Congratulations to everyone who entered or was nominated!

Be Dog Friendly is a Kennel Club campaign to encourage, recognise and reward places and businesses that go the extra mile for the benefit of the UK’s 9 million dogs and their owners.

www.bedogfriendlyawards.com
#bedogfriendly
/kclovesdogs
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Britain’s most popular dog-friendly places have been given the woof of approval in the Kennel Club’s Be Dog Friendly Awards 2014.

The competition, held in association with Dog Friendly, is based solely on public vote and aims to break down barriers for man’s best friend by encouraging more businesses to adopt a dog friendly policy. Nominations have poured in from all over the country for the most welcoming dog-friendly businesses, towns, and public places.

With over 10,000 votes for canine-canny businesses on the Be Dog Friendly Awards website, competition was fierce. Thousands of nominations flooded in from dog lovers giving their paw of approval for the places that go above and beyond for their customers and their much-loved pets.

The winners of the nationwide competition were:

**Beach**
Wells next the sea, Norfolk

**Café/Restaurant**
Beach Café, Wells next the sea, Norfolk

**Camping/Caravanning**
Out in the Open, Porkellis, Cornwall

**Day Out**
Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire

**Great Outdoors**
Lake District, Cumbria
With over 9 million dogs in the UK, and around one in four households owning a dog, the great British public are always on the look-out for places where their four-legged family members are also welcome, and the Be Dog Friendly Awards recognise businesses and places to visit that go that extra mile for our canine comrades.

More information on the Kennel Club’s Be Dog Friendly campaign can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/bedogfriendly
At low water, Wells beach has huge open views and mile upon mile of sands and shallow channels to enjoy. When the tide comes in, the beach is transformed into a harbour, with the entrance channel suddenly busy with visiting yachts, fishing boats setting out for the day or returning with their catch, local small boats going out to fish as well as clouds of small sailing boats racing or cruising within the harbour. The scenic backdrop of colourful beach huts has framed many a postcard and painting of the local area.

Dogs and their owners are welcome on the beach with just the first 200 yards of the beach from the main entrance restricted. The area is a dog-walkers heaven and a great place for walking all year round.

Find out more about Wells-next-the-Sea by visiting www.wells-guide.co.uk
Alan Miller, The Beach Café, Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk

The Beach Café has been dog friendly since re-opening in April 2011 under the Holkham Estate’s management.

Wells Beach is a very popular dog walking destination, but we felt the Beach Café could offer more. Staff were forever being asked to fill up the dog’s water bowl so we decided to create a special ‘Hydration Station’ offering a wide variety of different colours and shapes, instead of just the one. The novelty of this grew and the response to the Beach Café K-9 Club was amazing. It inspired the team to start looking for new ideas to encourage dogs and their owners. Since then, we’ve created the ‘Wash n Wag’ self-service dog wash which is a purpose built washing system. Owners love it as it eliminates travelling home with muddy paws in the car following a walk. We also run an annual Beach Café ‘Dog of the Year’ photographic competition on our Facebook page with the ‘prestigious’ award of your pets photo taking pride of place on the café wall.

We have also recently formed the K-9 Club’s board of dog directors. It’s a fun idea to use on spoof letterheads and e-news introducing some of the cafés staff pets and others involved in the background. We have our very own Chairman, Founder Member, Communications Director, Artistic Director, Managing Director and Treasurer, and have taken official photos of them all posing with their official K-9 Club striped ties.

There is a fantastic atmosphere for dog owners and non-dog owners alike. People seem to converse more directly when dogs are involved and it’s also a great way to meet new people.
Being dog friendly has helped our business especially our winter trade. We have become an established dog walking destination. A high percentage of customers bring their dogs with about 40% during the summer and a noticeable increase to approximately 60% in the winter months.

For more information on the Beach Cafe, visit [www.holkham.co.uk/html/beach_cafe.html](http://www.holkham.co.uk/html/beach_cafe.html)
Winner - Most Dog Friendly Camping/Caravanning - Out in the Open, Porkellis, Cornwall

Cath Sears and Dee Breen, Owners

We have always been animal lovers and the campsite has been dog friendly since it first began in 1999. We personally, couldn’t bear to go on holiday without our dogs and so we aim to make it as easy as possible for our campers to bring their canine companions with them. Jester and Beano, our two border Terriers (below), do recognise that they are very privileged to live here and are quite willing to allow others to enjoy their farm too! We welcome dogs and people from all walks of life and understand that not all dogs are perfect all of the time.

The benefits of welcoming dogs here include the pleasure of seeing happy, smiley, waggy dogs… and their owners! Our dog-friendliness is not a business decision or a commercial incentive – it’s just a way of life! Most of our campers bring dogs, (or would like to) and both dog owners and non dog owners rub along nicely together.

