

50+ Dog Friendly Places in SW Florida!



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239.542.1075

Visit 50+ Dog Friendly Places in SW Florida!

This book is dedicated to Tiki Lynn who passed on 8/29/2016.

Looking for some great dog-friendly places in SW Florida?

You've come to the right place. This eBook is written by a fellow dog-lover, Team Aubuchon's Director of Marketing & Sales, Diane VanArsdale. Her passion to enjoy the Florida lifestyle with her beautiful German Shepherd, Tiki Lynn, was the inspiration behind writing this eBook. In it she shares personal experiences as she traveled around the local area in search of dog-friendly places. Look for descriptions of restaurants, parks, a dog-friendly hotel, retail stores, and even a local island! Once she shared these findings with a few of her friends and associates, she realized there are many dog lovers out there who would also appreciate this information. Now with a click of a button, all dog lovers can take advantage of her local research.

The message behind this eBook?

*Celebrate every day with your dog! We can learn so much from our pets, just watching and listening to them. They teach us unconditional love, what true companionship is, and how to enjoy the simple things in life. They give us the opportunity to take a break and reflect on other things besides our fast-paced lives. **Enjoy your pup!***

***Leashed, well-mannered and behaved dogs are welcome.
It is best to call each restaurant before visiting for specifics and details.
Business owners reserve the right to ask feisty pups to leave.
This information is good as of November 2016. Please
call individual locations for updates.***



Cape Coral

Fathoms Restaurant @ Cape Harbour

Fathoms is definitely a hot spot in SW Cape Coral. With water views, great food, and live entertainment, it's no wonder this place is so popular. Add to it the fact that it's pet friendly, and you open up a whole new world. I brought my German Shepherd, Tiki, there and felt very comfortable at the oversized, outdoor patio bar where I sat on a high-top stool talking with friends and listening to music. If you prefer, you can choose an outdoor table where you can enjoy dinner and drinks, and a cool breeze from the nearby waterway. Situated on the Caloosahatchee River, this place is not only one of my favorites, but a prime pick for locals and visitors, residents and boaters, and of course, dog lovers. *Fathoms* offers both inside and outside dining and, in my opinion, has



become known for the best pizza in town. If you like yachts, boats, and water, then you're in the right place. People watching? You bet! In addition to live entertainment throughout the week, definitely try out Tuesday, Friday and Sunday nights when locals and snowbirds gather for some of the best music performances in town. And don't forget your furry friend! *Fathoms* is located in Cape Harbour and is accessible by boat off the Caloosahatchee River or by car from Chiquita Boulevard. Call for details, 239.542.0123.

Rum Runners @ Cape Harbour

Another hot spot in Cape Harbour for you and your doggie is *Rum Runners'* outdoor patio. Enjoy amazing conch fritters, great mixed drinks during Happy Hour 3:00pm – 6:30pm, and spectacular views of the water while the sun is setting.

Dogs welcome during normal business hours.

Be sure to call for details, 239.542.0200.

Monkey Bar and Steakhouse

When I walked into the patio, I immediately found this place has it all! Friendly faces, great drink specials, sing-a-long entertainers, and a cheerful staff ready to cater to your dog. Bring your pup to the outside dining area where you can enjoy live music and a great steak dinner with your dog right beside you. This bar is definitely a Cape hidden secret! The music, food, atmosphere and staff are top notch. They will even bring your doggie a bowl of ice cold water. Call for details, 239.549.8800.





New England Moorings

This restaurant is a laid back, casual dining and down to earth place to meet friends and have fun. Fish, shrimp, scallops, steaks, ribs, chicken and pork round off the menu. Their Irish cannoli is like a little piece of heaven and the bread pudding is incredible. Both topped off with sweet whipped cream. Here your pup will love to lie in the oversized patio and enjoy a complimentary "Barkarita!" Call for details, 239.851.9141.

Slate's

Slate's carries the unwavering tradition of serving only the finest fresh, local ingredients, with every menu offering made on-site. With a Cajun, Creole style menu, this venue perfectly melds five-star tastes with a fun and unforgettable dining experience. Sit beside your dog while enjoying one of the weekly drink specials or some wine with friends. Call for details, 239.540.6800.



