

What Do the Best Dog-Friendly RV Campgrounds Have in Common?

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For many RVers like me, beloved furry friends are part of the family, and including them in RV travels is a growing trend. In fact, many people decide to travel by RV specifically for the ease of taking their dogs along with them. My wife and I did too, and in our early RVing days often wondered: what do the best dog-friendly RV campgrounds have in common? Here's what we've since learned.

The Growing Trend of Dog-Friendly RV Travel

An RV Industry Association (RVIA) survey found that approximately 61% of RVers travel with pets. Nearly 90% of those RVers travel with their dogs. A 2022 [Progressive Insurance survey about RVers](#) reveals that 85% of millennial RVer families are camping with dogs. With an estimated 12 million households in the U.S. owning an RV, it's no wonder we see so many RVing dogs in campgrounds around the country!

Our Pup is a Cornerstone of Our RV Travels

My wife, Jeanne, and I have RV'd full-time over the past four years with our amazing travel buddy, "[Hershey Pup](#)". Hershey, a 5-year old Cavalier King Charles spaniel, has sniffed his way through all of the Lower 48 US states and six Canadian provinces. He believes our motorhome is his "big rolling doghouse." And why not? It's been his 24/7, 365-day a year home for nearly his whole life.

What do the best [dog-friendly RV campgrounds](#) have in common?" than Hershey Pup

himself? I'll just let him take it from here.



Hershey says "Home is Where We Park It" (Image: Erik Anderson)

Hershey Pup: My Dog's-Eye View of RV Parks and Campgrounds

Woof! I'm glad my human Dad is letting me co-write this article. I know more about this subject than he does anyway! I've spent four of my five doggie years traveling full-time in MY big rolling doghouse.

I love RVing with my human family! Everywhere we go I hop down from our RV and get excited for the sights, sounds, and glorious smells of each new campground. I also get to meet lots of new dog-friends.

Before I get into all the things that the best dog-friendly RV campgrounds have in common, let me tell you some aspects that RVers with dogs don't like. I think my human mom and dad will agree, and maybe you will, too.

Common Complaints About Dog Unfriendly Campgrounds

- **Breed Restrictions.** I feel bad when other RVing dogs can't join me at RV parks and campgrounds because they are on some kind of black list. I'm a little dog, but I have lots of doggie friends who are bigger and aren't allowed to camp with me. My humans tell me that it's because of insurance companies and something called liability. Because of that, RV campground owners often have to restrict dog breeds that are labeled as "aggressive" or "dangerous." Still, it makes me sad that some of my fellow RV dogs can't come play with me.
- **Crowded and Noisy Campgrounds.** As a Cavalier spaniel, I'm an expert at relaxing when I go RV camping. I'm a pretty easy-going pup. But, while it doesn't bother me, some dogs have anxiety surrounded by too much commotion and activity.
- **Many Restrictive Rules.** Nearly all RV campgrounds have rules about us RVing dogs. Heck, I even saw Dad looking online at an RV park that doesn't allow ANY pets. I thought "No way!" But, other more common campground rules can be challenging, too. Like these:

Dog unfriendly campground rules include:

Maximum of two dogs allowed

Maximum weight or size restrictions

Places dogs can't go and restricted trails

No pet fences allowed on sites

No dog parks, and more

Okay, [some pet rules are good](#), I get it. Like the leash requirements (I wear mine!), no

excessive barking, and picking up my poops. My human Mom and Dad are good with those rules, too. But we don't like it when other campers don't follow the rules and when RV campground staff don't enforce them.

Height restriction sign at dog park



(Image: Erik Anderson)

No dogs over 25lbs at RV park



(Image: Erik Anderson)

Hershey is happy he's allowed on a beach



(Image: Erik Anderson)

Must-Have Amenities for Dog-Friendly Campgrounds

So, here's my list of what the best dog-friendly campgrounds have in common. These are the pup-focused features that make RVing pups like me a happy camper.