Out in the Open offers a great environment for dogs to have as happy a holiday as their owners. Some of the dog friendly facilities include fields for exercising dogs off, agility equipment, doggie day care and much more.

For more information visit www.outintheopen.co.uk/OutintheOpen/index.html.html
Reggie Heyworth, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens Owner

We’ve been dog friendly since the Park first opened in 1970. It never even occurred to us that Cotswold Wildlife Park would be closed to dogs because my father not only always had his dogs on him, but they were never on a lead. He kept them to heel. You can’t be animal friendly and not be dog friendly and if the animal park isn’t dog friendly, then what is? There is a wonderful quote by Milan Kundera: “Dogs are our link to paradise. They don’t know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace.” Another great quote from Mahatma Gandhi: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

Our canine clientele varies seasonally. It’s roughly in line with the national average, probably just over 1 in 20. We have regular locals who come with their dogs.

If customers forget their lead, we’ll lend them one. We also have dog bowls and taps around the Park too.

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk
Richard Greenwood, Cumbria Tourism’s Operations Manager

Cumbria Tourism, Lake District, Cumbria

The Lake District, Cumbria is a great place to bring your dog on holiday. With so much space to run around, lakes and rivers to explore your furry friend will have a great time. Many accommodation providers are also part of the EnjoyEngland Welcome Pets! scheme, others welcome pets by arrangement. As a holiday destination you will also find that in towns such as Keswick and Ambleside dogs are welcome in many shops and some pubs, whilst cafés often have tables outside.

For more information please visit www.cumbriatourism.org
Sean Austin, Austin & Co Owner
Austin & Co has been dog friendly for two years. Being a dog owner myself, I am fully aware of the difficulties encountered when going out to the pub or the shops with a dog. Being on a main road with very few places to tie a dog, welcoming dogs into the shop allows those owners to shop with peace of mind.

Great Malvern is very much a dog friendly town. If there is a competitive advantage to allow dogs in so that their owners can shop, it should be ceased upon. But being an owner myself, it would be hypocritical of me not to allow dogs into the shop when it is something I actively seek when I am the consumer.

In the current economic climate, anything that brings customers into the shop is a good thing - why would you want to turn business away because you are alienating a large proportion of potential customers?

During spring and summer, a water bowl was made available outside the shop. It’s available on request at other times of the year. There’s a treat for every dog, whether their owner buys from us or not. I have even on occasion looked after customers’ dogs when they had to go into other shops that didn’t allow dogs. Above all, it’s just about letting man’s best friend into a social arena that many other places bar them from for no valid reason.

Find out more by visiting www.austinandco.co.uk
Steve and I have owned and run The Chesterfield for almost 25 years now, since 1990. We have always been a family hotel and decided to become more specifically dog friendly approximately six years ago. We had frequently been asked if we accepted dogs and we decided that we ought to be welcoming them just as warmly as we welcome our human customers, after all, for many people their dog is very much a member of the family.

We make no charge for dogs since their owners bring their own food and beds or bedding for the dogs. We do have spare bowls, collars and leads and bedding just in case. We also have a doggy poop bag dispenser in our hallway, provide doggy towels and a goody bag on arrival. We have bowls of fresh water available in the public areas and a selection of toys for both big and small dogs. We also offer dog-listening service or dog-sitting for those times when our customers intend staying out for a longer period of time.

The benefits of being dog friendly are, for us, enormous. Dogs are fantastic ice-breakers! We have our love of dogs in common. Our relationship with our customers invariably gets off to a good start when we greet them and make a fuss of their dog. This helps them to relax in our company and feel able to approach us should they have any queries or concerns during their stay, and this in turn, helps us to ensure that their stay is as good as we can make it.

Find out more by visiting www.chesterfield-hotel.com
Deborah Elliott, Senior Product Manager

We have been dog friendly since the Pet Travel Scheme began in 2000. With the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme, taking your dog to Europe has become convenient, easy and affordable. We believe dogs are part of the family, so why leave them at home when they could be enjoying a wonderful holiday with you! Being dog friendly means happy dogs, happy owners!

We encourage all our customers to give us feedback so that we can continue to improve our service. We find our pet loving travellers truly enjoy sharing their experiences, which gives us a valuable insight into the service. As a result of this closeness we are currently working on some fantastic new initiatives that will be delivered early in 2015.

