



PAMPER  
your pet



# Hospitality Unleashed

BY ROBERT DIGIACOMO

**Don't fret over Fido while you're away. With new hotels offering deluxe dog digs, he'll have more fun than you do.**

**E**very dog deserves to have his day, and some fortunate pooches are discovering the lap of luxe at a new generation of pet hotels and resorts.

These boutique properties cater to an increasingly common breed: the well-heeled owner who travels and spares little expense on VIP (very important pet) treatment.

These hotels are more than

just upscale kennels. They offer private rooms, orthopedic beds, flat-screen TVs and a range of other amenities from walks to massages.

Pet hotels also reflect status, according to Harrison Forbes, the celebrity pet expert on TV's *Live with Kelly*. Forbes has worked for 20 years as a pet behaviorist and dog trainer for police services and movie roles, including *Rain Man*.

"They can say, 'Look at how well I take care of Fido,'" he says.

There's snob appeal, sure. But there are real advantages to checking your dog into a facility with private accommodations, Forbes says. In such a controlled environment, there are fewer chances to catch kennel cough or other ailments. Also, the presence of trained behaviorists means Spot is more likely to ease back into his regular routine at home.





• D Pet Hotels

## FIT FOR HOLLYWOOD (CANINE) ROYALTY

D Pet Hotels in Hollywood caters to pooches accustomed to the A-list lifestyle.

Accommodations start at \$65 a night for a standard suite that includes a private chamber decorated in warm tones and outfitted with an orthopedic doggy bed lined with 300-thread-count sheets, plus a 19-inch flat-screen TV. A double suite, measuring

22-by-17 feet with a queen bed and a 42-inch flat-screen, ranges up to \$220 a night.

Founded three years ago by Alissa Cruz and her husband Allan, owners of a beloved Chihuahua named Twix and a miniature pinscher named Snickers, the hotel is aimed at doting pet parents.

Dog-day afternoons are spent lounging in the 6,000-square-foot outdoor play area, while the early evening brings dinner and

cartoons in front of the TV, before lights out at 9 p.m. Pick-up service can be upgraded from a standard Honda Element to a Bentley, Porsche, Lamborghini, or other upscale ride. Extra-cost services include anesthesia-free teeth cleaning, massage, and chiropractic treatment.

However, not just any mutt can check in. Dogs are together during the day, so D Hotels conducts an interview and temperament test with each potential guest.

"We would rather have a select group of dogs and have a wonderful experience than accept everyone who comes through the door and have a problem," Cruz says.



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