



NO DOG LEFT BEHIND

A dog named Henri drools at the thought of traveling the Northwest. Here's where he would go... if only...

by David Volk
photographed by Jamie Pflughoeft

It's not easy when you're a dog.



Forty acres of fun await dogs of all shapes and sizes at Redmond's Marymoor Dog Park (above). Downtown Dog's Bow Wow Bus and daycamp caters to pooches on San Juan Island (below).



Oh, sure, humans think our lives are stress free and unscheduled and that we lie around the house all day eating and sleeping and drooling and napping.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Not only do I have a 3 p.m. appointment for sofa destruction followed by 17 minutes of shoe gnawing, but I'm getting stressed about vacation season. Again. Every year I beg my owner to take me along on road trips, and every year he drops me at a kennel.

You wouldn't leave your kids behind, would you? So why would you go without your best friend?

Thank Dog for Val Mallinson.

Now that she's updated *The Dog Lover's Companion to the Pacific Northwest*, I no longer have to rip pages from guidebooks to show him where to go. That is, if we go to a bookstore that either has Mallinson's book or *Traveling With Your Pet: The AAA Pet-Book®* on a lower shelf.

While I haven't read them, I've been barking with dogs in the neighborhood and here are some of their fav. ...

CAT! MUST CHASE CAT! NOT... SURE... WHY! ARF!... NOTE TO SELF: CAT OUTSIDE, DOG INSIDE. GLASS DOOR. OUCH.

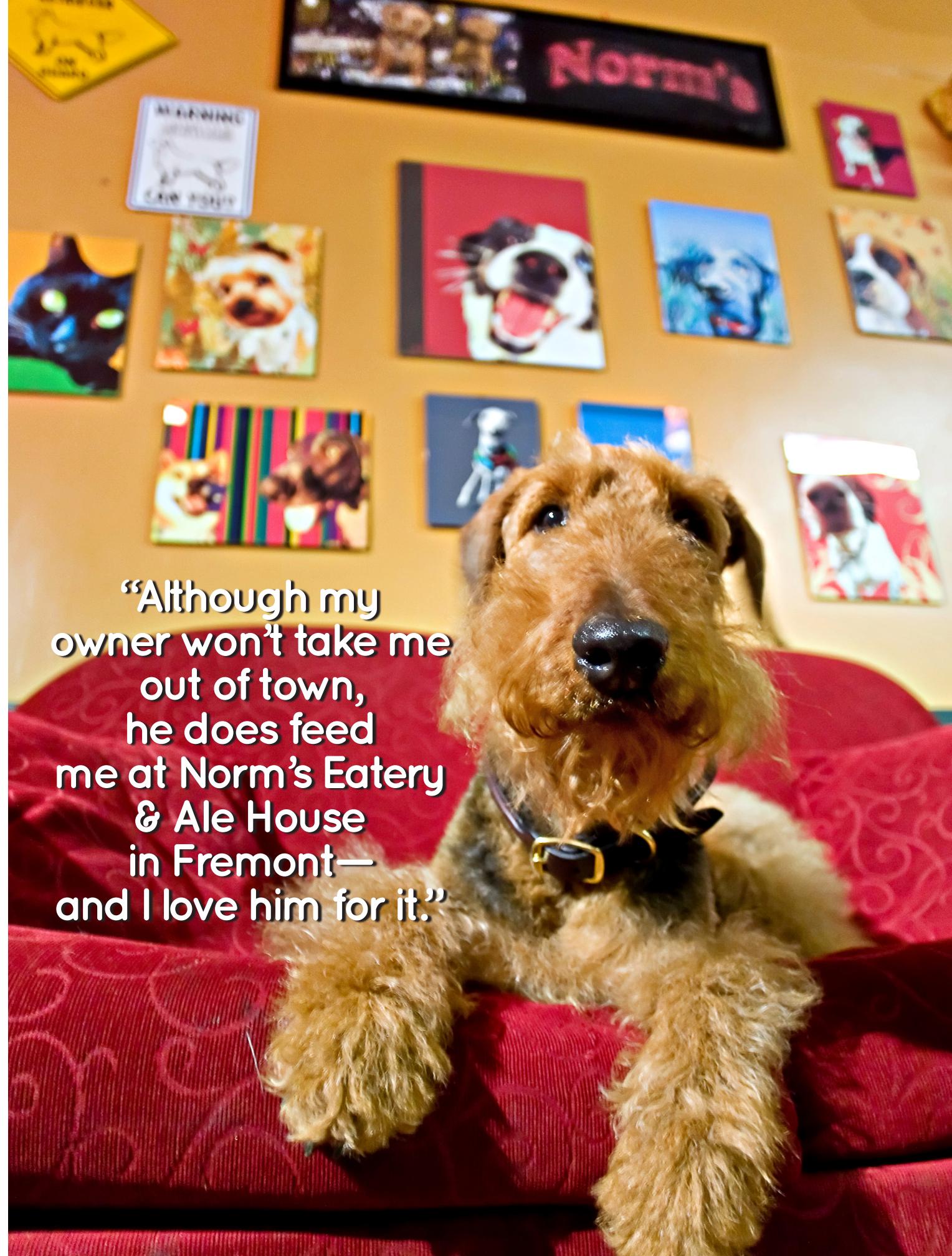
Now where was I? Places to go in Washington. There's no real order here, because I'm a dog, I don't have opposable thumbs, so it took a while to type, and I have a short attention ... WHEN'S LUNCH ANYWAY?