Time to Eat

Enjoy fresh Mediterranean food from delicate Serrano ham, to tasty squid risotto and succulent lamb ribs, with fabulous homemade desserts. You can sit with your doggie in one of the two tables outside where the staff will make sure you and your pup feel a part of their family! Call for details, 239.573.6360.

Ceno Grille is the second restaurant of local owner George Lukas, and a genuine locals' favorite! George incorporates his mother's original recipes with influence from his prior Italian restaurant, and Maryland style of cooking seafood. Ceno's is the place to go when craving Greek and Italian cuisine, whether you dine inside or out (or take your meal to go). Tucked away in a strip center on the corner of Chiquita and Cape Coral Parkway in SW Cape, Ceno's is the perfect place for lunch or dinner. Check out all the action while dining al fresco with your doggie. With a beer and wine bar, a tasty beverage is only an order away! Call for details, 239.549.2366.



The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village

Sometimes it's just too difficult to leave your furry friend behind when you travel! The Westin Cape Coral Resort @ Marina Village welcomes pets up to 50 lbs. There is no pet fee. Call for more information, 239.541.5000. Be sure to visit their pet-friendly outdoor bar, *The Nauti Mermaid*, 239.541.5600.

Holiday Inn Express

This dog-friendly hotel is located in the heart of Cape Coral. Enjoy cool breezes and warm sunshine from the nearby Caloosahatchee River while you venture out with your best four-legged friend! Holiday Inn's pet policy is a \$20 daily fee and a 30lb weight limit. Be sure to call for details, 239.542.2121. Located @ 1538 Cape Coral Parkway.

Hampton Inn Suites

This beautiful hotel is conveniently located in downtown Cape Coral. The Hampton Inn welcomes dogs for a \$25 pet fee, no weight limit. Be sure to call for details, 239.540.1050. Located @ 619 SE 47th Terrace.



Big Blue

Their goal is to be a local gastropub with handcrafted cocktails and beers and to serve food that is truly handcrafted and made from scratch. Look for healthy interesting takes on everyday food, specials and the test kitchen menu.

Big Blue Brewery is a full functioning grain to glass facility. They provide easy drinking and balanced beers that appeal to all levels of beer drinkers using local ingredients when possible like Honey from Walker Farms in the Honey Brown Ale. With 24 different beers on tap, you're sure to find one for your taste. Take a tour with the Brewery or try a flight of four beers while enjoying their covered patio listening to great local music.

Big Blue Brewery's mantra is they care about our planet and make every effort to source products that are either biodegradable or can be recycled thus leaving a smaller footprint on the environment. Call for details, 239.471.2777. Located @ 4721 SE 10th Pl.

WagginTailsDog Park at Rotary Park, Cape Coral

Rotary Park is home to the best dog park in the Cape. With two separate fenced-in areas for big dogs and small dogs, your pooch is sure to make friends quickly with fellow pups and their humans! Drop by for a quick run inside the fenced-in area, or take your pooch for a nice long walk around the track or inside the park. It's a perfect summerday when you can enjoy beautiful scenery, and a nice hike in the park. Look for gazebos with picnic tables where you and your pooch can take a break, listen to nature's sounds, and look for critters.



The preserved area is gorgeous and cannot be developed, excluding the nine acres of upland that a building, the dog park, and the open areas currently occupy. The 4,200 square foot environmentalcenter is used for gardening and nature-related classes, exercise classes, summer camp, and is home to the Burrowing Owl Festival and large native plant sales. It is also available to rent for small to medium sized gatherings, as long as you don't mind partying with a few creatures! A variety of small critters reside in the nature center including snakes, frogs, lizards and turtles.



Stop by the butterfly house donated by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. View all the beautiful butterflies and plants from outside the house every day, pick up information on how to attract them to your yard, or take a tour. Free tours of the butterfly house are given each Monday, Friday and Saturday at 10:30am. Monetary donations are accepted by the *Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife* for maintenance of the butterfly house.

[Tour Rotary Park.](#)

Visit the Liam J. Perk Memorial Playground or try out the exercise equipment and trail. Visit the [Liam J. Perk Foundation](#) website for Liam's touching story. Call for details, 239.549.4606.

