



POOCH PARADISE

Take the dogs for a romp around Oregon.

Expert at making hangdog faces, Murray the Australian Shepard and Ollie the Corgi don't like the weekend getaway...unless they're included. Once they see me packing toys, bowls and kibble into their special doggy duffle travel bag, it's a whole other tale. With Oregon growing by dog leaps and bounds into one of the most pet-friendly states around (www.DogFriendly.com ranks Portland #6 of the Top Ten Cities to Visit), these days the "Call of the Wild" summons the entire family.

And for this weekend's call? It's no tails left behind as we do a dog run through the Willamette Valley and over to the Oregon coast.

On this crisp fall day, we make our way south along the I-5 corridor to Corvallis, home to Oregon State University and some of the state's pet-friendliest things to see and do.

Our first stop is an outdoor table in front of New Morning Bakery. The wide, tree-lined sidewalk is roomy enough for the 3-year-old pups to hang out by our side, accepting compliments from passersby while slyly begging for crumbs. Though New Morning's offerings of quiches, paninis and pastries are plentiful, it doesn't stop my husband from going back to get an Espresso Bar "for the road." Though "the road" is Riverfront Commemorative Park, less than a block away, who am I to criticize? Like the dogs, I'm not above begging for a crumb myself.

From Riverfront, it's a quick jog to Pioneer and Avery parks with the Willamette River flowing through. Ollie romps through piles of fall leaves, while Murray's eyes grow big at the sight of the skateboarders at Eric Scott McKinley Skate Park. I hurry him along before he attempts to herd



The doggy friendly Mt. Pisgah hike in Eugene

them, wheels and all.

Though we'd love to check out more of Corvallis' six off-leash parks, our schedule is packed as tight as the dogs' duffle bag. Forty-five minutes later, we're at Eugene's Alton Baker Park, a 400-acre wonder replete with bridges, duck ponds and off-leash area. A sudden surge of gathering geese overwhelms Ollie—my husband quickly picks him up and carries him out of the web-footed, heavy-honking Friday traffic rush.

Speaking of putting on the dog, Eugene's Valley River Inn does exactly that, with 87 pet-friendly rooms/suites and a Pampered Pooch Package, entailing a gift basket of goodies, a map to nearby dog parks/pet stores/vets and "Yappatizer Menu." Though most lodgings insist upon owners staying with their pets, the Inn has an unusual policy: As long as guests notify the front desk, supplying a cell phone number for immediate contact, they can leave the well-behaved pet unattended in the room.

The next day's early morning sun warms Hideaway Bakery's well-populated, wood-canopied patio, and the scent of warm, rustic bread happily assaults our noses. Then it's on to the 27-acre Morse Ranch: With its historical house, woods and off-leash rolling meadows, it's pooch paradise. Acting as unofficial hosts, two golden retrievers bark out hearty hellos to all newcomers.

Before heading westward, we stop for lunch at Steelhead Brewing Company's large dog-friendly patio. No sooner do

All Oregon's beaches are open to the public and make for great pooch play-grounds.



CORY BURNETT / CROWERS

we sit down than our waiter brings our boys a full water bowl. With HDTVs tuned to Oregon sports (it's football season in this University of Oregon town), tasty food and home-brewed, award-winning beer, the Steelhead is...a paw-sitive delight.

Next, we drive through groves of intense fall colors en route to the Oregon coast, just 60 miles west. Upon arrival, Florence's 10-mile-long Heceta Beach lies waiting. This is Murray's finest hour, running the shoreline at top speed, little Ollie gamely trailing behind. Though

more beaches call out as we drive north up Hwy. 101, we're due at Yachats' Fireside Motel.

Well-prepared for the K-9 contingent, the Fireside provides doggy towels for sandy paws, safety nets on the balconies and pooper-scoopers. Our room's balcony overlooks both the rocky coast and the Historic 804 Trail. The primary road between Waldport and Yachats until 1916, today's 804 Trail is perfect for a brisk walk with the pups. With access to beaches and tide pools, it's also a great vantage point for whale watching.

After a late Sunday brunch watching the sky meet the sea from the outdoor patio of Yachats' Grand Occasions Café, we leisurely wend our way home.

There's only one flea, er, fly in the ointment: How do I tell the dogs that we're staying put next weekend?

—KIMBERLY GADETTE



WHAT'S MORE...

For a list of Oregon's pet-friendly places to stay, please visit www.TravelOregon.com.

CORVALLIS TOURISM

541.757.1544, www.VisitCorvallis.com

NEW MORNING BAKERY

219 S.W. 2nd St., Corvallis
541.754.0181, www.NewMorningBakery.com

CONVENTION & VISITORS ASSOCIATION OF LANE COUNTY OREGON/CVALCO

541.484.5307, www.VisitLaneCounty.org

VALLEY RIVER INN

2-pet maximum, dogs and cats only
1000 Valley River Way, Eugene
541.743.1000, www.ValleyRiverInn.com

HIDEAWAY BAKERY

3377 East Amazon, Eugene
541.868.1982, www.Mazzis.com/bakery.php

STEELHEAD BREWING COMPANY

199 E. 5th Ave., Eugene
541.686.2739
www.SteelheadBrewery.com/eugene.htm

THE FIRESIDE MOTEL

2-pet maximum, additional fee
1881 Hwy. 101 N., Yachats
541.547.3636, www.FiresideMotel.com

GRAND OCCASIONS CAFÉ/GOURMET DELI

84 Beach St., Yachats
541.547.4409

Please note that dogs should always be leashed unless it's a specifically posted "off leash" area.

Call or Click

Oregon Coast Visitors Association
888.628.2101
www.VisitTheOregonCoast.com

Willamette Valley Visitors Association
866.548.5018, www.OregonWineCountry.org

For more information, turn to "Planning Your Trip," page 82.