I hear Interstate 5 is popular, so I'll start there even though I miss interstates 1 through 4.

my friend Bella recommends **Bellingham**, especially the **Fairhaven Historic District**. Many of the restaurants have sidewalk seating, businesses are pet-friendly and there's a collection of stores that welcome dogs. Out back, a park called the **Village Green** has a paw-operated water fountain. **Post Point Lagoon Park** also gets four paws up because the off-leash area goes on forever (in dog years) and has a ginormous field perfect for running.

She enjoyed swimming at **Lake Padden Dog Park**, dining outside the **Colophon Café** and staying at the **Hotel Bellwether**. She also liked **Rasar State Park** near Concrete. Concrete isn't just off I-5, but in case you haven't noticed, we dogs aren't great with math. Who do you think made one human year equal to seven dog years? HELLO! Still, Rasar's great, because it's off the beaten path, has open fields to wander and is relatively new. Bella recommends eating at **Birdsview Brewing Company** because leashed dogs are allowed in the beer garden, though **Taco Tuesdays** are best because tacos are so messy, owners are bound to drop something.

My friend Maisy says **Port Townsend** is great, especially downtown, because there are lots of benches, and dog bowls in front of most businesses, and many shops have resident dogs. There are also plenty of beaches . . .



“Although my owner won't take me out of town, he does feed me at Norm's Eatery & Ale House in Fremont—and I love him for it.”

COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN DOG

“You wouldn’t leave your kids behind, would you? So why would you go without your best friend?”



HERE COMES THE MAILMAN! TASTY LEGS! ARF! ARF! ARF!

Maisy also mentioned **Willis Tucker Regional Park** in Snohomish County. Only half of the 11-acre off-leash area is currently open, but she enjoyed the fenced-in area for smaller, shy animals.

Scout recommends the **San Juans**. He gives **Moran State Park** four paws for its hiking, waterfalls and views from Mount Constitution. **American Camp** on San Juan Island has room to run and a place to swim, while **Eddie and Friends Dog Park** has an off-leash area including a section for older dogs. Scout likes to stay at **Harrison House Suites** in Friday Harbor, because the owners make dog biscuits (in eight flavors), and Mollie, the 13-year-old resident dog, leaves

a list of her favorite walks. If Scout gets bored, he can always hop **Downtown Dog’s Bow Wow Bus** for a field trip to local dog hot spots.

Next trip, Scout hopes to stop at **The Dining Dog Café and Bakery** in Edmonds, a restaurant for dogs serving everything from cocktails to desserts. If his owner behaves, Scout may invite him along, but he’ll have to order from a human restaurant one floor up.

There are so many great places around Seattle, it’s impossible to list them all. **Marymoor Dog Park** in Redmond has a 40-acre off-leash area, a variety of terrains, swimming and a dog wash. Scout loves going mountain biking with his master at **St. Edwards State Park**, and it seems everybody loves **Magnuson Park** with its great trails, water access and Lake

Washington views. Although my owner won’t take me out of town, he does feed me at the fish bar at **Little Chinook’s** in Magnolia and **Norm’s Eatery & Ale House** in Fremont—and I love him for it.

