

places—in addition to the 2 KOA parks mentioned above—that truly put the “C” in catering to canines. Moving from east to west, we start with:

Four Paws Kingdom, Rutherfordton, North Carolina

Dogs arriving at this aptly-named 33-acre campground may be happily surprised to discover that co-owner Birgit Bartoschek loves baking canine treats filled with lots of Fido-favorite flavors like peanut butter.

She and her husband, Meik, quickly concede that they are long-time canine fans. She is a dog trainer who offers obedience and agility workshops at the campgrounds. He had the foresight to open the first dog-dedicated campground in the United States.

“When we came to the United States from Germany in the late 1980s, hotels were not welcoming dogs as much as they do now, so we bought a camper so we could take our dogs with us on our vacations,” said Meik, now an American citizen with his wife. “Our corgi Schroeder is the professional people greeter and our corgi Lucy is the dog greeter. We offer one of the few campgrounds where you can swim with your dog during the hot summer. It’s not uncommon to see Chihuahuas playing with Great Danes here and we usually average about 75 dogs at any one time.”

FIDO-FRIENDLY ADVICE

Make sure your dog sports identification tags and microchips. Treat your dog to a head-to-tail exam by your veterinarian and ensure your dog is up-to-date on all vaccinations and flea/tick medications. Pack plenty of chow, treats, toys, bedding, extra leash and collar and a doggy first-aid kit.

IMPORTANT TIP: always check the campground’s specific pet rules in advance. Some places have insurance restrictions that prohibit certain breeds, such as Rottweilers or pit bulls. Pay attention to their leash or leash-free rules.

Post Oak Place RV Park, Denton, Texas

This campground, in the heart of the Lone Star State, is home to Myska, a 6-year-old terrier mix who wandered into the park as a stray and now hails as the park’s “hairy host.”

Myska (Czech for Little Mouse) loves to greet newcomers to this park that features plenty of shade (thanks to century-old oak trees), scenic picnic areas, swimming pool, climate-controlled exercise room and more.

“We’re not quite sure how old Myska is or



Post Oak Place RV Park

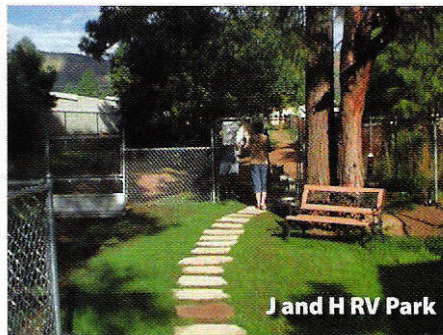
what type of dog she is,” said Lee Ann Saye, property manager. “But she just showed up one day in the office. We passed the word around and no one claimed her, so we adopted her.”

The RV park is less than 3 miles from a nearly-new dog park in the city of Denton. Guests also are informed of highly recommended veterinarians and groomers in the area. If you like to shop, there are plenty of shopping centers nearby and you can also visit Dallas and Fort Worth, both less than 30 miles from this RV park.

J and H RV Park Flagstaff, Arizona

Be prepared to chuckle at the very Fido-friendly J and H RV Park owned and operated by JoAnn and Harvey Mickelson for the past 23 years. Harvey has a reputation for posting playful signs and messages regarding canine guests, such as, “This park is not a bank. Don’t let your pet leave a deposit.”

After their beloved dog, Sheeba, died, the



J and H RV Park

Mickelsons now happily offer to pet sit dogs of visiting campers at daily rates are \$15 for the first dog and \$5 for the second dog. That is a great incentive, considering must-see places like the Grand Canyon, which require all-day visits, are just 90 miles away. He completes a check list of his “pet record card” that he gives to owners returning from all-day sightseeing treks.

The park also features a large pet run and a

pet wash with cold and hot water—for free.

“At our park, we make sure that dogs not feel like second-class citizens,” said Mickelson. “We get a lot of dogs here and a lot of cats. I haven’t had any offers to cat sit, but I would if asked.”

FIDO GOES CAMPING!

In the past year, 54 percent of campers took their pets on camping trips, according to the latest survey conducted by Campgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA). That’s a leap from 39 percent in 2005 to 54 percent in 2006.

By the end of this year, pet playgrounds will also open at KOA’s locations in Boston, Louisville, KY; Okeechobee and Sugar Loaf Keys in Florida; Nashville, Cape Hatteras, Las Vegas KOA at Circus Circus and Santa Cruz, CA. More are being considered and may open next year.

Caspar Beach RV Park and Campground, Mendocino, California

Any place that describes itself as the where the forest meets the sea and the melts into the deep blue waters must feel like heaven on earth for people and pets. It gets better. This campground in Mendocino, CA, eagerly declares itself as Fido-friendly and adds, “What vacation would be complete without the family pet?” Indeed.

The site sports a dog run and easy beach access. All breeds of well behaved dogs are welcomed at a rate of \$2 per night. Dogs must be kept on leashes in the campground and beach areas. 🐾

IF YOU GO

Four Paws Kingdom

Rutherfordton, North Carolina
(828) 287-7324 • www.4pawskingdom.com

Post Oak Place RV Park

Denton, Texas
(940) 387-8584 • www.postoakplace.com

J and H RV Park

Flagstaff, Arizona
(928) 526-1829 • www.flagstaffrvparks.com

Caspar Beach RV

Park and Campground
Mendocino, California
(707) 964-3306
www.casparbeachrvpark.com