Dog Parks and Exercise Areas

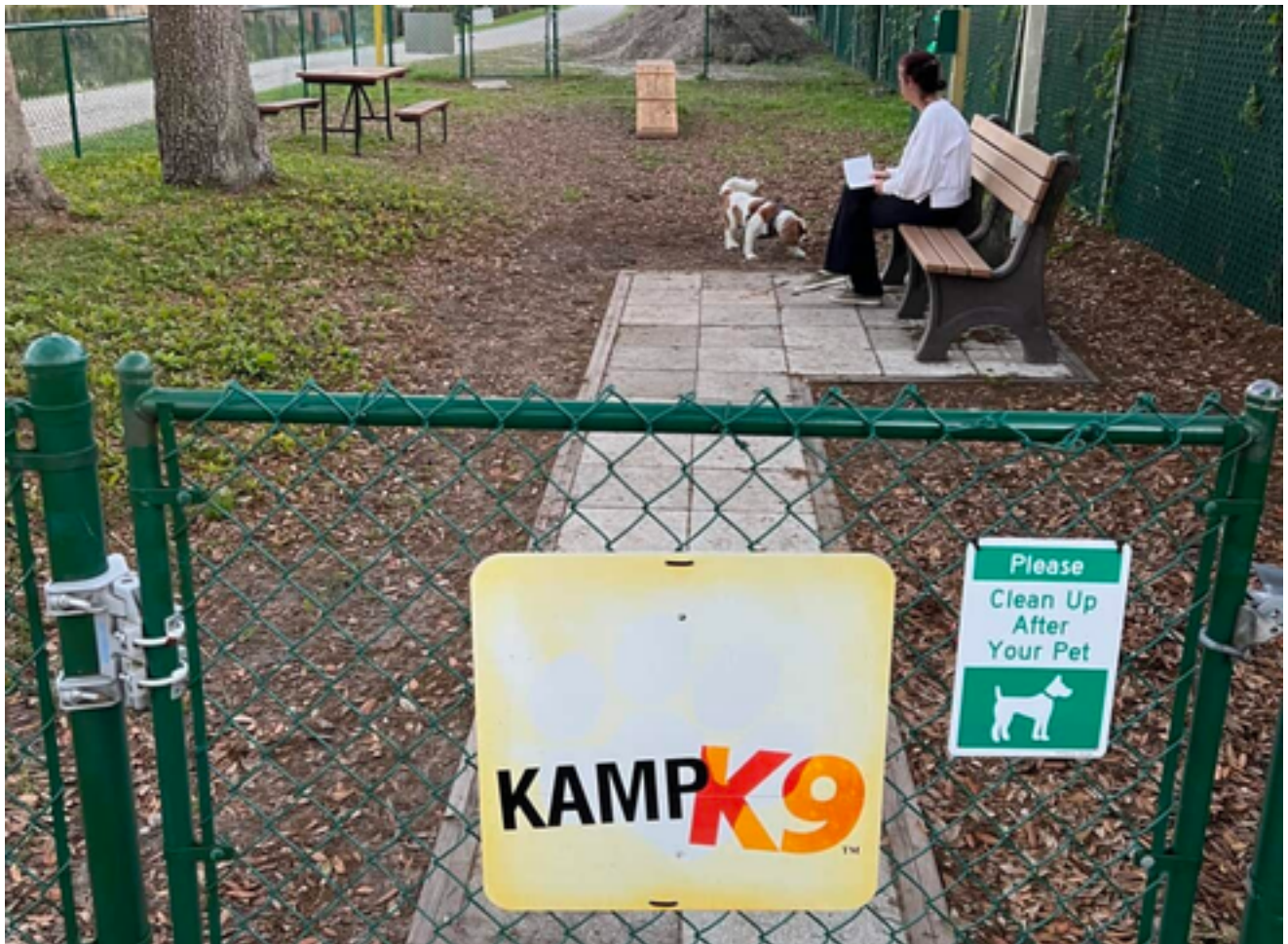
- My furry friends and I LOVE fenced dog parks where we can play off our leashes! Since I'm a smaller pup, I like it when there are separate "small dog" and "large dog" sections.
- Dog parks with agility training and exercising sections are great for my four-pawed friends who do dog shows and competitions. As for me, I just like to watch.
- Oh my gosh, I even found two dog parks that had fire hydrants just for us pups to pee on! Amazing!

Dog park agility activities



(Image: Erik Anderson)

Kamp K9 dog park fences are great!



(Image: Erik Anderson)

Fire hydrants are excellent for sniffing!



(Image: Erik Anderson)

Pet Wash Stations

Bath time is not my favorite time. Nope. But my Fur-Mom and Dad both get ridiculously happy when they find a dedicated dog wash station at the RV campground.



Pet wash station at RV park (Image: Erik Anderson)

Pet Waste Stations

I have to do my business wherever the mood strikes me. So, my humans are happy when there are convenient pet waste stations around the campgrounds.