Since the Pet Travel Scheme began over 1 million happy dogs, cats and ferrets have travelled with our service. In 2013, 68% of all pets entering the UK choose to travel with our service; this included all ports and airports. For the first 6 months of this year that figure has risen to 88%. (Figures provided by DEFRA)

We are extremely proud of our dedicated pet exercise areas which are located on both our terminals in Folkestone and Calais. Each of these areas provides complimentary poop waste bags which are really appreciated by owners. In the UK we have a wonderful agility course for dogs so they can stretch their paws before boarding the shuttle for the short 35 minute crossing. Our service allows both dogs and their owners to stay together for the speedy crossing to France, this is ideal as it eliminates any anxiety and stress.
WINNER - MOST DOG FRIENDLY LARGE ORGANISATION - Eurotunnel, Folkestone, Kent

We have dedicated and knowledgeable staff who check each pet passport to ensure they comply with DEFRA’s requirements. They are also able to assist with finding local vets in the Calais area and pet friendly hotels. We work with some amazing pet partners who regularly visit both of our terminals to offer our four legged friends complimentary treats and gifts. In addition, all of our pet customers receive a quarterly newsletter which enables us to bring them the latest veterinary tips when travelling with their dog and exclusive discounts and offers.

For more information visit www.eurotunnel.com
Lorna Bevan Thompson, Owner

We bought the pub nearly six years ago when it was boarded up; we have always been both dog and family friendly. Hemsby is a unique family resort, with many families returning year after year, and dogs are just as big a part of families as the children! We advertise that we allow dogs on leads into our pub and also into our play garden. Dogs are very important to family life, and we like to include them here. Sometimes we have more dogs than people! We provide ample dog water bowls, poo bags on request and also doggy biscuits.

Various dog walking groups take advantage of our lovely big front terrace, and come and have a pit stop whilst walking the dogs on the beach. We also have our very own pub dog named Zuri, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and she is very popular with our customers. We get very favourable feedback from both dog owners and non-dog owners. They are usually surprised that they are able to bring their dogs into the pub, as so many pubs do not allow dogs. There are the occasional people who are not very happy with dogs, but they are few and far between, and we always try to make sure that we can sit them in a dog free area.

For more information please visit www.thelaconarms.co.uk
Linda Furniss, Tourism Officer, Keswick Tourism Association.

The very nature of our location – a historic town nestled between Derwentwater and the mountains – makes our wide open spaces a perfect playground for four legged friends and their two legged owners. I think that is why we have won the award for the 3rd time in a row – we did not have to make a subconscious decision or effort to become dog-friendly – we genuinely are a perfect place to come on holiday with your dog.

The increased profile we have gained from winning this award has brought us more visitors with dogs – and this has led to more eating and drinking places opening their doors to dogs. This has been managed very well – with dogs being welcomed in certain sections, leaving welcoming dog-free space for those who wish. Dogs are treated very well – we have noticed an increase in enticing doggy treats on offer!

For more information please visit www.keswick.org
Craig Donaldson, Chief Executive Officer

Metro Bank has always been dog-friendly, ever since we launched in July 2010. At Metro Bank, we’re focussed on offering unparalleled levels of service and convenience, and being a dog-friendly bank is part of this. We don’t believe customers should ever have to leave their dogs tied up outside; not only should they be welcomed in, but dogs should also have an enjoyable experience with us too. Dogs Rule at Metro Bank!

We are focussed on providing the best possible banking experience for our customers, that means if customers wish to bring their dogs in – they should be able to. Bring your dog in when you next visit – we’d love to meet them!

Metro Bank’s dog friendly policy is definitely popular. Dogs are welcome into the bank, and we even have a selection of dog goodies, including fresh water bowls and dog treats. We also run a number of dog friendly events in each of our stores throughout the year, which help promote dog safety and rehome dogs. We also refund new and existing customers when they rehome a dog or a cat from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

For more information please visit

www.metrobankonline.co.uk
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
The Montague on the Gardens Hotel

Dirk Crokaert, General Manager

We have been dog friendly since operating as a hotel. Everyone who owns pets knows that it can be heart-breaking to leave them behind if you are away on holiday or business. We want to give guests the option of bringing their four-legged family members to the hotel with them to let their pet experience this wonderful hotel and all the excitement of London too.

Having a dog friendly policy means that we can allow our guests to bring with them what they cherish most and helps to make the Montague their home away from home.

We get lovely feedback from guests travelling with their pets and without. We have a large number of return customers which is a great testimony to the hotel. Opening our doors to dogs has opened our hotel up to new markets as there are very few places that offer the service for pets that we do.

We offer pet beds in various sizes, food and water bowls, dog goodie bags containing a toy, treats and clean up bags, dog sitting, dog walking and if a more spacious room is available this can be allocated to guests with pets.

For more information please visit
www.montaguehotel.com