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### **FROM DOGGIE YOGA TO YAPPY HOURS, MIAMI WELCOMES PETS WITH WIDE ARRAY OF NECESSITIES AND LUXURIES**

(MIAMI) – For those seeking a home away from home, Miami welcomes guests traveling with pets with an extraordinary array of offerings ranging from the basic necessities of comfortable beds and water bowls to spa treatments, doggie yoga, yappy hours, jewel-studded collars, Shi Tzu sushi and other luxuries. One hotel employs a "creature concierge" to attend to every need of guests' faithful four-legged friends, while others offer special menus, pet turndown service, puppy pagers, play dates, grooming services and much more.

The welcome mat for pets is rolled out upon arrival. Miami International Airport now has a dual -surface service animal relief area located at Concourse E, with additional areas scheduled to open in 2008. Canine companions are equally at home in Miami's many parks, and leashed dogs and cats are a common sight strolling down streets from South Beach to Sunny Isles Beach.

Here is just a sampling of what pet owners can expect to find when they visit Miami and the Beaches:

#### **HOTELS:**

**Acqualina Resort:** The resort welcomes pets less than 25 pounds and provides a dog bone-shaped container that has plastic bags inside. Dog food and water bowls are placed in the room on a mat. For more information, visit [www.acqualinaresort.com](http://www.acqualinaresort.com).

**The Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club:** When it comes to guests' four-legged friends, The Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club barks up a tall order. Among

customized amenities that can be ordered in advance are a fluffy bed, special collars and leashes, elevated food and water bowls and favorite treats. A *Pooch Pouch* in-room dining menu, created specially by the resort's culinary team, offers a long leash of dining options and includes a doggy bagel, teeth-cleaning dog bone and much more. For more information, visit [www.fairmont.com/turnberryisle](http://www.fairmont.com/turnberryisle).

**Grove Isle Hotel & Spa:** This 49-room boutique hotel believes in pampering pets, so much so, sometimes human guests are envious. Best known for its poolside "yappy hour," the hotel has added new pet amenities. Grove Isle Hotel & Spa now offers a Creature Concierge on staff to arrange for all the pet accoutrements including Tiffany dog tags and charm bracelets, cashmere pet beds, local play dates, walking, shopping, priority seating at the pool and more. In addition, Grove Isle's restaurant, Baleen, offers gourmet treats for pets as well as outdoor dining spots. SpaTerre, Grove Isle's spa, offers reflexology for pets in their seaside spa cabanas and offers Doggie & Me yoga by appointment. For more information, visit [www.groveisle.com](http://www.groveisle.com).

The **Hotel Indigo** in Dadeland is a pet-friendly hotel with a terrace at its PHI restaurant that allows pet owners to dine with their furry friends. For more information, visit [www.miamidadelandhotel.com](http://www.miamidadelandhotel.com).

**Loews Miami Beach Hotel** bills itself as a "pet paradise" where poodles can stay in four-star accommodations, stroll trendy pedestrian malls like Lincoln Road and see some of the "Super Pets" of the modeling industry – including Spike, Muffin, Lassie and the hotel's own pet hostesses, Maddie and Minx. There is a special "Loews Loves Pets" menu or take-out from the nearby Dog Bar, as well as three doggie parks and lawns reserved just for pets. A special "Puppy Pager" is available from the front desk so the hotel can contact the owner if the pet is in distress. For more information, visit [www.loewshotels.com](http://www.loewshotels.com).

**Mandarin Oriental, Miami:** Pets can enjoy a vacation of their own with Mandarin Oriental, Miami's special "MO Pets" program. When pets check into the hotel, a keepsake golden Mandarin Oriental collar tag is provided to easily identify the special guests. Pets will find a plush pet bed, a bone-shaped place mat with food and water bowls, special edible treats and bottled water in their room upon arrival. Turndown service and a special pet menu through in-room dining are also part of the service. Guests also have the option of sending their vivacious companions to the Mandarin Oriental, Miami's Doggie Boot Camp or for a "day of beauty" with an exclusive pet groomer in South Beach. Doggie bathrobes and stylish doggie shirts are also available for purchase. To accommodate busy schedules, complimentary pet walking services are offered by the hotel once daily, as well as reliable pet sitting services. For more information, visit [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com).

**Mayfair Hotel & Spa** welcomes pets up to 50 pounds with an in-room doggie bed, water bowl, treats and a special pet menu offered at the "Bark Bar & Grill." Offerings include Mutt Loaf, Shi Tzu Sushi and Bow-Wow Burger, with the number

of calories and the health factor, rated by paw prints, indicated for each menu selection. For more information, visit [www.mayfairhotelandspa.com](http://www.mayfairhotelandspa.com).

**Newport Beachside Hotel & Resort:** This resort welcome pets, less than 25 pounds, all year round. A one-time pet fee of \$75 applies. For more information, visit [www.newportbeachside.com](http://www.newportbeachside.com).

#### **RETAIL AND EVENTS:**

**Village of Merrick Park:** Brimming with fountains, lush tropical foliage and a serene garden, this quaint shopping village in Coral Gables allows pets throughout the entire property and many four-legged friends can be seen taking advantage of the water fountain. For pooches who wish to take to the shops, Donald J Pliner has a water dish set up right outside the shop to quench their thirst. Coming this fall Adolfo Dominguez will be launching a new Doggie Wear line, so pets traveling with their owners can sport the latest styles. For more details, visit [www.villageofmerrickpark.com](http://www.villageofmerrickpark.com).

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida holds its annual "**Bark Brunch**" at the Oasis in the Raleigh Hotel every September as a fund-raiser. Guests are invited to sip mimosas with their pets and are automatically entered to win a stay at the Raleigh Hotel. For more information, visit [www.hmsf.org](http://www.hmsf.org).

**The Dog Bar :** Considered the nation's most unique full-service luxury specialty pet supply store, the Dog Bar has been bringing the latest and greatest dog and cat merchandise to the privileged pet since 1996. With two stores on Miami's Lincoln Road and Miracle Mile, the store is the city's favorite destination for those who seek the ultimate lifestyle for their beloved pets. Open 7 days a week until the late night hours, the store offers everything from fun and outrageous products to a complete line of nutritional products for the health and well-being of dogs and cats. For more information, visit [www.dogbar.com](http://www.dogbar.com).

Most hotels charge a special fee for pets and many require the pets to be in crates when they are unattended. Check individual hotels for policies.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is a non-profit sales and marketing organization whose mission is to attract visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches for leisure, business and conventions. For a vacation guide visit our website at [www.MiamiAndBeaches.com](http://www.MiamiAndBeaches.com) or call 1-888-76-Miami (US/Canada only) or 305-447-7777. To reach the GMCVB offices dial 305-539-3000. Meeting planners may call 1-800-933-8448 (US/Canada only) or 305-539-3071 or visit [www.MiamiMeetings.com](http://www.MiamiMeetings.com).

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