Walk-in dog park registrations accepted Monday thru Saturday 8:00am-3:30pm.
Facility Hours: Monday thru Saturday 8am-4pm excluding government holidays.
Park Hours: Dawn-Dusk.

Rotary Park [EnvironmentalCenter](#)
 5505 Rose Garden Road
 Cape Coral, FL 33914
 Phone: 239.549.4606
rotaryparkinfo@capecoral.net



Dog Days Delight

With a slogan like: "No Paws, No Drooling, No Service," how can you go wrong? The best thing about this facility is it's CAGELESS! That means your furry family member doesn't have to stay at home locked up in a crate all day with nothing to do but stare at the walls. Dog Days Delight offers everything for your pooch to be happy: A cage-free facility, play time, grooming, baths, vet services, daycare from a few hours to several days, and of course, love. They believe a doggie should not be stuck in a crate all day alone. Their mission is to give your dog a vacation away from home, full of fun and without any stress. In Dog Days Delight you can also find toys, accessories, and treats for your pup and they carry food brands such as Nile, Blue Buffalo, Live Free, Earthborn, Merrick and many more! With all of these amenities the biggest problem you'll have will be to get your dog to go home. Call for details, 239.471.0414.



The Beach Dog

The first time I visited the bakery I was looking for a birthday treat for Tiki. Wow, does this place have everything! Besides so many treats from which to choose, I couldn't stop looking at all the specialty items, like a really cool German shepherd key holder I had to have and toys, toys, toys. I mean, really good toys – not the kind that easily fall apart. They also offer great dog food, nutritional treats, harnesses, leads, collars and hard-to-find items. Some food brands they carry include California Natural, EVO, Innova, Canidae, Wellness, Eagle Pack Holistic Select, Solid Gold, and Merrick. The bakery isn't just for dogs – so you cat lovers come on by, too! Located @ 3512 Del Prado Blvd S. Call for details, 239.542.9663.

Lowe's, Home Depot, Ace Hardware

Need to get some shopping done but uncomfortable leaving your pet behind? No worries! Both Lowe's and Home Depot in Cape Coral are pet friendly. And Ace Hardware in downtown Cape Coral next to Winn Dixie also welcomes pets. Now your home shopping needs can be done with your best friend. Call for details: Lowe's - 239.573.6377, Home Depot - 239.656.3033, and Ace Hardware - 239.549.4260.



Stevie Tomato's Sports Grill

Since 1999, Stevie Tomato's has been a great spot for food, fun and entertainment. If you are looking for a Sports Bar and Grill, this is the place to go! Family fun includes bringing the family pup along to watch the game, and enjoy great food. Voted Best Sports Bar, Best Baby Back Ribs, Chicken Wings, and Happy Hour! Located in Cape Coral on Pine Island Road, 239.573.7877.



Anthony's on the Blvd

This little secret is a jewel of a place! You and your dog can enjoy a table on the patio and a great seafood or Italian dish, entertainment, and daily Happy Hour from 11:00am-7:00pm. Located @ 1303 Del Prado Blvd, 239.772.5900.

Ford's Garage

This 1920's prohibition era burger and beer joint is one of several "hot spots" in the Cape which means fun for you and your dog! Ford's Garage patio is ready for you and your doggie to enjoy. Open for lunch and dinner with full menus, such as; burgers, salads, light appetizers, and great beverages. Ford's Garage will give you the vibe of being in a 1920's service station/prohibition bar with its old style brick, dark colors, rich wood and hand-hammered copper bar top. Located at 1719 Cape Coral Pkwy E, 239.540.3673.



Dairy Queen

Anytime is the right time for an ice cream! Or better yet, how about a burger, chicken wrap, or even a salad? No matter your craving, Dairy Queen has it all. Bring your pup for a treat and enjoy the Florida weather outside at a DQ table. Located at 1419 NE Pine Island Rd, 239.574.8239.

