

FRANKLIN COUNTY FL
We're salty!



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WHOA, DOGGY! FRANKLIN COUNTY IS FIDO-FRIENDLY

Franklin County, FL -- Come, Rufus! Come, Rover! Grab your furry friends and hit the beach – it's all gone to the dogs! The quaint coastal villages and towns that comprise Franklin County, located on the northwest Gulf Coast of Florida, open their arms to the family dog(s) with exceptional pet-friendly options for travelers. From pet-friendly accommodations and restaurants to pet-friendly parks and beaches – Spot will feel more than welcome in Franklin County!

Upon arrival, Spot will enjoy the luxury of frolicking on some of the world's finest beaches—among the few left in Florida where the pooches may still prance! For those dogs on-leash or under direct voice control (and with clean-up required—Franklin County provides biodegradable waste bags in the parks and at the dune walkovers), the public beaches of St. George Island, Carrabelle Beach and the secluded and remote Dog Island welcome dogs of all sizes. While dogs are encouraged to romp and explore the

natural seascape, the Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park and the Dog Island nature conservancy are off-limits to man's best friend (with the exception of pet-friendly campsites at the state park).

For those hounds with sea legs, Journeys of St. George Island will gladly accommodate dogs on a variety of natural adventures. Eco-tours, bay fishing excursions, sunset cruises, powerboat and kayak rentals are just some of the ways that the dog-loving folks at Journeys make sure man's best friend has the opportunity to enjoy the fresh sea breezes and lush surrounds of the area. In addition, pet-friendly boat rentals are offered by Wefing's Marine Apalachicola Boat Rentals in Eastpoint and pet-friendly boat excursions are offered by Captain Gill's River Cruises in Apalachicola.

Shopping, dining and exploring the charming towns of Franklin County holds even more merriment for the pooches. Petunia: For Pets and Their People, in downtown Apalachicola, is a unique boutique that rolls out the red carpet for customers' well-behaved pets. Offering gifts, apparel and accessories for pets and their owners, Petunia sets the standard with festive collars and leashes, gourmet treats, designer beds and pet carriers, luxury pet bath and body products, pet life jackets for sea dogs, toys, breed-specific gifts, pet-centered greeting cards and more. Other "Spot"-friendly shops in Apalachicola include Downtown Books & Purl, offering both books and fine knitting accessories; Frame Shop, specializing in custom frames; Oyster Catcher, a European-inspired boutique and Green Door, a boutique offering antiques, home furnishings and original artwork.

After pups and their owners have worked up an appetite exploring the towns, parks, seashores or the open waters, they can park their tired paws at one of the local dining establishments offering outdoor seating and enjoy local fare. In 2006, a Florida

law went into effect allowing outdoor dining establishments to welcome their customers' dogs—something Franklin County embraced with open arms!

In Apalachicola dogs and their owners can nosh on local favorites at Veranda's Bistro & Wine Shop, Up the Creek Raw Bar, Hole in the Wall Oyster Bar, Tamara's Café Floridita, and Apalachicola Seafood Grill. Also, the Blue Parrot Ocean Front Café on St. George Island allows dogs to accompany guests at outdoor tables.

After the pups have worn themselves out playing in the surf or accompanying their owners on the sea or in town, they will have plenty of places to rest their weary heads. On St. George Island, Resort Vacation Properties extends the welcome mat to the family dog(s) at 213 of 386 total properties and Collins Vacation Rentals boasts 116 pet-friendly accommodations of almost 300 rental homes and condos. Vacation rentals range from the cozy coastal cottage or condo to the luxuriously outfitted, multi-level beach-front home—with rates to accommodate any vacation budget, and the most particular of pups. In addition to welcoming Spot, Collins Vacation Rentals welcomes all dog-owner guests with a dog biscuit tied to a roll of biodegradable plastic pet waste bags. Owners are generally given 21 bags for their week's stay, following the manufacturer's recommendation of walking one's dog three times per day.

Other pet-friendly accommodations located on St. George Island are Fickling Vacation Rentals, Suncoast Vacation Rentals, St. George Island Vacation Properties, HomeAway Vacation Rentals and St. George Inn. And for those who prefer to sleep under the stars, Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park offers pet-friendly campsites.

In Apalachicola, two charming, historic inns from the Victorian era—the Gibson Inn and the Coombs Inn—both accommodate pups, as do the upscale lodgings at The

Consulate and the laid-back quarters of the Rancho Inn. Other pet-friendly accommodations are the Water Street Hotel & Marina, the Bryant House Bed & Breakfast and the Apalachicola River Inn.

Dogs are also welcomed in various accommodations throughout Carrabelle. The Old Carrabelle Hotel B& B, Franklin Inn at Carrabelle, The Moorings at Carrabelle, C-Quarters Marina, The Ho-Hum RV Park, the Carrabelle Beach, An RV Outdoor Destination and the pet-friendly rentals at Sandy Beach Properties all open their doors to our four-legged friends. In Eastpoint, Cottage by the Bay and Sportsman's Lodge are both pet-friendly; on Alligator Point, visitors will find pet-friendly lodgings offered by Harbor Point Realty and on Dog Island, dogs and owners alike will find a home away from home at The Pelican Inn.

What's more, events and festivities throughout the year celebrate "for the love of dogs and cats" with area businesses regularly supporting fundraising efforts for the Franklin County Humane Society (FCHS). For those looking to adopt a loving, four-legged friend from the FCHS and enjoy the local springtime festivities, adoption booths regularly held in the spring include the Eastpoint Fire Department's Annual Charity Rib Cook-off (in March) and the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival (in April). Also, the Franklin County Humane Society hosts a festive Cinco de May event on May 5 complete with authentic food, drink and music at "Some Like it Hotter" on St. George Island, including a silent auction with all proceeds benefiting the FCHS.

With so many fido-friendly accommodations, activities, events and restaurants to choose from, it's hard for both pet-owners and dogs alike to resist a vacation in Franklin County, Florida!

**For additional consumer information, contact:
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