

39 Dog Friendly Places in and around the Cape



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Looking for some great dog-friendly places in and around the Cape?

You've come to the right place. This eBook is written by a fellow dog-lover, Team Aubuchon's Director of Marketing & Sales, Diane VanArsdale. Her passion to enjoy the Florida lifestyle with her beautiful German Shepherd, Tiki Lynn, was the inspiration behind writing this eBook. In it she shares personal experiences as she traveled around the local area in search of dog-friendly places. Look for descriptions of restaurants, parks, a new dog-friendly hotel, retail stores, and even a local island! Once she shared these findings with a few of her friends and associates, she realized there are many dog lovers out there who would also appreciate this information. Now with a click of a button, all dog lovers can take advantage of her local research.

The message behind this eBook?

*Celebrate every day with your dog! We can learn so much from our pets, just watching and listening to them. They teach us unconditional love, what true companionship is, and how to enjoy the simple things in life. They give us the opportunity to take a break and reflect on other things besides our fast paced lives. **Enjoy your pup!***

***Leashed, well-mannered and behaved dogs are welcome.
It is best to call each restaurant before visiting for specifics and details.
Business owners reserve the right to ask feisty pups to leave.***



Diane and Tiki Lynn



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Cape Coral

The Joint Restaurant @ Cape Harbour, Cape Coral.

The Joint is definitely a hot spot in Southwest Cape Coral. With water views, great food, and live entertainment, it's no wonder this place is so popular. Add to it the fact that it's pet friendly, and you open up a whole new world. I brought my German Shepherd, Tiki there one evening for the first time. We felt very welcome at the oversized, outdoor patio bar where I sat on a high-top stool talking with friends and listening to music. If you prefer, choose an outdoor table where you can enjoy dinner and drinks, and a cool breeze coming off



the nearby waterway. Situated on the Caloosahatchee River, this place is not only one of my favorites, but a prime pick for locals and visitors, residents and boaters, and of course, dog lovers. The Joint offers both inside and outside dining and, in my opinion, has become known for the best pizza in town. If you like yachts, boats, and water, then you're in the right place. People watching? You bet! Though there is live entertainment throughout the week, definitely try out Tuesday nights when locals and snowbirds gather for some of the best music performances in town. And don't forget your furry friend! The Joint is located in Cape Harbour and is accessible by boat off the Caloosahatchee River, or by car from Chiquita Boulevard. Call for details, 239.542.0123.

The Monkey Bar, Cape Coral.

When I walked into the patio, I immediately found this place has it all! Friendly faces, great drink specials, sing-a-long entertainers, and a cheerful staff ready to cater to your dog. Bring your pup to the outside dining area where you can enjoy live music and a great steak dinner with your dog right beside you. This bar is definitely a Cape hidden secret! The music, food, atmosphere and staff are top notch. They will even bring your doggie a bowl of ice cold water. Call for details, 239.549.8800.

Wine & Roses, Cape Coral.

Scallops, shrimp, mussels, and whitefish sautéed with shallots, garlic, tomato, basil, butter, white wine and a touch of marinara served with Linguini. Sound tempting? Locally owned, Wine & Roses is one of the best places in town to go to for pizza and unique pasta dishes! Not to mention, some of the best wine, too.

Take your pet with you and sit on the patio in the front and watch the world go by. The owners are very supportive of the community and can cater to meetings, parties, and groups of all sizes. In fact, we recently had a company celebration there! Ask for Jeff and be sure to check out their daily specials, 542.7177.



The Resort @ Marina Village, Cape Coral.

Sometimes it's just too difficult to leave your furry friends behind when you travel! The Resort at Marina Village in Tarpon Point happily offers pet friendly accommodations. The hotel allows up to two pets per reservation that carry a total weight of 90 pounds. Just be sure to let the concierge know you are traveling with a pet when you make your reservation. You should also be aware they do charge a pet fee of \$50.00 during the off-season, and \$75.00 in-season, per pet, in studio accommodations. All other accommodations require a \$75.00 off-season charge and \$125.00 in-season charge. While you're out exploring the town, check into storage cases for your pet, compliments of the hotel, to keep them safe and out of trouble. Don't forget to visit their pet friendly outdoor bar,

The Nauti Mermaid. Call 239.463.0559.