Ice Sssscreamin

Cooling off from a warm summer day in the Cape is a must! So how about enjoying delicious ice cream at Cape Coral's ice cream shop, "Ice Sssscreamin!" Snack on all the favorites: Sundaes, banana splits, brown cows, Italian ices, root-beer floats, frozen yogurt, sugar-free ice cream, and rainbow sherbet. Bring your doggie along for a tasty treat after a trip to the dog park at Rotary Park. Be sure to call for hours/details, 239.541.9100. Located at 520 Cape Coral Pkwy E.



First Round Draft

Pet friendly on the full-service waterfront patio, you can enjoy a menu filled with bold-flavored, made-to-order items, including a variety of appetizers, a Kids Menu, specialty salads, burgers, deli sandwiches, wraps, pastas, seafood and steaks, with boat dockage on the Honolulu Canal. Watch the game from the outside bar. Located at 1217 Del Prado Blvd, 239.673.9010.

Fort Myers & Fort Myers Beach

The Shell Factory, Fort Myers

Be sure to take your four-legged friend on your next trip to the Shell Factory in Fort Myers. Inside you will find the perfect dog park known as "Doggy Heaven." You can also bring your dog over to the outdoor *Dog Bones Café* for a special doggie treat! The restaurant is the perfect spot to stop for a cool drink between shopping, activities in the Fun Park, and a visit to the Nature Park. Get your adrenaline fix on the Soaring Eagle zip line for only \$8.50 per person! The Shell Factory has been a Southwest Florida staple for more than 70 years. With more than five million shells and over 18 acres of shopping, displays and entertainment, you and your pup are sure to have a blast. Call 239.995.2141. Visit www.shellfactory.com for exclusive coupons and calendar of events.



Nervous Nellie's, Fort Myers Beach is a casual, family-fun restaurant that boasts a large selection of appetizers, fresh seafood, overstuffed sandwiches and entrées. Dine in air-conditioned comfort or outside on Nellie's expansive waterfront patio.

Free parking for car and boat. Each time I visit this place, I have more fun than the last! Bring your doggie and sit on the patio—typically you will be directed to the perimeter of the patio to enjoy dinner, drinks, live music with your friends, and your pup by your side.

This place is popular which means it is busy—especially in season, so you might have to wait a few minutes. But not to worry, take a walk on the nearby docks and tour the boats, or take a photo in the HUGE oversized beach chair! Get ready to make some memories! Located at 1131 1st Street, 239.463.8077.



Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, Fort Myers Beach

Looking for a Key West type of experience? The minute I walked into Parrot Key, the Key West mood overwhelmed me! This casual open-air restaurant features a spectacular view of Matanzas Harbor and offers the best in tropical drinks, tempting appetizers and delicious entrées. Special seating is available for you and your dog on the right side of the restaurant - a prime viewing spot that overlooks the water. The staff and others seem to gravitate to you once they see you with the cutest dog in the world! Soak up stunning waterfront views and enjoy live entertainment Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Located at 2500 Main St, Fort Myers Beach, 239.463.3257.

The Fish House, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs & Sanibel

If you're in the mood for fresh seafood, try out The Fish House, a funky seafood restaurant accessible by boat or car. Located directly on the water, this colorful restaurant is not only pet friendly but offers a wide range of delectable seafood, from fried lobster nuggets to oysters on the half shell. Soak up the sun with your pup at your side. They even have two other pet-friendly locations on Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs and Sanibel Island. Fort Myers Beach, 239.765.6766. Bonita Beach, 239.495.5770. Sanibel, 239.472.7770.



Matanzas on the Bay, Fort Myers Beach is situated @ 414 Crescent St between 1st and 2nd streets. This hidden secret offers fabulous views of the Bay whether you choose the upper or lower deck. If you have a big dog, I would suggest the upper deck because there is a lot of room to spread out, great cornertables overlooking the water and the lower deck – all for your dog's viewing pleasure! Tiki was offered a bowl of water and had a few pepperonis for an appetizer. The service is great, the food is great and the location – wow what a view! Take two rights just as you arrive on the island over the bridge from the north. The entertainment is just right – an acoustic singer with lots of variety including Jimmy Buffett, Credence Clearwater, James Taylor, and Pink Floyd. Dogs welcome! Located at 416 Crescent St, Fort Myers Beach, 239.463.3838.

