

Doggie Diners

Well-mannered pooches are welcome to join their humans on the outdoor patios of these Coachella Valley restaurants. Call ahead to learn of any restrictions or changes in policy.

ARMANDO'S BAR & GRILL

73-260 El Paseo
Palm Desert
346-0744

COPLEY'S ON PALM CANYON (dogs welcome at Sunday Brunch only)

561 N. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs
327-9555

FIREHOUSE GRILL

73-405 El Paseo
Palm Desert
674-3222

GRILL-A-BURGER

166 N. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs
327-8175

J.C.'S PATIO CAFE

73-200 El Paseo
Palm Desert
568-0733

MATCHBOX

155 S. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs
778-6000

NATIVE FOODS

73-890 El Paseo
Palm Desert
836-9396

PIERO'S ACQUA PAZZA

The River
71-800 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage
862-9800

SHERMAN'S DELI

401 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs
325-1199

SPENCER'S RESTAURANT

701 West Baristo Road
Palm Springs
327-3446

(Source: www.cbowboundtv.com)



Your pooch can drop in for a massage at The Grand Paw in Indio.

DOGGIE SPAS

TENDER, LOVING CARE AT ITS BEST

BY REBECCA K. O'CONNOR

Desert Animal Hospital gives this as a disclaimer to all of its human clients: "We are not responsible if your pet goes home spoiled or pampered."

They're not kidding. Boarding your pooch can be as much of a vacation for Rover as for you. A trip to the kennel is more like going to the spa than going to doggie jail these days, and there are a couple of valley kennels where you might want to drop off your haute dog.

Desert Animal Hospital has spacious doggie suites with glass doors and raised bedding as well as two trips a day to the exercise area. If you want your dog to be ultra-pampered, check out the hospital's private, themed, room-like luxury suites. These suites have fun vacation themes like "On Safari," "Golfing Getaway" and "Smooth Sailing." The suites include cable TV so Fido can watch Animal Planet and lounge in especially cozy bedding.

Your dog will have access to an outdoor, grassy, misted exercise area three times a day, not to mention a "turn-down" service in the evening with a special treat provided by Bones and Scones of Palm Springs.

Wonder if your pup is enjoying his digs? You can log on to the hospital's Web site and see what he is up to on the Web cam. Most likely he'll be napping to the sounds of piped-in tunes.

Don't worry about Fido sleeping through his meals— a morning wake up

call, in-room breakfast and room service are also part of the package.

The Grand Paw in Indio is another hot canine vacation spot. Your pooch can listen to soothing music or watch Animal Planet in his luxury suite there as well. Room service is a given as well as play times and snacks. It's doubtful Rover will write you, but if you want to drop him a line, the staff will read your postcards or even take him the phone for a chat. Why not get Rover a new hairdo, complete with fashion color and accessories? He might come back a different dog.

The Grand Paw also offers packages for birthdays, pool parties and weddings, so watch out if your dog is a party animal. He may not want to come home.

You'll want to call in advance to make reservations, especially in the summer. And don't forget to ask for a chauffeur so that Fido can arrive in style.

WHERE

DESERT ANIMAL HOSPITAL

4299 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs
778-9999,
www.desertanimalhospitalps.com

Rates: Standard room, \$21-29 per dog per night; luxury suite, \$35-44 per dog per night

THE GRAND PAW

51-750 Jackson St., Indio
398-9900, www.thegrandpaw.com

Rates: \$38-50 per dog per night depending on room choice