Leapin' Lizard Bar and Grille, Cape Coral.

This lively gathering spot in downtown Cape Coral offers authentic Key West Florida cuisine, more than 35 brands of beer, specialty appetizers, a raw bar, sports viewing, fun competitions, weekly specials, and a wide variety of entertainment. Leashed, well mannered dogs are allowed at the outside dining area. Call for details, 239.542.6400.

The Dog Bar and Grill, Cape Coral.

This casual dining restaurant offers patio service, and an outside bar that is pet friendly, with live entertainment Thursday-Saturday. Try out their different menu items, featuring everything from flatbreads to steak. Located at 3522 Del Prado Boulevard. www.LazyDogCapeCoral.com. Call for details, 239.541.8304.

Bubba's Roadhouse, Cape Coral.

Your dog is welcomed exclusively on the patio, where you can enjoy tasty drinks. Choose chicken, seafood, or great burgers, and listen to live music throughout the week. Located at the corner of Pine Island Road and Chiquita Boulevard. Call for details, 239.282.5520.

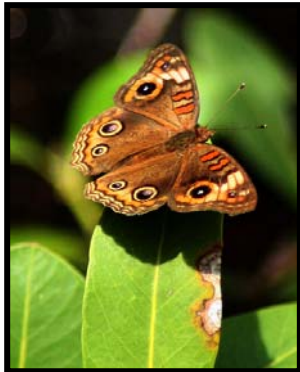


The Dog Park @ Rotary Park, Cape Coral.

Rotary Park is home to the best dog park in the Cape. With 2 separate fenced in areas for big dogs and small dogs, your pooch is sure to make friends quickly with fellow doggie buddies and their masters! Drop by for a quick run inside the fenced in area, or take your pooch for a nice long walk inside the park, around the track, and even on the trails. It's a perfect summer day when you can enjoy beautiful scenery, and a nice hike back to the pond area. Look for shaded areas with picnic tables where you and your pooch can take a break, listen to nature's sounds, and look for critters.



The preserved area is gorgeous and cannot be developed, excluding the 9 acres of upland that a building, the dog park and the open areas currently occupy. The 4,200 square foot environmental center is used for gardening and nature related classes, exercise classes, summer camp, and is home to the Burrowing Owl Festival and large native plant sales. It is also available to rent for small to medium sized gatherings, as long as you don't mind partying with a few creatures! A variety of small critters reside in the nature center including snakes, frogs, lizards and turtles.



Stop by the new butterfly house donated by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. While there you can view all the beautiful butterflies and plants from the outside of the house every day, pick up information on how to attract them to your yard, or take a tour every Friday from 9am-10am. Volunteers, plants, and pot donations are welcome. Monetary donations are also being accepted by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife for maintenance of the butterfly house.

[Tour Rotary Park.](#)

Visit the Liam J. Perk Memorial Playground or try out the exercise equipment and trail. Visit the [Liam J. Perk Foundation](#) website for Liam's story. Call for details, 239.549.4606.

Walk-in dog park registrations accepted Monday thru Saturday 8am-3:30pm.
Facility Hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-4pm excluding government holidays.
Park Hours: Daylight hours, year round.

Rotary Park Environmental Center
5505 Rose Garden Road
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone: 239.549.4606
Fax: 239.549.4903
rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net



Dog Days Delight, Cape Coral.

With a slogan like: “No Paws, No Drooling, No Service”, how can you go wrong? The best thing about this facility is it’s CAGELESS! That means your furry family member doesn’t have to stay at home locked up in a crate all day with nothing to do but stare at the walls. Dog Days Delight offers everything for your pooch to be happy: A cage-free facility, play time, grooming, baths, vet services, daycare from a few hours to several days, and of course, love. They believe a doggie should not be stuck in a crate all day alone. Their mission is to give your dog a vacation away from home, full of fun and without any stress. The staff is onsite 24 hours a day to watch your pooch. The biggest problem you’ll have will be to get your dog to go home. Call for details, 239.471.0414.



