



For Immediate Release

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Newport has Gone to the Dogs!

With numerous pet friendly opportunities, there is no reason to leave your loyal companion at home.

Newport, RI (April 22, 2008) – For those of us with dogs, it is easy to see how they are considered “man’s best friend” and quickly become members of the family. A true dog lover knows when choosing a vacation, it is difficult to imagine enjoying a relaxing escape without your furry friend. In dog-friendly Newport, there are numerous options for you and “Fido”, so no need to leave him behind. From a luxury hotel that offers a “doggie menu” and upscale boutique that includes apparel and bedding to a quaint rural bed and breakfast that offers classes in obedience and agility, travelers can easily plan a vacation that suits their individual style. Once in Newport, there are numerous dog-friendly trails, parks, beaches and outdoor restaurants that will make your time here memorable.

Historic **Hotel Viking** in Newport pampers all their guests, included the four-legged variety. The hotel greets its guests with homemade doggie biscuits upon arrival and has a full menu of gourmet dog food available throughout the stay. If you and your dog like shopping, the hotel also offers products from an upscale dog boutique. (800) 556-7126 www.hotelviking.com The **Residence Inn by Marriott** in Middletown welcomes pets to their beautifully renovated rooms complete with efficiency kitchens. Throughout the week, the hotel hosts social hours and BBQs, so you and your canine will have a chance to mingle with other guests. (800) 331-3131 www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pvdnm For a unique vacation, the **Edith Pearl Bed and Breakfast** in Little Compton is a renovated 1840s colonial, surrounded by 200 acres of preserved and working farmland. There are wrap around porches with comfortable seating to relax and rejuvenate with your pooch. The owner also offers pet sitting services and an array of classes, including general obedience and agility for an additional charge. Plenty of petting and ball throwing are free of course! (401) 592-0053 www.edithpearl.com The **Summer Cottage Guest House** in Newport is pet friendly and has the added benefit of a large fenced yard with a deck, to relax or burn off some energy. (401) 842-7671 For a complete listing of pet friendly accommodations, visit www.GoNewport.com or call (800) 976-5122.

Newport is a great city for walking with your pets, whether it is through the quaint cobblestone streets of Colonial downtown or preserved nature trails. The Aquidneck Land Trust's **Sakonnet Greenway Trail** is a great way to get outdoors and truly appreciate nature. To fulfill their mission to preserve the island's open spaces and natural character for the lasting benefit of our community, the organization is in the process of creating a 7-mile trail for the public. www.ailt.org The **Melville Ponds Recreation Area** in Portsmouth is a 130-acre park that offers hiking trails, fishing and camping. Leashed, well-behaved dogs are welcome. www.portsmouthri.com

While most beaches are open to leashed dogs from Labor Day to Memorial Day, there are some available throughout the summer months as well. In Portsmouth's **Sandy Point Beach**, dogs are allowed after 5 pm. At **Teddy's Beach** in Portsmouth, dogs are always welcome. For swimming holes in Jamestown, head to the beach at **East Ferry** and the boat ramps at **Fort Wetherill** and **Fort Getty** for a quick dip.

The beautiful state parks in the area are perfect for a day of picnicking with your family or frolicking with your dog. In Jamestown, **Fort Wetherill** has spectacular views of Newport Harbor and the East Passage of Narragansett Bay and **Beavertail State Park** offers hiking trails, saltwater fishing and beautiful views of the lighthouse. In Newport, **Fort Adams State Park** has exceptional panoramic views of the harbor and historic fort and **Brenton Point** on Ocean Drive is a favorite of families and kite flyers. Canines are welcome at Rhode Island's state parks if they are leashed, well-behaved and owners are responsible. www.riparks.com

If your dog was born to run and long walks won't do the trick, the **Newport Dog Park** is the answer. This fenced park is leash-free and provides an opportunity to exercise and socialize with other dogs. On any given sunny afternoon, your pooch will enjoy playing with a variety of new friends. The park is located on the Connell Highway Extension. "Mutt-Mitts" are provided; just remember to bring water and a ball.