Parrot Key Caribbean Grill

Stop in for authentic Caribbean food, delectable desserts, and stunning sunsets. Outdoor eating area welcomes dogs. Located at 2500 Main St, Fort Myers Beach, 239.463.3257.



Beyond the Cape

Coconut Point Mall, Estero

This Simon Mall has been pet friendly since opening in 2005. With doggie water fountains and clean up bags throughout the property, your dog feels welcome. Most stores and restaurants are dog friendly. However, keep in mind it is up to individual stores whether or not they allow dogs. Dogs must be well behaved, leashed, and under their owner's control at all times. This great center has monthly events dedicated to our beloved furry friends; for example, the first Thursday of every month is Dogs' Night Out. Check the web site for the most recent info, or call to find out more. This place has it all! 140 stores and over 25 restaurants - all surrounding several lakes with a boardwalk, and everything in every price range.

Coconut Point Hyatt Regency Resort is a dog-friendly resort, situated on 26 acres with a championship golf course, tennis courts, numerous swimming pools, bars and restaurants.



Check out [Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa](#).

- Reservations with a pet must be booked directly through the hotel three days in advance, 239.444.1234.
- The Hyatt charges a one-time \$150.00 fee.
- Dogs up to 50 lbs. are accepted.
- A doggie bed and treat/water dish are provided in-room.

Bell Tower Shops, Fort Myers

This dog-friendly mall is an open-air lifestyle center, located in Fort Myers at U.S. 41 and Daniels Parkway, with 40 retailers, including Saks Fifth Avenue, The Fresh Market, nine restaurants including Bistro 41, and Bell Tower 20 Regal Cinemas. The center's sidewalk garden setting of lush landscaping, splashing fountains and covered walkways makes it a popular gathering place. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the center. Dogs are welcome in most stores, including Ann Taylor. There are loads of special events happening at this center, including dog friendly activities and events! To learn more, call 239.489.1221.



Dog Beach, Bonita Springs

Believe it or not, there is a beach right here in SW Florida made just for dogs! *The Dog Beach* is located just south of Fort Myers Beach off Estero Blvd, as you are passing Lovers Key State Park and entering Bonita Springs. Watch closely for a small sign that marks the location off to the right. Parking is just off the side of the road. Be sure to check for "high tide or low tide" because it makes a difference in how easily it is to walk to the beach. There is a bit of a trail to get there, and at high tide, you may find yourself wading in knee-high waters to get to the actual beach. Once you follow the trail, it is well worth it. The beach opens up in front of you and it is beautiful! On good days (low tide) there is quite a bit of area to play, frolic, set up a beach chair, and enjoy your favorite beverage. Throw a stick, football, tennis ball, and even swim with your best buddy right in the Gulf. (Keep in mind a good pet owner always watches their pet.) If you have a boat, anchor near the beach, and let your dog cool off while playing with his new furry friends.



Picnic Island, from Cape Coral

Jump on your boat with your pup and head out to the Gulf! From Cape Coral, this island is located just west of Marker 101 at the Pine Island and Fort Myers Beach split. Look for a fabulous little island where families enjoy playing with their pooch. It's a great place to stop and have lunch. This little hideaway has become known as a stomping ground for pups and humans alike and a nice break from the sun as you are boating towards one of your favorite destinations. If you're feeling really adventurous, bring a tent, camp out, gaze at the stars, and stay the night. It's the perfect little island getaway that's not too far from home.





Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits, Naples

Get five-star foods at two-star prices while having fun with friends and family! Fred's offers entertainment almost every night and even hosts Poker games on Friday! Named after one of the owner's 14 pound Chihuahuas, this diner thrives on welcoming you and your furry friends where Fred's patio is always pet friendly! Fred's has a tapas menu and two bars that will serve your favorite cocktail. Call for details, 239.431.7928.



The Dock at Crayton Cove, Naples

"The Real Taste of Naples" Waterfront dining is located in the heart of Old Naples where 12th Ave. S meets Naples Bay. Their Bloody Mary cocktail was awarded "Best in Naples" by the readers of Naples Illustrated magazine! The Bloody Mary Bar is open on Sundays from 10:30am-2:00pm. Call for details, 239.263.9940.

