



Among the dog areas at Four Paws Kingdom is one specifically for small dogs.

unique pet amenities for many years, which they continue to build upon.

Consider Four Paws Kingdom in Rutherfordton, N.C. The 40-site park, which sits on 34 acres, has eight separate dog parks, including a private dog park for people with dogs that “don’t play well” with other dogs.

“It’s one of the best additions we’ve ever made,” said Meik Bartoschek, who co-owns the park with his wife, Birgit. Other dog areas at Four Paws are designed specifically for big dogs or small dogs. They can also take a dip in the pond or creek and play in a dedicated agility field.

Four Paws does have restrictions on pit bulls, pit bull mixes and Rottweilers, due to “insurance company restrictions,” Bartoschek said.

However, MotorHome magazine found that parks’ restrictions are not uniform. Some parks, in fact, promote their willingness to accept any breed.

“We’ve had some of the sweetest pit bulls you’d ever want to meet in your life,” said Sandra West, co-owner of Edgewater Resort and RV Park in Kelseyville, Calif., adding that the only dog bite that ever took place involved a small poodle. They do ask that their customers’ pets be socialized, friendly and have no history of aggressive behavior.

Barbara DiPierre, co-owner of Crazy Horse Campground in Littleton, N.H., feels that pets are a part of the family and also accepts pets of any breed, as long as the owners bring proof that the pets have rabies vaccinations. “We feel that if they don’t give their dog a rabies vaccination, they’re not taking very good care of their pet,” she said.

DiPierre is also happy to report that she’s never had problems with big dogs. “In the 16 years we’ve been here, we’d

had one person bitten and that was by a little dog,” she said.

But aside from the restrictions, it’s the amenities that keep pet owners coming back. Four Paws has a 90 percent return visitor rate, Bartoschek said.

West, of Edgewater Resort, said people love using her park’s beach area, which is open to dogs. They also come for special events, which include a “pet weekend” with a “hot doggie barbecue for people and pets,” as well as a dog trainer and a dog groomer.

Four Paws Kingdom has “dog days” every May, which feature training, lectures and seminars. “This year, we had a dog massage therapist and we did free Canine Good Citizen certifications with our campers,” said Bartoschek, whose wife, Birgit, is a dog trainer. “She gives free agility instructions on a regular basis,” he said.

But while parks are doing their part to accommodate RVers with pets, they also say it’s important for RVers to keep their pets on a leash, obey all rules and look after their pets.

“If you want to bring pets, you have to read the pet rules, and we ask people to pick up after their pets and not leave them unattended,” said West of Edgewater Resort. “We consider pets like children. If you don’t want to be with your pets, don’t bring them.” ♦

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