I hear the **Edgewater Inn** has a dog lover’s package, the **Hotel Max** spoils us with treats and toys, and the **Hotel Vintage Park** offers turn-down snacks. *SNACKS?! DID SOMEONE SAY SNACKS?!*

Dogs already know about Tacoma’s two-mile **Ruston Way Waterfront**, but Pixel says many miss nearby **Puget Gulch Nature Trail**. The short walk goes through woods and ends at the top of Proctor Street. Finish off the walk with lunch at **Art & Soul** next to **Wag Pet Market**. **Hotel Murano**, a glass museum in its own right, pampers dogs.

The 22-acre dog park at **Fort Steilacoom Park** in Lakeview merits a pilgrimage: wide open spaces, plenty of shades, lots of benches and a large area for small dogs.

Lewis and Clark, Millersylvania and Rainbow Falls state parks (between Olympia and Chehalis) don’t have off-leash areas, but they’re so empty that you often have the place to yourself.

Dakota Memorial Dog Park at Pacific Park in Vancouver is named after a police dog that died on the job. If that isn’t enough reason to visit and pay your respects, I don’t know what is.

I like **Moulton Falls** in Battle Ground because it has swimming holes. Sure, there are nice trails, picnic tables and even rocks to lay on, but I’ve never seen a swimming hole. It sounds so idyllic that the only way to finish off the day would be to visit **O’Brady’s Drive-In**.

DOGGONE IT, MY OWNER IS ALMOST HOME ... I NEED TO FINISH BEFORE HE REALIZES I CAN TYPE.

Leavenworth. Sounds like a prison, doesn’t it? The main attraction here is cross-country skiing in winter and inner tubing in summer with **Tube Leavenworth**. I’m told the owner of the **Gingerbread Factory** gives dogs gingerbread biscuits. Works for me. There are many dog-friendly lodgings ranging from the inexpensive **Evergreen Inn** to the fancier **Sleeping Lady Retreat**.

Apparently, wine isn’t just for cats any more. There are three dog-loving wineries near Yakima and seven in the Chelan Valley including **Lake Chelan Winery**, where dogs sit on the tasting porch, and **Nefarious Cellars**, whose slogan is “a chick, two guys and a dog striving to blow your mind.”

UH OH, I HEAR KEYS ...

Can’t forget Spokane—*The AAA PetBook@* lists a number of pet-friendly accommodations including **The Davenport Hotel**, which welcomes dogs and doesn’t charge a pet fee. There’s also one dog park, but ...

ACK! THE DOOR’S OPENING. SIGNING OFF! BACK TO LOOKING CUTE FOR MY HUMAN, SO MAYBE HE’LL TAKE ME SOMEWHERE!



Hotel Max welcomes all dogs.

checking inn

GREAT HOTEL STAYS FOR FURRY FRIENDS (AND YOU, TOO)

Be sure to mention you are “with dog” when making reservations. Most places will have doggie beds and bowls waiting in the room when you check in.

Hotel Bellwether (Bellingham) \$25 per-night fee, no weight limit, pet package available. **Hotel Max (Seattle) & Hotel Murano (Tacoma)** \$45 per-stay fee, all the comforts of home, including treats and toys, and even dog food in case you left Fido’s food at home. **Hotel Vintage Park (Seattle)** Kimpton properties (two others in Seattle: **Alexis Hotel, Hotel Monaco**) go the extra mile for poochie. Your pet can enjoy Organic Buddy Biscuits, dog-sitting services, a personalized doggie itinerary and, even better, no fees or deposits. **Salish Lodge & Spa (Snoqualmie)** \$50 per-stay fee, freshly baked signature Salish dog biscuits and bottled water. There’s even the Canine Cuisine In-Room dining menu featuring the Canine Country Breakfast. **The Inn at Langley (Whidbey Island)** \$50 per-stay fee, no weight limit, big comfy dog beds. **Coeur d’Alene Resort** Per-stay fees vary depending on your dog’s weight. **The Davenport Hotel (Spokane)** No fees, deposits or weight limit, complimentary pet walking, doggie treats, dog-sitting service available. **j**