The Survey Café, Bonita Springs

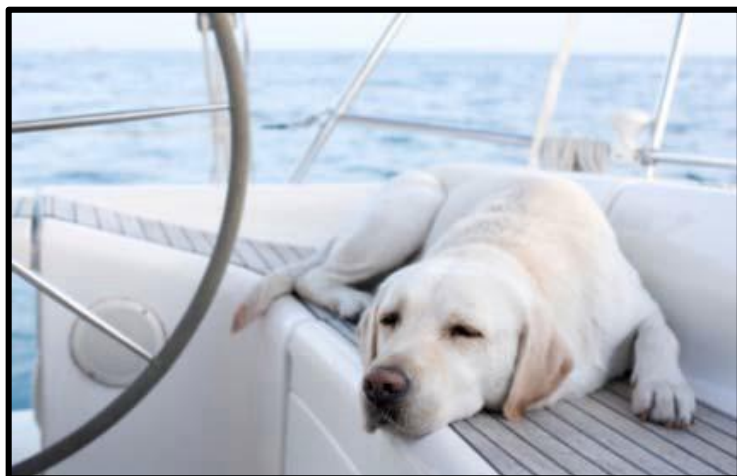
The Survey Café is a small historic house turned Café in old Florida tradition. The name "survey" was from the original name of Bonita Springs, which comes from a camp for survey crews, long ago. There is always an antique hand tool, historic local photograph, or unique original local art piece hanging on the walls, and generally there's a "local" there to tell you about it. Sit on the patio with your pup for all-day breakfast every day and all-day brunch on Sundays. Call for details, 239.992.2233.



Island Café on the Bay, Matlacha

Island Cafe on the Bay is a waterfront restaurant specializing in broasted chicken, seafood, and Love Boat ice cream (14 flavors). There's no better place to dine on the water and see the sunset than this café. So, how do they make their famous broasted chicken? It's a pressure-cooking method that keeps meat juicy and tender inside, and crispy on the outside without being greasy. With conventional frying, 30% of the oil is absorbed; but with broasting, only 2% is absorbed. Bring your pup or doggie, have dinner on the patio and check out the amazing waterfront views of Matlacha Pass; it is one of the most incredible places to view sunsets!!! 239.540.3463.





Bert's Bar, Matlacha

Come by boat or car to the best kept secret on Pine Island in Matlacha. As the song says, some folks come for the music, and some come for the view of beautiful Matlacha Pass. Either way, I found locals and tourists alike having a blast at one of Pine Island's favorite watering holes. Sit on the edge of the dock and dangle your feet close to the water, while your dog lies at your side, or choose to sit on the patio. Another local's favorite, the audience at Bert's is a wide variety of fun loving people; anyone is welcome and everyone feels welcome as soon as they walk in! Bert's Bar hosts the BEST bands in town, focusing on the BLUES. 239.282.3232.

The Waterfront Restaurant, St. James City

Have you ever wondered what happens at the southernmost tip of St. James City? Take a look at the map and it appears the road just ends. Well guess what? The street literally ends at the water's edge overlooking San Carlos Bay. The waterfront is the hot spot on the southern tip of Pine Island. The inside of this place has a ton of personality. I couldn't stop looking at the walls, the ceiling, and behind the bar. Everywhere I looked there was some original piece of "artwork" created or donated by previous patrons and regulars. It could literally take you all day to get through the decor! Bring your dog and hang out on the back deck while you watch the sun set directly over the water. Come by boat or car. Call for details, 239.283.0592.



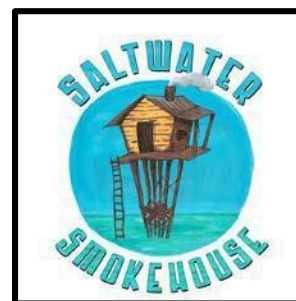
Miceli's Restaurant, Matlacha

This is a down-to-earth, waterfront restaurant specializing in Italian & American meals, plus live music seven days a week under the tiki where you can jam out to your favorite tunes with your pup. Miceli's was voted "Best Happy Hour" on Pine Island three years in a row. Check out their great deals Tues, Wed, and Thurs nights. If it's your birthday come on out and Miceli's will give you a FREE meal (with valid ID). There's always something to celebrate here with your furry friends! Call for details, 239.282.8233.



