

Your guide to dog-friendly spots in Tucson

By Gloria Knott Arizona Daily Star Sep 20, 2018 Updated 11 min ago

If you feel even the slightest glimmer of guilt when you go out for brunch and leave your dog at home, we're here to help.

If you haven't heard, Tucson was recently recognized as the most dog-friendly city in the nation.

In July, financial advice company SmartAsset released a survey that named Tucson the top spot for our love of furry friends.

And Tucson's No. 1 designation makes sense. Despite the scorching summer heat that can burn a pup's paws, the weather is desirable the rest of the year — for both dogs and humans alike.

Plus, Tucson is home to many dog parks and pet-friendly trails. It's also home to a slew of dog-friendly restaurants, shops, and other activities.

Here are a handful of them.

5 restaurants



Although the Hub Ice Cream Factory doesn't allow dogs inside, the ice creamery makes pupsicles for doggies to enjoy. The proceeds from the pupsicles are given to charity.

Sandy Ford / HUB Ice Cream Factory

The SmartAsset survey says that hundreds of Tucson restaurants, coffee shops, bars, and everything in between allow dogs. Yes, hundreds.

Since a list of every single spot might be too exhaustive, if you want to bring your pup, just call ahead of time and check the pet policy. Word to the wise: Most eateries only allow dogs, with the exception of service animals, on the outdoor patio. So, if your favorite spot has a patio, you're off to a good start.

Not only do many restaurants allow dogs, many also provide water to pups. Some even take it a step further and give treats.

And if you're worried about the cleanliness of the eateries that allow dogs, don't be. The Pima County Health Department has many regulations in place.

Here are five dog-friendly restaurant patios in Tucson:

1. **Saguaro Corners**, [3750 S. Old Spanish Trail](#)
2. **Vero Amore**, [2920 N. Swan Road](#)
3. **Reforma**, [4340 N. Campbell Ave.](#)
4. **Baja Cafe**, [7002 E. Broadway](#), [2970 N. Campbell Ave.](#), and [3930 W. Ina Road](#)
5. **Ghini's French Caffè**, [1803 E. Prince Road](#)

More puppy love: **Noble Hops**, which has a dog-friendly patio, runs a monthly "yappy hour" where pet owners (and their pups) can chat with vets over a bite to eat. A portion of the proceeds benefit various organizations. Noble Hops is located at [1335 W. Lambert Lane](#) in Oro Valley.

Hub Ice Cream Factory, [245 E. Congress St.](#), sells pupsicles, though pups aren't allowed inside the ice creamery. Proceeds from the pupsicles are given to charity.

5 shops



Among the shops that allow dogs is Bookmans, where dogs are even given treats. Bookmans has three Tucson locations: 6230 E. Speedway; 3733 W. Ina Road; and 3330 E. Speedway. They also have stores in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Mesa.

Benjie Sanders / Arizona Daily Star 2013

Restaurants often steal the limelight when it comes to dog-friendly places, but there are many shops that also allow dogs. And the same goes for stores – if you’re unsure of a pet policy, call ahead.

1. **Bookmans Entertainment Exchange** – All Bookmans locations allow dogs and even have treats on hand.
2. **Summit Hut**, [5251 E. Speedway](#) and [7745 N. Oracle Road](#) – Looking to get some outdoor gear? Bring your dog along for the adventure.
3. **Rosie’s Barket**, [327 E. Seventh St.](#) – Rosie’s Barket is as dog-friendly as dog-friendly can get. The pet store has toys, accessories, and a dog wash. They even have their own “barkery” for treats.
4. **La Encantada Shopping Center**, [2905 E. Skyline Drive](#) – The common grounds at La Encantada are dog-friendly, as are many of the stores, including Crate & Barrel, Lululemon, and Ben Bridge Jeweler. La Encantada also boasts a Humane Society location and many dog-friendly restaurants.
5. **Chain stores** – A number of chains are said to allow dogs, namely hardware stores, but we’ve also heard of some dog-friendly banks and drugstores in Tucson. Call ahead to check.

5 activities



The Loop spans 131 miles across Tucson, South Tucson, Marana and Oro Valley.

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So, we've got shopping and eating down. What about other activities?

Let's start with the seasonal stuff.

The Tucson Botanical Gardens will allow dogs until Sunday, Sept. 30.

Also, before the Picture Rocks Pool at 5615 N. Sanders Road closes for re-plastering, a "pupapoolooza" will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, where dogs are invited to swim. The Pima Animal Care Center will also bring adoptable dogs to the event. More information can be found at tucne.ws/pupapoolooza.

The Museum of Contemporary Art hosts a quarterly "yappy hour" for dogs to visit, enjoy dogtinis, and get their nails painted. Proceeds benefit the SAFE animal rescue. Plus, depending on the exhibit on display, dogs are sometimes allowed at the museum on a more regular basis. Call ahead to check or visit MOCA's website for details.

Dogtoberfest, a fundraiser for handi-dogs, is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 4. Festivities include paw painting, doggie obstacle courses and scavenger hunts, and a dogtini lounge. Visit dogtoberfestaz.org for more information.

Below are five activities that are dog-friendly year-round.

1. **DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, 6300 N. Swan Road** – In the mood to see some art? Maybe your dog is, too.

2. **A Loyal Companion**, [4758 E. Grant Road](#) – A Loyal Companion helps dogs, including those with disabilities or injuries, with fitness and exercising. They even have a doggie swimming pool.
 3. **The Loop** – The continuous pedestrian and bicyclist path throughout the Tucson area doesn't allow cars. But it does allow dogs.
 4. **Old Tucson Studios**, [201 S. Kinney Road](#) – Old Tucson is dog-friendly and even has an annual Labor Day celebration that features dog diving competitions.
 5. **Pima Air and Space Museum**, [6000 E. Valencia Road](#) – Per the website, dogs are welcome at the museum, but only service animals are allowed on boneyard tours.
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5 pet etiquette tips



Garrett, left, a 14-year-old standard poodle, greets 10-month-old Newfoundland Marnie as their owners Allan Garon, left, and Rick Paul talk over breakfast on the patio at Bisbee Breakfast Club, 410 N. Wilmot Road.

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While it's nice to bring your fur baby everywhere, it's important to remember pet etiquette.

There's also a new law in place that makes it illegal to misrepresent your dog as a service animal. Keep that in mind.

Two locals, Allan Garon and his wife, Nanci, certainly aren't the least bit shy when it comes to the etiquette encouraged at dog-friendly spots.

Several years ago, the couple started their own breakfast group, where they'd meet their friends at various restaurants around Tucson's east side several times a week. And of course, the Garons always bring their two standard poodles, Garrett and Cappy, along for breakfast. Their friends also bring their pups.

Here is what the Garons advise, which is also similar to what many business owners recommend or require:

1. Keep your dog on a leash.

2. Your dog should be well-behaved and friendly. That means no barking or running after other dogs or humans. It might also be smart to avoid bringing your dog to businesses during peak times, such as an eatery near the University of Arizona on game day.
3. Always keep an eye on your dog.
4. Clean up any mess that your dog might make. It's also a good idea to bring paper towels and waste bags — just in case.
5. At a restaurant, don't let your dog eat off the table. Bring your own water dish for your dog to use.

Gloria Knott