Cape Dog Bakery, Cape Coral.

The first time I visited the bakery I was looking for a birthday treat for Tiki. Wow, does this place have everything! Besides so many treats from which to choose, I couldn’t stop looking at all the specialty items, like a really cool German shepherd key holder I had to have and toys, toys, toys. I mean, really good toys – not the kind that easily fall apart. They also offer great dog food, nutritional treats, harnesses, leads, collars and hard-to-find items. Some food brands they carry include California Natural, EVO, Innova, Canidae, Wellness, Eagle Pack Holistic Select, Solid Gold, and Merrick. Come by and talk with the owner, Anita, and her two beautiful and fun loving yellow labs, Chester and Lucy, who sometimes sit just outside the entrance waiting to greet visitors! If you have a cat, look for accessories and food for your feline, too. Located just off Cape Coral Parkway. Call for details, 239.542.9663.



Lowe's and Home Depot, Cape Coral.

Need to get some shopping done but uncomfortable leaving your pet behind? No worries! Both Lowe’s and Home Depot on Pine Island Road in Cape Coral are pet friendly. Now your home shopping needs can be done with your best friend. Home Depot does ask you to keep your dog in the cart. Call for details, Lowe’s, 239.573.6377 Home Depot, 239.656.3033.



Stevie Tomato's Sports Grill, Cape Coral.

Since 1999 Stevie Tomato's is a great spot for food, fun and entertainment. If you are looking for a Sports Bar & Grill, this is the place to go! Family fun includes bringing the family pup along to watch the game, and enjoy great food. Voted Best Sports Bar, Best Baby Back Ribs, Chicken Wings, and Happy Hour! Pet friendly in Cape Coral on Pine Island Road, 239.573.7877.

Anthony's on the Blvd, Cape Coral.

This little secret is a jewel of a place! You and your dog can enjoy a table on the patio (outdoor only) and a great seafood or Italian dish, entertainment, and daily Happy Hour from 11 am – 7 pm. Located at 1303 Del Prado Blvd, 772.5900. Thursday is comedy night!



Dairy Queen, Cape Coral.

Anytime is the right time for an ice cream! Or better yet, how about a burger, chicken wrap, or even a salad? No matter your craving, Dairy Queen has it all. Bring your pup for a treat and enjoy the Florida weather outside at a DQ table. Located 1419 NE Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral, 239.574.8239.

First Round Draft Sports Bar & Grill, Cape Coral.

Pet friendly on the full-service waterfront patio, you can enjoy a menu filled with bold-flavored, made-to-order items, including a variety of appetizers, a Kids Menu, specialty salads, burgers, deli sandwiches, wraps, pastas, seafood and steaks, with boat dockage on the Honolulu Canal. Watch the game on the TV's in the outside bar, www.frdcape.com, 239.673.8614.



Fort Myers & Fort Myers Beach



Pincher's Crab Shack, South Fort Myers.

Bring your dog to the South Fort Myers location and enjoy a nice dinner on the patio. Each outside table includes an umbrella for shade and protection. Stay as long as you like and enjoy a few beers while listening to music. When I visited, the staff welcomed me, and Tiki with a bowl of ice cold water. Enjoy crab, shrimp, grouper, and more. Family oriented, pet friendly, and as casual as you can get. Kids under 12 eat free! Call for details, 239.415.4009.

The Shell Factory, Fort Myers.

Be sure to take your four-legged friend on your next trip to the Shell Factory in Fort Myers. The Swamp Bar, open Wednesday thru Sunday (11 am-8 pm), welcomes dogs to their outdoor dining area. You can even bring your dog over to the new outdoor DogBones Café for a special doggie treat! The restaurant is the perfect spot to stop off for a cool drink between shopping, activities in the Fun Park, and a visit to the Nature Park. The Shell Factory has been a Southwest Florida staple for more than 70 years. With more than five million shells and over 18 acres of shopping, displays and entertainment, you and your pup are sure to have a blast. 239.995.2141.



The Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, Fort Myers Beach.



Looking for a Key West type of experience? The minute I walked into Parrot Key, the Key West mood overwhelmed me! This casual open-air restaurant features a spectacular view of Matanzas Harbor and offers the best in tropical drinks, tempting appetizers and delicious entrées. Special seating is available for you and your dog on the right side of the restaurant – a prime viewing spot that overlooks the water. The staff and others seem to gravitate to you once they see you with the cutest dog in the world! Soak up the stunning waterfront views and enjoy live entertainment Wednesday-Saturday. Call 239.463.3257.

***The Fish House,
Fort Myers Beach and
Bonita Springs***

If you're in the mood for fresh seafood, try out The Fish House, a funky seafood restaurant accessible by boat or car. Located right on the water, this colorful restaurant is not only pet friendly but offers a wide range of delectable seafood, from fried lobster nuggets to oysters on the half shell. Soak up the sun with your pup at your side. They even have another pet friendly location on Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs. Fort Myers Beach: 239.765.6766. Bonita Beach: 239.495.5770.



Matanzas Inn, Fort Myers Beach. is situated on Ft Myers Beach at 414 Crescent St between 1st and 2nd streets. This hidden secret offers fabulous views of the Bay whether you choose the upper or lower deck. If you have a big dog, I would suggest the upper deck because there is a lot of room to spread out, great corner tables, and tables overlooking the water and the lower deck – all for your dog's viewing pleasure! Tiki was offered a bowl of water and had a few pepperoni's for an appetizer. The service is great, the food is great, and the location – wow what a view! Take 2 rights just as you arrive on the island over the bridge from the north. The entertainment is just right – an acoustic singer with lots of variety including Jimmy Buffett songs, Credence Clearwater, James Taylor and Pink Floyd. Dogs welcome!



The French Connection Café, Fort Myers.

Located in the heart of the downtown River District, the French Connection Café has been a local mainstay since 1977. A casual atmosphere combined with a friendly staff and great food makes this a downtown favorite. Whether it's a quick lunch or casual dinner, you are sure to enjoy. Open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight.

Beyond the Cape

Coconut Point Mall, Estero. 23106 Fashion Drive, Estero, FL, 33928, 239.992.9966. This Simon Mall has been pet friendly since opening in 2005. With doggie water fountains and clean up bags all around the property, your dog feels welcome no matter where you are. Most stores and restaurants are dog friendly – keep in mind it is up to individual stores whether they allow dogs inside. Dogs must be well behaved, leashed, and under their owner's control at all times. This great center has monthly events at times dedicated to our beloved furry friends. Check the web site for the most recent info, or call to find out more. This place has it all! 113 stores and 25 restaurants - all surrounding several acres of lakes with a boardwalk, and everything in every price range. Coconut Point Hyatt Regency Resort, a dog friendly resort. The resort is situated on 26 acres and has a championship golf course, tennis course and numerous swimming pools, bars and restaurants.



Check out [Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa](#). Their dog friendly program, PAWS and PALMS, includes:

- *Reservations with a pet must be booked directly through the hotel 14 days in advance. Call 239.444.1234 for additional information.
- *An additional \$50 charge per night, plus a \$100 one time cleaning fee is required.
- *Dogs up to 50 lbs are accepted.
- *Doggie menu is available through the front desk.
- *A Doggie bed and food/water dish is provided in-room



Bell Tower Shops, Fort Myers. The dog-friendly Bell Tower Shops is an open-air lifestyle center, located in Fort Myers at U.S. 41 and Daniels Parkway, with 40 retailers, including Saks Fifth Avenue and The Fresh Market, nine restaurants including bistro 41, and Bell Tower 20 Regal Cinemas. The center's sidewalk garden setting of lush landscaping, splashing fountains and covered walkways makes it a popular gathering place. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the center. DOGS welcome in most stores, including Ann Taylor. There are many special events happening at this center, including dog friendly activities. To learn more, visit www.TheBellTowerShops.com, or call 239-489-1221.

Dog Beach, Bonita Springs.