Saltwater Smokehouse, Saint James City

From baby back ribs, black beans and rice, to pulled pork and slow smoked brisket, slaw and fries, to roasted chicken and home-made mac n’ cheese, this restaurant mixes traditional Southern BBQ flavor with the local SW Florida seafood culture. Mouthwatering meat is smoked slowly on location from 6 to 20 hours, covered with a special dry rub and served with your choice of sauce. Your doggie can relax on the deck area while you savor the smoking flavors! Call for details, 239.282.8811.



Island Seafood Market & Restaurant, Matlacha

Both a market and seafood restaurant, this popular place offers fresh and smoked fish, shrimp, chowder and crab cakes. In addition, they carry a variety of specialty spices, original sauces and dips, and products to compliment your seafood. The freshness is unmatched at Island’s because they catch their own fish and work alongside local fishermen to make sure the customer’s dine-in or dine-at-home experience is like no other. You and your pup can sit out back and the staff will gladly bring your little friend a bowl of water. Call for details, 239.283.2525.

Lazy Flamingo 2, Bokeelia

The Lazy Flamingo has a menu consisting of high quality, uniquely seasoned entrees such as steamed shrimp, fried shrimp, conch fritters, and Buffalo wings. Dogs are allowed at outdoor tables. With two locations in Sanibel and Bokeelia, there is a Lazy Flamingo close-by for you and your pup to visit! Look for a variety of “signature” dishes including the famous Flamingo garlic bread and dead parrot wings (try at your own risk). Call for details, 239.283.5959.

Keylime Bistro, Captiva Island

The Award winning KeylimeBistro serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and is sure to tantalize the most demanding palate, with a full bar and live entertainment featured seven days a week. *This restaurant was #1 for Island Dining by the News Press, the local newspaper.* Located in “Old Captiva,” this is the perfect place to take your pup for a walk while enjoying the beautiful views of this undisturbed town. After lunch or dinner you can head out to the crystal clear beaches nearby. Call for details, 239.395.4000.



Woody's, St. James City

For dog owners, I consider this a must-visit restaurant! Situated along the water in St. James City, Woody's is an old Florida original—laid back, nothing fancy. Just cold beer, fresh Gulf seafood, and great burgers! Whether jumping in the car to visit a new place, or enjoying a day out on the water, Woody's is your one-stop-shop for great food, great atmosphere, and great company. Located in the heart of St. James City and old Pine Island, you will find fresh ingredients, local seafood, and a wonderful menu with a little something for everyone. Be sure to bring your pup, order a Land Shark beer with a plate of shrimp, and hang out for music. What a great day to spend with friends and your dog! It doesn't get much better than this. Come by boat or car. I also learned Woody's has a great story to tell for dog lovers. The restaurant is named after a pure-bred yellow Labrador, born in 1994 outside Light Street, PA, a town boasting a small population of about 450. Woodrow Wilson (Woody for short) was definitely not the runt of the litter...in fact, he was all paws, a giant dump truck-sized head, and most importantly a huge heart. There was never a bigger, gentler dog around. He was more than happy to lie around and be a jungle gym to all the kids in the family. Woody was a true character. Want to learn more? Go to Woody's and read the rest of the story on the menu. Call for details, 239.283.5555.



RC Otters, Captiva Island

When I think of one of the best places here in SW Florida, I think of RC Otter's. Here's why: Your dog is welcome, they offer tasty food at an affordable price, tropical drinks, Jimmy Buffett type entertainment, a casual atmosphere, and a friendly staff. You can even play a game of ring toss with complete strangers, who after a few beers, and love pats for your dog, become your friends! This is a place for the whole family. Located in the heart of old Captiva Village, on Andy Rosse Lane. Call for details, 239.395.1142.



Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda

The Village Fish Market, Harpoon Harry's, and the Oyster Bar are three separate restaurants at Fisherman's Village. You can even bring your pet inside the promenade as long as they are on a leash, or carried if you have a small pup. Enjoy live music, waterfront views, casual dining, and a full-service bar with your furry friend at your side. Call for details, 941.639.8721.

