



◀ Opposite: Max with owners Baron and Michelle enjoy the dog-friendly accommodations at Bernetta's Place Bed and Breakfast Inn by the Lake

Fido Friendly

Where to Lodge with Your Pet

BY LINDSAY PIETROLUONGO

You deserve to get away from it all—the neighborhood mongrels that bully you, the strays that nip at your tail, the never-ending cycle of boring ol' kibble and faucet water. Luckily, pet-friendly accommodations also have a few perks for your human friends. Nix your owners' worry of leaving you alone to take care of the house by tagging along on vacation. The Mid-Hudson Valley has a number of varied lodging opportunities that cater to both you and your owner. Just don't be surprised if you receive more attention than they do—you may have to indulge them by nuzzling their neck or performing a few tricks flawlessly to inflate their ego.

The partially solar-powered **Clove Cottages** in High Falls are located near the **Mo-honk Mountain House** and offer stunning views of the Shawangunk Ridge. The rural 1930s cottages are located on nine acres of land, each one private and secluded thanks to surrounding trees. Guests are treated to homemade soaps and house-made granola. Fresh-baked scones are delivered to your room every Sunday morning. **Clove Cottages** have hosted plenty of barking and meowing pets, plus birds, fish, rabbits, and even a guinea pig.

The charming **Emerson Resort and Spa** in Mount Tremper contains the Catamount Restaurant and New York's only *Forbes* four-star spa outside Manhattan. The former dairy farm now holds the world's largest kaleidoscope, contained in a 64-foot-high barn silo; the 1860s barn is now the expansive retail environment The Country Store. The resort also features the Catamount Dog Park, a 60-by-100-foot enclosure where Rover can run around to his heart's content, shower, and lap up running wa-

ter. There's also a smaller, calmer area for smaller dogs. Emerson's log cabin Lodge contains 27 pet-friendly rooms, including multiroom suites for larger groups. Ask for the PupGrade upgrade, which will score your mutt their own bottled water, gourmet dog treats, a placemat with food and water bowls, and a doggy bed for use during your stay. A donation will also be made to the Ulster County SPCA in your dog's name, and you'll get off the hook thanks to complimentary dog walking services.

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Moondance Ridge Bed and Breakfast's early-20th-century Craftsman decor is coupled with contemporary amenities, including spa services and a three-course complimentary breakfast. Each room is decorated to reflect a famous personality from the Hollywood's golden era. Choose from the refined Bogart and Bacall suite, a recreation of Jean Harlow's luxu-

rious bedroom, or James Cagney's Art Deco niche. You may spend more time outdoors than cooped up inside, thanks to gorgeous landscaping. Fido will gladly take you for a stroll around the private walking paths, pond and waterfall, gardens with antique farm equipment, and labyrinth that round out **Moondance's** property.

The **Inn at the Ridge** in Wallkill is a true home-away-from-home, comprised of a private living room, dining room, and full kitchen solely for guest use. Help yourself to fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, milk, lemonade, teas, coffee, and cocoa. Board games, a DVD collection, and a leisurely 60-foot porch with rocking chairs furnish the rural digs. Artists can request the Drawing Room, which has drawing tools, watercolor paints, a drafting table, and an easel. While guests are expected to have everything they'll need to care for and pamper their pet, the Inn can provide food and water bowls, biscuit treats and leash-

es. Pet owners aren't the only ones who love when animals stay at the inn. Proprietor Salvatore Riccobono says, "Guests without a pet in the past have enjoyed the company of a well-behaved dog." When asked what animals are off-limits, Riccobono was a bit stumped. "We do have one limitation," he says. "Please leave your pet elephant home. Actually, if you have a pet elephant, we have five acres for him to roam. Call us in advance and we'll get bales of oats."

Audrey's Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast is housed in a restored, 1740s pre-Revolutionary rustic inn in the Mohonk Valley. Audrey's animal-loving staff provide quality hospitality for both humans and their beloved pets. Pulling out all the stops, Audrey's treats your dog to gift bags and gives owners the day off thanks to pet-sitting services. For their human guests, rooms come complete with feather beds and down comforters, plus a breakfast-in-bed option. Guests receive nightly chocolate bedtime snacks and man's best friend gets a doggy-friendly treat as well. Five acres of lawn and woods are perfect for dogs to walk their humans on, and the nature trail is meant for exploring.

