



Travel with your *Pampered* POOCH

BY STEFANIE ELLIS

Most dog lovers would do anything for their canine companion. You think of your dog as family, and you want to spend as much time with them as possible. So, it's reasonable that you'd want to offer them the same opportunities you enjoy—indulgences like massage, getting pampered at the spa and eating decadent treats from a pastry case.

But are such things really possible for those on four legs? And, more importantly, where can you find them? Thanks to some creative Northwest entrepreneurs who clearly love dogs, spoiling your pup human-style while in your hometown or away on vacation has never been easier. We'll walk you through a full lineup of pam-paw-ring for your furry friend that proves, without a doubt, that luxury has literally gone to the dogs.



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Body Treatments

A human would probably start their morning with a little yoga to get the synapses fired, and your dog can do the same in a number of Northwest cities. If you're traveling to Portland, Oregon, just head to the Hip Hound (hiphoundshop.com), a pet boutique that offers "paws and reflect" yoga for humans and their canine friends on select days.

For the ultimate spa experience, check out the Spaw Spot in Fife, Washington (thespawspot.com), where a full groom includes a bubble bath, body massage, pawdicure—yes, with polish—and hairstyle. Your pooch can also get temporary tattoos, fur color, feather extensions, acupuncture, chiropractic and Chinese medicine treatments.

A trendy paw-lish, blueberry facial or creative coat color can be found at Lovable Pets (lovablepetsbakery.com) in Billings, Montana, which also has a boutique and bakery. In Boise, Idaho, Gucci Pooch (guccipooch.com) includes bows/bandanas and cologne with its grooming services, while Escape Canine Retreat & Spa (escapecanineretreat.com) offers cucumber melon facials.

In Rupert, Idaho, Four Paws Bed & Bath (fourpawsbedandbath.com) provides custom jewelry, hot oil treatments, massage and pawlish to its clientele. And Compassionate Canine Massage (compassionatecaninemassage.com) in Anchorage, Alaska, specializes in helping your pup work out sore spots from all those glacier hikes.



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How Dogs Benefit from Massage

According to certified canine bodyworker Laura Arseneau, dog massage helps your dog with relaxation, pain management, range of motion in joints, easing the effects of aging, reducing emotional problems due to anxiety, trauma and fear and accelerating the healing process after injury or surgery. Dogs love it, and they benefit physically, just like humans.

Canine Cuisine

When it's time for lunch or high tea, grab a latte and croissant at your favorite bakery and take Fido to a place where dogs are the only customers served.

At the Doghouse Bakery in Missoula, Montana, you'll find treats made with locally sourced ingredients in shapes like squirrels and tennis balls in flavors like cheese, peanut butter and bacon. You'll also find treats from Doghouse in the "pawtisserie" case at Two Barking Sisters' Dog Spaw in Missoula (2barkingsisters.com).

At Big Dog Little Dog Bakery (bigdoglittledog.com) in Burnaby, B.C., you can get your pup turkey pizza, liver brownies, carob truffles and cream-filled cookies.

If your dog would prefer to chase down its food, head to the Seattle Barkery (theseattlebarkery.com), the only food truck for dogs in Seattle. The truck offers up bacon pupcakes, cheezy donuts, pb-banana bones and tiered birthday cakes across the city, but it also has a brick and mortar treats bar at Dogwood Play Park.

When it's time for dessert, go online at Oregon-based Northwest Canine Cakes (northwestcaninecakes.com), where you and your pooch can shop online for special Oregon-made treats like doggie cakes, cookies, pupclaires, cannolis and more.



A Night on the Town

Once he's well fed and gussied up, take him out on the town and show off his new pug-hawk. Find a place where humans can have a beer with their canine companions in tow, then pop open a bottle of Happy Dog Beer (happydogbeerco.com) from Bozeman, Montana. The bottle looks deceptively real, with names like IPA—Irresistible Pooch Ale—but its contents, made with bone stock in chicken and beef flavors, are far from it. Bowser Beer (bowserbeer.com) from Seattle uses real meat (beef, pork or chicken), malt barley and glucosamine in its recipe. They also have doggie cigars in beef or turkey options.

For a special occasion, take your loyal companion to LexiDog Boutique & Social Club (lexidog.com) in Portland for a canine birthday party, complete with party favors, paw painting and games like hot dog hunts and bobbing for apples.

After such a full, luxurious day, it's time to turn in, but you can't sleep just anywhere. You want

a dog-friendly hotel that knows how to cater to canines as much as they do humans.

You'll find such a place in Kirkland, Washington, at the Woodmark Hotel, (destinationhotels.com/the-woodmark) which hugs the shore of Lake Washington. The property's lawn, lakefront and gardens—with plenty of shrubs—are a dog's idea of a perfect vacation. Top that off with a comfy in-room dog bed and food and water bowls and your best friend has all the comforts of home.

In Bend, Oregon, the Oxford Hotel (oxfordhotelbend.com/pet-friendly.htm), offers custom-fitted dog beds, in-room massage and organic doggie treats made by their in-house pastry chef.

Over on the coast, Surfsand Resort (surfsand.com) in Cannon Beach, Oregon, provides a welcome basket that includes a pet bed, towel, sheet, placemat, doggie bags and food and water bowls. A cookie jar is stocked daily with doggie treats, and a foot and paw wash near the beachfront path comes in handy after those long runs on the beach.



At Willows Lodge (willowslodge.com) in Woodinville, Washington, their WVIP (Willows Very Important Pet) program boasts a special doggie room service menu, doggie-bed turndown service and a goodnight dog biscuit.

The Four Seasons Seattle (fourseasons.com) greets your dog with a toy and a treat upon check-in, and all their rooms are dog friendly. Plus, you'll get an issue of the Puppy Print Post, with a list of destinations your pet might enjoy around town. But if you'd like to explore the city sans canine, they offer doggie daycare services.

As you watch your best friend drifting off to sleep after the best puppy pampering he has

ever experienced, you can almost see the dream he's weaving. Outfitted with feather extensions and blue fur, he's chasing a rabbit, leaping toward clouds that rain carob truffles, snuggling up to fire hydrants full of doggie beer and lying on his back while he gets the best massage of his life. And, of course, he's wondering when he gets to do it all again. 🐾



The Most Dog-Friendly Cities in the Northwest

Based on the number of veterinarians, doggie day cares and dog parks, Portland, Oregon, is consistently ranked as one of the most dog-friendly cities in the country. Seattle has been voted as one of the top pet-friendly rental markets in the U.S., with the second highest ratio of pet businesses per 100 households. In 2013, it was also reported that Seattleites have more dogs than children. While that statistic hasn't been updated in a while, a single trip outside your door makes it possible to believe it's still true.

