

### Dog Heaven in the Beaver State

"A three-week road trip with three dogs? Are you crazy?" my friends asked when I told them that my husband and I would be taking the dogs with us on vacation. I expected it to be challenging at times, but a vacation to us is spending time with the dogs, not away from the dogs. It turns out that it wasn't challenging at all. All three of the dogs were troopers on the 20-plus hour trip to Oregon, and if there was a competition for the most dog-friendly state, I would vote for the "Beaver State."

On July 4th, my husband and I packed the car with the three dogs, camping gear and our mountain bikes in search of cooler weather. Two days later we arrived at a pet-friendly vacation rental in Bend, Ore. The house was clean and bright; it was in a fantastic location; and it had a fenced-in yard. The owner even provided biodegradable poop bags.

The sidewalks in Bend's quaint, upscale downtown were lined with water bowls and baskets of dog treats. The wilderness trails were open to dogs and offered access to rivers and creeks for cooling off. But I think the dogs' favorite thing was the fenced-in grassy field a few blocks away that serves as downtown's unofficial, nighttime off-leash area.

In addition to our stay in Bend, we also spent some time on the rugged, remote, beautiful Oregon coast. We were a bit astonished and quite beside ourselves when dogs were welcomed with open arms in the camping areas and on the beaches.

Along with the incredible mountain biking around Bend and visiting friends and family, the highlight of the vacation for us humans was watching the dogs just be dogs: running on the beach, playing in tidal pools, swimming in rivers, trotting along forest trails and sleeping well. Aside from the obvious signs of dog-friendliness, there seemed to be a collective consciousness that embraced canines as members of the family throughout Oregon. So if you're thinking about taking your dogs with you on your next vacation, I would suggest Oregon as your



The beach at Cape Perpetua, Oregon

destination.

This issue marks the first anniversary of Desert Dog News! A big thank you goes out to the Tucson animal-loving community – the readers, writers, advertisers, distribution outlets, distributors, printers and everyone else who has helped make it possible!

-Gretel

P.S. Don't forget to fill out our reader survey (page 6) or online at [www.desertdognews.com/survey](http://www.desertdognews.com/survey) for a chance to win a gift certificate from the advertiser of your choice. Your responses will help shape the future of Desert Dog News.

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