Guests of Bernetta's Place Bed and Breakfast Inn by the Lake can explore their culinary talent in the kitchen, swim in their saltwater pool or kick back in the Jacuzzi. Let out a deep breath with an in-room massage followed by a stroll down to Tillson Lake. Roam the grounds and discover tranquil tables, chairs, hammocks, lounges, and benches. Bernetta's is adamant about no dogs at the table. "They tend to try to steal the bacon!" the B&B proprietor says. Luckily, the cook always makes a bit extra for the best-behaved pooches to snack on once the table's been cleared. Some guests even bring their horses, hoping to head to the Rail Trail and Gertrude's Nose.

Additional pet-friendly accommodations include Highland's **Super 8** and **The Inn at Orchard Heights'** 1888 Queen Anne Victorian lodging in New Paltz. Guests of the inn are treated to an airy, luminous parlor, sitting areas, and an outdoor garden for dining on their complimentary, homemade breakfast. Whistle Wood Farm Bed and Breakfast's main lodge consists of a fireplace, comfy handmade quilts, and a sun-drenched solarium. Guests are welcome to sample homemade pies and cakes in the afternoon, served with coffee, tea, and fresh juice. Meander along the walking trail with your pooch and explore their 20 acres of property.

Suggestions Before You Leave

Start planning early by calling the front desk to ask details about staying with your pet, and let them know who will be traveling with you when you book the reservation. Almost every animal-friendly establishment has the same basic ground rules: Pets are expected to be (reasonably) quiet, well behaved, housebroken, and socialized. Dogs must be kept on a leash when outside, trained to quickly respond to voice commands and always

supervised. There are a few exceptions—Audrey's Farmhouse adores dogs so much that they stress an *off-leash* policy. Pets can only be left alone in the room if they're in a crate (ask if the hotel provides them) and the front desk has been informed. Carry proof of vaccination since several lodges require it. Animals need to steer clear of the breakfast table, pool area, furniture, bedding, and towels. Bring along furniture covers so that you don't have to micromanage your pet. Prepare to pay an additional pet fee and for any damages that may ensue. Basically, if your canine is disorderly, makes a barking ruckus and doesn't play well with others, consider leaving him at home.

Pet-friendly vacations don't stop at the hotel room door. The Mid-Hudson Valley has plenty of prospects for spending a lively day with your yappy, bounding dog. **Lake Minnewaska State Park Preserve** in Ulster County is the perfect hiking stop for your adventure-loving hound. Brave the hour-long trek up Overlook Mountain in Woodstock and be rewarded with breathtaking views of the Catskill Mountains. Explore ice caves at Sam's Point Dwarf Pine Ridge Preserve in the Shawangunk Mountains or saunter along the **Walkway Over the Hudson**, which reaches from Poughkeepsie to Highland and puts you directly over the Hudson River. (Note: There is no shade on the span; bring water.) The waterfront string of shops and docked boats on the Rondout in Kingston makes for a great summertime stroll. Additional leisurely activities to enjoy with your furry friend include playing on the sprawling lawn at the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park or moseying along the 12-mile **Walkill Valley Rail Trail**. ■

RESOURCES IN THIS ARTICLE

Audrey's Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast
www.audreysfarmhouse.com

Bernetta's Place Bed and Breakfast Inn by the Lake
www.bernettasplace.com

Clove Cottages
www.clovecottages.com

Creek Locks Bed & Breakfast
www.creeklocksbedandbreakfast.com

Emerson Resort & Spa
www.emersonresort.com

The Inn at Orchard Heights
www.innatorchardheights.com

Inn at the Ridge
www.innattheridge.com

Lake Minnewaska State Park Preserve
www.lakeminnewaska.org

Moondance Ridge Bed and Breakfast
www.moondanceridge.com

Super 8 of Highland
www.super8.com

Walkway Over the Hudson
www.walkway.org

Whistlewood Farm Bed and Breakfast
www.whistlewood.com

For more info on local accommodations, visit www.newpaltzchamber.org.

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