Believe it or not, there is a beach right here in SW Florida made just for dogs! *The Dog Beach* is located just south of Fort Myers Beach off Estero Blvd, as you are passing Lovers Key State Park and entering Bonita Springs. Watch closely for a small sign that marks the location off to the right. Parking is just off the side of the road. Be sure to check for “high tide or low tide” because it makes a difference in how easily it is to walk to the beach. There is a bit of a trail to get there, and at high tide, you may find yourself



wading in knee-high waters to get to the actual beach. Once you follow the trail, it is well worth it – the beach opens up in front of you and it is beautiful! On good days (low tide) there is quite a bit of area to play, frolic, set up a beach chair, and enjoy your favorite beverage. Throw a stick, football, tennis ball, and even swim with your best buddy right in the Gulf. Keep in mind a good pet owner always watches their pet. If you have a boat, anchor near the beach, and let your dog cool off while playing with his new furry friends.

Picnic Island.



Jump on your boat with your pup and head out to the Gulf! Just west of Marker 101 at the Pine Island and Fort Myers Beach split, you will find a fabulous little island nicknamed, *Picnic Island*. Just look for families enjoying time with their pooch. It’s a great place to stop, have lunch (it’s a “bring your own food” thing), and most importantly, play and swim with your dog! This little hideaway has become known as a stomping ground for pups and humans alike as a nice break from the sun as you are boating

towards one of your favorite destinations. If you’re feeling really adventurous, bring a tent, camp out, gaze at the stars, and stay the night. It’s the perfect little island getaway that’s not too far from home.

SunDownTiki Bar, Marinetown Harbour, N Ft Myers. 3448 Hancock Bridge Parkway, North Fort Myers, FL 33903, 239.656.0007. Get the Caribbean and Key West feel, when you visit this Tiki Bar and Grill restaurant. The eatery has seats in and out, for guests to enjoy that special outdoor tiki atmosphere or a brightly decorated interior. Visit by car or boat - there are more than 100 slips at Marker 52 for Marinetown guests. The business has joined other waterfront area restaurants there including Harbourside Bar & Grill and Coconuts. A huge thatched outdoor area has TVs for sporting items, with seats both on the inside and outside of their bar. Dog friendly outside. Entertainment 5 days a week. Call to verify.



Bert's Bar, Matlacha.

Come by boat or car to the best kept secret on Pine Island in Matlacha. As the song says, some folks come for the music, and some come for the view of beautiful Matlacha Pass. Either way, I found locals and tourists alike having a blast at one of Pine Island's favorite watering holes. Sit on the edge of the dock and dangle your feet close to the water, while your dog lies at your side. Or sit on the patio at a picnic table with your doggie, or inside with your friends. This friendly bar caters

to a wide variety of fun loving people; anyone is welcome and everyone feels welcome as soon as they walk in! Bert's Bar hosts the BEST bands in town, focusing on the BLUES. Be sure to check out *Deb and The Dynamics* for a great night of entertainment! 239.282.3232.

Moretti's Seafood Restaurant, Matlacha.

This is another great place in Matlacha where I really enjoyed a one-of-a-kind dining experience with Tiki. The best kept secret about this place is the VIEW! It's as if the bay waters rise up to meet the edge of the restaurant. It feels as though I could reach down and touch the water and then reach out and grab the sunset. This is a must-see place. Be sure to sit on the perimeter of the deck with your doggie and you'll see a great view. The staff is friendly and caters to your dog with a nice bowl of ice cold water and a few pats on the head! Call for details, 239.283.5825.

The Waterfront Restaurant, St. James City.

Have you ever wondered what happens at the southernmost tip of St. James City? Take a look at the map and it appears the road just ends. Well guess what? The street literally ends at the water's edge overlooking San Carlos Bay. It's the perfect place to bring your doggie for a quick jaunt in the water, then for a bite to eat. The Waterfront is the hot spot on the southern tip of Pine Island. Inside I found this place has a ton of personality. I couldn't stop looking at the walls, the ceiling, and behind the bar. Everywhere I looked, there was some original piece of "artwork" created or donated by previous patrons and regulars. It could literally take you all day to get through the decor! Bring your dog and hang out on the back deck while you watch the sunset directly over the water. Come by boat or car. Call for details, 239.283.0592.



