

# CREATURE COMFORTS

**YOUR DOG IS LIKELY TO ENJOY A CAMPING OR CARAVANNING HOLIDAY AS MUCH AS YOU, WRITES SCOTT PODMORE**



**I**f there are walking tracks, open spaces and beaches it won't be just you who likes going on holidays. Most pets respond well to travel and more and more caravan/holiday parks offer pet-friendly accommodation. Pet-friendly park owners have no doubt they are barking up the right tree. Trudy Grant, proprietor of Killarney View Cabins and Caravan Park, about 200km south-west of Brisbane, says that since she allowed pets to stay four years ago, it has helped business.

"It's very popular, especially on long weekends," Trudy says. "Of course, there are lots of oldies on the roads these days who take their pets along with them. But now families are too. And it's not just dogs, we've had cats and birds too. We renovated one cabin to be pet-friendly accommodation as well.

"When you've got five acres like we have, it proves really popular for guests with pets."

Regular road-tripper and camper Craig Baker from Melbourne says he chooses pet-friendly parks these days as he takes his black labrador, "Newton", away with him on holidays. "I've been to a few good ones, like the Great Ocean Road Tourist Park in Peterborough. It's opposite one of the best beaches in the world where I can take Newton for a run and a play each morning," Baker says. "Then there are great spots like Lani's Holiday Island in Forster."

CRVA chief executive officer Ben Yates says that with planning, your pet can enjoy their holiday as much as the rest of the family. For invaluable advice on the topic check out [welovethiscountry.com.au](http://welovethiscountry.com.au). Remember that park policies are ever-changing so if you are travelling with a pet be sure to phone ahead.

More and more caravanners are choosing to travel with pets and caravan/holiday parks are changing with the times. "We have even seen recently BIG4 Holiday Parks of Australia lift its blanket 'no pets' policy with individual caravan/holiday park members within the chain now able at their discretion to take pets subject to strict conditions," Yates said.

## BONDI VET CHRIS BROWN GIVES THE LOW-DOWN ON TAKING ANIMALS ON THE ROAD.

**Before you go** First you should do a test drive. The worst thing would be that you're setting off on your holiday and five minutes into the trip your pet is simply not handling the journey, either through being car sick, fretting, barking, or losing bladder control. So go for a drive one or two days beforehand for an hour or so. Don't feed them too much before you leave because the more they eat and drink, the more they're going to want to go to the toilet. I'd be giving»

# PETS

them a good walk or run before you leave in order to burn up a bit of energy. That way, when they get into the car they'll be more inclined to relax or sleep.

**On the road** I'd advise you to take regular breaks. If they can get out of the car every two hours or so and have a walk, go to the toilet and have a drink, then they will feel a whole lot more settled.

**When you get there** Keep them on the leash. They'll want to explore and they will be excited but sometimes that excitement will boil over and your pet will run off. Keep them on a leash, do some exercise and burn off that energy they built up in the car. Then try to re-establish the routine they had at home. If they usually go for a walk with you in the morning and then have breakfast, sleep during the day, then dinner at night, then try to do the same thing and they will find that a lot more relaxing. Pets are also happiest if they're kept busy.

**Caravan/holiday parks** Some of them cater so well for pets these days and your pets really do have the opportunity to have a fantastic break away with

you. Investigate before you book in and make sure the park will suit your pet.

**First-aid kits** The human first-aid kit is pretty good in terms of what you need for pets. Just watch things such as antiseptics – I'd only ever use it diluted on their skin. Pliers could come in handy to remove foreign objects stuck in their mouths or throats. If they get something in their eyes, wash it out with salt and water, which is great for cleaning cuts as well. But prevention is important: make sure they've had flea treatments and have their microchips.

**Which pets are best?** I think dogs that aren't too demanding of your time and of exercise are going to be best, but at the same time you want them to have a bit of spirit of adventure. Cavoodles are great little dogs and rough and ready. Labradors and golden retrievers are adaptable and boxers and pugs are going to enjoy themselves. Cats like their own patch and don't like new places. If ever I were to recommend a cat suited to camping or caravan holidays it would be a burmese, because it's a dog in cat's body!  
*Bondi Vet screens Tuesdays, 8pm, Channel 10.*



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## PAWS FOR A WHILE

### HERE ARE SOME OF THE MANY PET-FRIENDLY PARKS AVAILABLE AROUND THE COUNTRY:

#### **QUEENSLAND**

Bailey Bar Caravan Park, Charleville; Killarney View Cabins and Caravan Park, Killarney; Discovery Holiday Parks Longreach; Dalrymple Tourist Van Park, Charters Towers, Gundy Star Tourist Park, Goodiwindi.

#### **TASMANIA**

Leisure Ville Holiday Centre, Wynyard.

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Wymah Valley Holiday Park, Albury-Wodonga region; Pembroke Tourist and Leisure Park, Armidale; Lani's Holiday Island, Forster.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Stuart Range Caravan and Tourist Park, Coober Pedy; Port Broughton Caravan Park, Yorke Peninsula.

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Dongara Tourist Park, Port Denison; Banksia Tourist Park, Perth; Albany Happy Days Caravan Park

#### **VICTORIA**

Eastern Beach Tourist Park, Lakes Entrance; Great Ocean Road Tourist Park, Peterborough; Stratford on the River Tourist Park, Gippsland. Details at [www.welovethiscountry.com.au](http://www.welovethiscountry.com.au)

REVIEWS BY TOM DICK  
HARRY SARAH JESS ALAN  
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