To complete your Newport experience, there are several dog-friendly attractions that will teach you a little about the city's unique history. **Gansett Cruises** is known for "Harbor Tours with a Different View". Enjoy local refreshments like Del's lemonade or R.I. quahog "stuffies" and listen to the narrated tour, rich with historical facts and personal memories of the destination. Blankets and treats are provided to make your dog comfortable. (401) 787-4438 www.gansettcruises.com **Belcourt Castle** allows dogs to tour the grounds of the 60-room mansion designed by Richard Morris Hunt in 1891. Water bowls are always set out for visitors. Tours are often led by Moana, a resident "Newportonian" spaniel, dressed in her finest pearls. (401) 846-0669 www.belcourtcastle.com The world famous **Cliff Walk** is a 3.5-mile picturesque public access walk that combines the natural beauty of Newport's shoreline with the architectural history of the Gilded Age. www.cliffwalk.com

There are numerous outdoor restaurants that open their patios to dogs throughout the summer. A local favorite is the **Canfield House** in Newport, which hosts "Dog Day Afternoons" on Sundays. From 12pm-4pm, dogs are able to enjoy treats on the outdoor

patio, while owners enjoy a beverage and light meal. Other establishments with great dog-friendly patios in Newport include **O'Brien's Pub, Sardella's** and **H2O**. In Jamestown, check out places like **Tricia's Tropi-Grille, East Ferry Deli, Slice of Heaven** and **Trattoria Simpatico**. There are numerous picnic spots throughout the county, so grab a box lunch and enjoy a meal al fresco with your canine companion. If your dog is deserving of a special treat, **Frosty Freez** in Middletown has been serving great ice cream since 1956 and offers a special doggie cup (vanilla ice cream topped with a dog biscuit).

In terms of shopping, there are the obvious choices like **Petco** in Middletown, but Aquidneck Island has some great local pet stores, such as **Aquidneck Aquarium & Pet Deli** (401) 847-3361 or **Petrageous** (401) 846-3335. **Cricket and Riley**, an upscale boutique, offers everything your little "Precious" desires, from fun and frivolous to healthy and functional. Don't forget to let your little one sample some of the mouthwatering homemade treats. (401) 619-3719 www.cricketandriley.com

In terms of events, on June 8th **Potter League's Heart and Soul Walk** for animals is not to miss! This fun family event is an annual fundraiser for the animal shelter, soon to be the only green animal shelter in the country and one of the few green public buildings in Rhode Island. Along with the 1- or 3-mile walk, there are games, demonstrations and photo contests in the picturesque grounds of Glen Park in Portsmouth. The Potter League also has a variety of fun classes, such as Agility and Rally O. Check out their website for a full calendar of events. (401) 846-8276 www.potterleague.org At Glen Farm, the **Newport International Polo Club** plays every Saturday from June through September. This unique recreational event is a local favorite and tailgates and leashed dogs are welcome. www.glenfarm.com The **1st Annual Black Tie Doggie Ball** will be held on August 2nd at the Fort Getty Pavilion in Jamestown. Dogs must be dressed in festive attire to attend. Sponsored by Paws and Claws, the event will be used to raise money for the Friends of Jamestown Animal Shelter. (401) 354-9200 The **10th Annual Jamestown Holiday Dog Parade** will be held at noon on Sunday, December 21st. Proceeds from this event will also benefit the Friends of Jamestown Animal Shelter. (401) 354-9200

When traveling with pets, it is always advisable to call for policies ahead. Generally, if your furry friend is leashed and well-behaved, your experience will be more enjoyable. To make traveling less stressful, it is suggested that you bring favorite toys, bedding and treats from home. Newport County is a perfect destination to explore with your loyal companion!

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The Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the City of Newport and the five townships of Newport County as a destination resort for business and leisure travel. For further information, please contact the NCCVB Marketing Department at (401) 845-9151 or www.GoNewport.com.