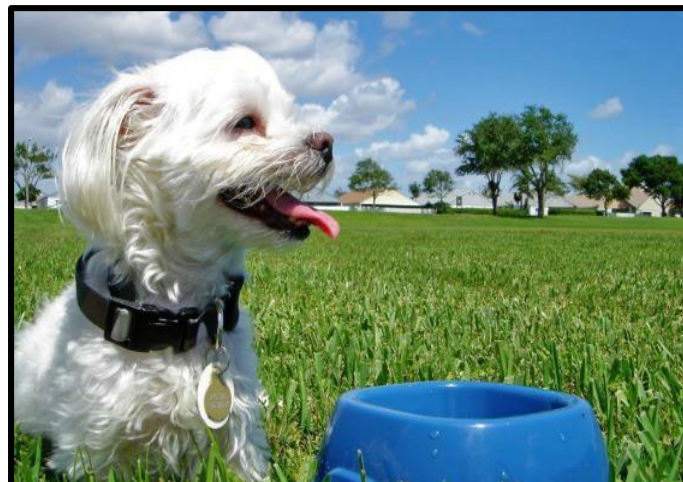
Blue Dog Bar & Grill, Matlacha

Blue Dog is named after the owner's first dog, Blue. This bar and grill serves up SW Florida's favorite dishes including local mullet fried with grits for breakfast, smoked in dip as a starter, and blackened with lemon-caper sauce. Steaks are hand cut. Cracked conch is fried in panko bread crumbs and served with Asian chili sauce. Whether your dog's name is Blue or not, pass by with your pup and see for yourself what every local and tourist is raving about! 239.558.4970.



Pooch Park, North Fort Myers

Pooch Park, located at Judd Park, has large and small dog areas with potable water available for both dogs and owners. The entire system is irrigated to maintain the turf and to regularly clean the facility. Dog lovers are asked to use the facility and pick up after their dogs. The standard rules apply: Keep dogs in fenced areas when off their leashes, "scoop the poop" with provided bags and deposit in trash cans, carry a leash, and if your dog digs, fill in the holes. Located off Driftwood Drive and Parkview Court. 239.229.1627.



Buckingham Community Park, North Fort Myers

This is the first Lee County and Recreation Park providing recreational opportunities for dog owners and their pets. Look for two fenced-in areas for dogs to play off leash. There is a small agility area, too. There is also a smaller fenced area for shy/small dogs and puppies. They have dog water fountains, a dog shower, dog waste disposal centers, park benches and many trails to walk your dog on leash. Located at 9800 Buckingham Road, 239.369.1521. You can find a Lee County brochure describing the amenities and rules of this dog park by clicking: [Lee County Dog Park Brochure](#).



Koreshan State Park, Estero

It's always a good timetaking a self-guided tour of the Koreshan gardens and buildings. You can relax along the Estero River in the shade of the historic Bamboo Landing, or watch the Koreshan story play out in the founder's house. Picnic facilities are available for a comfortable day along the Estero River. Or, if activity is what you crave, rent a canoe/kayak and paddle 3.5 miles out to Mound Key Archeological State Park. You can even set up camp for the weekend. Domestic pets are permitted in designated day-use areas. Call for information on park fees, camping fees, and guided tours, 239.992.0311.





Love Boat Home Made Ice Cream

This is the most popular place for ice cream near Ft. Myers Beach. You will find some of the most delicious homemade ice cream in SW Florida! With lines literally out the door, and during season extending alongside the building, it is well worth the wait! My favorite is the "grasshopper" flavor with chocolate cookie chunks and mint-flavored ice cream. It is fabulous! Tiki gets a small doggie vanilla ice cream cup and we both enjoy our treats sitting at the picnic table directly out front, people watching, of course. Ice cream and petting a dog – what could be better? Choose from 50+ flavors of the creamiest ice cream, sugar/fat free selections, sorbets, and more! Bring your furry baby for a warm and fuzzy experience. Call for details, 239.466.7077.

Two locations: 16229 San Carlos Blvd, Ft. Myers (on the way to Ft. Myers Beach near Kelly Rd.) and 1700 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island. There is also a place on Matlacha that serves a few flavors of LOVE BOAT ice cream called Island Café, which is also pet-friendly.



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