Woody's, St. James City.

For dog owners, I consider this a must-see restaurant along the water in St. James City. Woody's is an Old Florida original – laid back, nothing fancy. Just cold beer, fresh Gulf seafood, and great burgers! Whether jumping in the car to visit a new place, or enjoying a day out on the water, Woody's is your one stop shop for great food, a great atmosphere, and great company. Located in the heart of St. James City and Old Pine Island, you will find fresh ingredients, local seafood, and a wonderful menu with a little something for everyone. Be sure to bring your pup, order a LandShark beer with a plate of shrimp, and hang out for the music on the back patio. What a great day to spend with friends and your dog! It doesn't get much better than this. Come by boat or car. I also learned Woody's has a great story to tell for dog lovers. The restaurant is named after a pure bred yellow Labrador, born in 1994 outside Lightstreet, PA, a town boasting a small population of about 450. Woodrow Wilson (Woody for short) was definitely not the runt of the litter...all paws, giant dump truck sized head and most importantly a huge heart. There was never a bigger, gentler dog around. He was more than happy to lie around and be a jungle gym to all the kids in the family. Woody was a true character. Want to learn more? Go to Woody's and read the rest of the story on the menu. Call for details, 239.283.5555.



RC Otters, Captiva Island.

When I think of one of the best places here in Southwest Florida, I think of RC Otter's. Here's why: Your dog is welcome, they offer tasty food at an affordable price, tropical drinks, Jimmy Buffet entertainment, a casual atmosphere, and a friendly staff. You can even play a game of ring toss with complete strangers, who after a few beers, and love pats for your dog, become your friends! This is a place for the whole family. Located in the Heart of Old Captiva Village on Andy Rosse Lane. Call for details, 239.395.1142.



Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda.

The Village Fish Market, Harpoon Harry's, and the Oyster Bar, are three different restaurants at Fisherman's Village that offer pet friendly accommodations. You can even bring your pet inside the promenade as long as they are on a leash, or carried if you have a small pup. Enjoy the live music, waterfront views, casual dining, and full-service bar with your furry friend at your side. Call for details, 239.639.8721.

Pooch Park, North Fort Myers.

Pooch Park, located at Judd Park, has large and small dog areas with potable water available for both dogs and owners. The entire system is irrigated to maintain the turf and to regularly clean the facility. Dog lovers are asked to use the facility and pick up after their dogs. The standard rules apply: Keep dogs in fenced areas when off their leashes, "scoop the poop" with provided bags and deposit in trash cans, carry a leash, and if your dog digs, fill in the holes. Located off Driftwood Drive and Parkview Court. 239.338.3288.



Barkingham Park, North Fort Myers, 33905.

Look for 2 fenced in areas for dogs to play off leash. There is a small agility area, too. There is also a smaller fenced area for shy/small dogs and puppies. They have dog water fountains and a dog shower. They have many trails to walk your dog on leash. 9800 Buckingham Road, 239 369 1521.

Koreshan State Park, Estero.

It's always a good time taking a self-guided tour of the Koreshan gardens and buildings. You can sit along the Estero River in the shade of the historic Bamboo Landing, or watch the Koreshan story play out in the founder's house. The Art Hall and Planetary Court are open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Picnic facilities are available for a comfortable day along the Estero River. Or, if activity is what you crave, you can rent a canoe/kayak and paddle 3.5 miles out to Mound Key Archeological State Park. You can even set up camp for the weekend—everything from tents to motor homes. Domestic pets are permitted in designated day-use areas at ALL Florida State Parks. They must be kept on a handheld leash. Pets are not permitted on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities. For details call,



239.992.0311. **GETTING THERE:** I-75 Exit 123 Corkscrew Road, head west 2 miles, cross U.S. 41 and continue on Corkscrew Road approximately 1000 yards to entrance of park. From U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) park is located at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Rd in Estero.

