

Cape Cod Town is America's Dog-Friendliest City

Looking for Dog Friendly Places to Vacation? Take Your Pup to Provincetown!

From [Kasey Brooks](#)

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A family's dog is more than a pet: Dogs are members of the family, too. It isn't always easy, however, to take canine relatives on vacation. Provincetown, Massachusetts, has embraced the expanded role dogs play within a family, and by welcoming these furry protectors, confidantes, helpers and best friends with open arms, the historic town at the tip of Cape Cod has won recognition as **America's most dog-friendly city**.

Named [DogTown USA 2010](#) by *Dog Fancy* magazine,

Provincetown's canine lineage is nearly 400 years old, dating back to 1620 when at least [two dogs](#) sailed aboard the *Mayflower*. Although the Pilgrims paused only briefly in Provincetown before moving on to Plymouth, it's a sure bet the *Mayflower's* four-legged passengers were every bit as happy to see dry land as their human companions.

It wasn't until four years ago, however, that Provincetown began developing its dog-friendly image. Candace Nagle, president and co-founder of Provincetown's Pilgrim Bark Park, credits a change in the town's government with creating a more dog-friendly atmosphere. "The political winds really changed for dogs" when four dog owners assumed representative positions with the town, she explains. Now, Provincetown has

dog-friendly lodging, restaurants and parks and hosts frequent fundraisers to benefit four-legged residents.



In 2010, *Dog Fancy* magazine named Provincetown, Massachusetts, America's most dog-friendly city. This Cape Cod destination for dogs and dog lovers was the only New England spot on the magazine's top 10 dog-friendly cities list.

Media photo courtesy of Provincetown Dog Park Association Inc.

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"It is remarkable to have an entire town where virtually every establishment opens its doors to dogs—even the bank," *Dog Fancy* editor Ernie Slone said in a release announcing Provincetown's ranking as tops for dogs. "Where else can you take your dog along for a whale-watching or sunset cruise, walk miles of off-leash scenic beaches year-round and enjoy one of the nation's finest dog parks?" he mused.

One of the Nation's Best Dog Parks

[Pilgrim Bark Park](#), a no-leash dog park in the heart of Provincetown, was started by Nagle and an associate after a chance meeting at a coffee shop in spring 2007. Each had been to a dog park in Florida and been inspired, so they joined forces. Now, the non-profit park, which has drinking fountains for dogs and their owners and pet cleanup stations, hosts animal welfare events and attracts locals and visitors alike. *Dog Fancy* named Pilgrim Bark Park the second best dog park in the nation in its 2010 annual ratings.

Dog-Friendly Lodging

The Provincetown area has numerous dog-friendly places to stay, like [The Painted Dog](#), a kid- and dog-friendly B&B in Eastham. The Painted Dog even has its own "Puppy Path" walking trail. The Provincetown Tourism Office provides a complete list of [dog-friendly inns, hotels, motels, resorts and campgrounds](#) in and near town.

Dog-Friendly Restaurants

[The Central House Bar and Grille](#) serves healthy local fare and offers its canine customers a free Pilgrim Bark Park doggie bowl to dine from. A list of more [dog-friendly restaurants and businesses in Provincetown](#) can be found at the Pilgrim Bark Park Web site.

Dog Fancy magazine released its 2010 list of the Top 40 Dog-friendly U.S. Cities in its September issue. The criteria used to rate cities included plenty of dog-friendly open spaces and dog parks, events celebrating dogs and their owners, ample veterinary care, abundant pet supply and other services and municipal laws that support and protect all pets.