



[Take Paws]

Ruffing It

Carmel's love affair with dogs goes back to at least the 1930s, when the town adopted a free-spirited mutt named Pal. To this day, Carmel remains dog's best friend, with more than 20 pet-friendly hotels. Here's a sampling that's sure to get tails wagging. —Michael Berick

..... CYPRESS INN

Lincoln Street and Seventh Avenue. (800) 443-7443; cypress-inn.com

FOR FIDO: Dogs have been treated regally here since actress and animal lover Doris Day bought the inn with a partner in the 1980s. Each evening from 4 to 6 p.m., pups join their owners in Terry's Lounge for Yappy Hour (above), where they can lap up a Muttini and dine on Muttloaf.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: You can lounge amid such stylish touches as studded calfskin chairs and custom wood shutters that make this 44-room boutique inn an elegant retreat.

HOTEL RATES: \$245–\$595; rates vary per number of pets.

CARMEL VALLEY RANCH

1 Old Ranch Road. (831) 625-9500; carmelvalleyranch.com

FOR FIDO: After a day roaming the 500-acre property, a dog can cozy up on a bed and enjoy room-service delivery of a gourmet Pooch Patti (ground beef, garden veggies, and whipped potatoes).

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: Whether you're playing 18 holes on the Pete Dye-designed golf course or relaxing with a sweet lavender poultice massage, you'll be as pampered as your pet at this AAA Four Diamond resort.

HOTEL RATES: \$300–\$700; \$100 per pet per stay.

AAA.com

LAMP LIGHTER INN AND SUNSET HOUSE SUITES

Ocean Avenue and Camino Real. (831) 624-7372; carmellamplighter.com

FOR FIDO: At nearby Carmel Beach, dogs are allowed to romp off-leash. Afterward, they can be spritzed clean at the Lamp Lighter's warm-water outdoor shower and wrapped in a complimentary blanket.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: Each of the 11 guest rooms and cottages sleeps from two to four people and has its own look and name, such as the Hansel & Gretel cottage.

HOTEL RATES: \$185–\$450; rates vary per number of pets.

[Kid Stuff]

Growing Up

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden's new Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden has a special message for young visitors: Please *do* touch. This 8-acre garden in the Lone Star State houses 17 distinct zones where tactile features encourage guest interaction. Exhibits and programming are geared toward preschool through middle-school children, but even adults may be fascinated by the oversize plants and animals (you can't miss the 9-foot-long ant sculpture), high-tech displays that explain the basics of plant growth and other earth science topics, and the 240-foot-long Texas Skywalk, an elevated boardwalk that travels through the treetops. An indoor laboratory offers experiment and magnification stations, as well as a 6-foot digital OmniGlobe that displays changes to Earth, including those caused by weather patterns, continental drift, and deforestation. Entry to the Adventure Garden is included with paid admission to the main arboretum and botanical garden, but timed tickets are required; guests are encouraged to arrange these in advance via the website. (214) 515-6500; dallasarboretum.org.

—Lori Grossman

