners can spoil their loved ones with a full bakery and pet shop at Flea Bags Barkery and Bow-tique. In addition, many of the restaurants offer outdoor seating. Most importantly, The District offers several pet spots and plastic bags for dogs to do their business.

For those who don't mind walking a bit further, there is also a dog park two blocks from the hotel at Paseo Vista Park. Guests can get directions from the hotel staff.

Green Valley Ranch accepts a maximum of two dogs with a non-refundable fee of \$100 each. The weight limit for each dog is 40 pounds. For the convenience of guests, Thom noted that dogs are kept on the first floors for easy access to outdoor areas.

More pet-friendly options

If you desire to stay on the Strip and plan on bringing your toy dog or puppy, the Four Seasons hotel allows dogs

Pet-Friendly Tips

The law states you're not allowed to walk your dog on the Strip for safety and sanitary reasons. However, you can still take your dog for a walk on Las Vegas Boulevard. Visitors can take their pets for a walk at Town Square, located just south of Four Seasons and Mandalay Bay. This outdoor shopping village features plenty of areas to walk your dog.

For those who plan on flying and bringing their small pets, please remember that pets count as a carry-on bag or personal item. A cabin pet charge still applies. Animals must be able to stand up, turn around and lie down in a natural position in the kennel. According to American Veterinary Medical Association, cats and dogs should not be given sedatives or tranquilizers before the flight (information courtesy of American Airlines).

Las Vegas can get extremely hot during the summer months—please keep that in mind when planning a pet-friendly vacation.

weighing less than 25 pounds. While dogs may not be left unattended, there is no additional pet fee.

Just next door from Four Seasons, guests can shop at VIVA DOGS VEGAS at Mandalay Place at the Mandalay Bay hotel. VIVA DOGS VEGAS features an assortment of spa products, which include luxurious shampoos, refreshing mists, herbal detanglers, doggie robes and much more. VIVA DOGS VEGAS also carries sparkly dog collars, plush squeaky toys and stylish doggie T-shirts.

From pet-friendly hotels and fancy pet boutiques to peaceful surroundings and top-of-the-line services, bringing your furry (or not-so-furry) friend to Vegas is the ideal vacation. How can you lose in Vegas?