Dog-Friendly Walking Trails

I love to go on walks and hikes with my humans! I get super excited when RV campgrounds include walking trails where me and my RVing doggie friends can explore.

Shade and Shelter

When we're RVing in the hot summer months, both me and my human family like places with shade. Trees around our campsite are nice. Shade structures or shelters in RV campground dog parks also help me stay cool.

Fenced Perimeters

- If the RV campground is on a busy roadway, I'm safer if there is a fenced perimeter. I'm a dog, what can I say? I can get distracted by a squirrel or rabbit and zoom! Off I go toward the dangerous highway. Yes, I should always have my leash on, but things happen sometimes.
- RV parks and campgrounds that allow portable pet fences on campsites are also a plus for some RVers.

Swimming and Boating

I'm not much of a swimmer, but I have RVing Labrador buddies who love swimming. I like kayaking with my Mom and Dad, so if an RV campground has a lake or river where pups are allowed, that's a treat!



Hershey Pup kayaking on RV campground lake (Image: Erik Anderson)

More Inclusive Dog Breed Rules

I know a big bone of contention (see what I did there? Woof!) for RVers are the rules that prohibit some of my best RVing dog friends. Dog-friendly RV campgrounds with less breed restrictions are nice to find.

Pup Cones and Pup Cakes

This is way too rare, but I am in Dog Heaven when we find a RV park or campground that has special ice cream treats and pup cake treats for doggies. I think all campgrounds should have them!

My Human Mom and Dad Look for These Dog Services

All of the things I've been barking about are favorite dog-friendly amenities for me and my furry RVing friends. But, I don't want to leave out pet care services that humans want near dog-friendly RV campgrounds. Here are a few of these things.

Excellent veterinary care

I know my fur-Mom and Dad worry about me getting hurt or sick, and they feel better when there are local veterinary clinics nearby. They always Google nearby clinics after setting up at dog-friendly RV campgrounds. Luckily, in all of our RV travels, I've never needed an [emergency trip to a vet](#). Whew!

Nearby pet supply shops

Mom and Dad also like having pet supply shops within a reasonable distance, especially on our longer RV camping trips. I am NOT a happy camping dog if we run out of my favorite treats!

Doggie day care and boarding options

Local doggie day cares, boarding facilities, and dog sitters are helpful, too. My humans take me everywhere possible, but sometimes I have to stay behind when they go exploring. I don't mind, though, because I meet new pup friends, get lots of lovin', and enjoy new treats!

Hershey Pup's Top Ways to Find the Best Dog-Friendly Campground


Now, here are my tips on how I help my fur-Dad (he's our RV trip planner) find the RV campgrounds that this camping dog loves.

RV LIFE Campgrounds

A great place to start is the [RV LIFE Campgrounds website](#). It's where real RVers share thousands of real reviews about RV parks and campgrounds. There's even an easy way to sniff out the pet-friendly status of a campground! You'll find tons of information about features that are fun for me and my furry friends.

[4 Paws Kingdom Campground & Dog Retreat](#) in North Carolina (shown below) is a great example of a campground dedicated to four-pawed RV campers! Check them out. Woof!

"Truly Doggy Disney!!!"

Date of Stay: **May 2024** Nightly Rate: **\$63 USD** **Nancy Jo47** 

★★★★★ Overall Rating
 ★★★★★ Value
 ★★★★★ Service
 ★★★★★ Cleanliness

2022 Keystone Cougar Half-Ton (All Regions)
18 Reviews | 73 Photos | 5 Tips

Great shaded park! Clean. Pond park, as well as several other fully fenced playground/parks make it wonderful for the pups!! Very friendly and helpful staff!! Our dogs have had the best week of their lives!! We camped at 4 Paws Kingdom Campground & Dog Retreat in a Fifth Wheel. [Read Less](#)

Campsite Details		Campground Details	
CAMPSITE	18	SPACE BETWEEN LOTS	Nearby
SITE SURFACE	Asphalt	SUN & FOLIAGE	Mostly Shady
SITE TYPE	Pull through		
SITE SPACE	Quite a bit longer (plenty of space) for my 5th wheel and truck (I didn't have to disconnect)		
POWER AVAILABLE	Yes		
SEWER CONNECTION	Yes		
WATER CONNECTION	Yes		

RV Campground review of 4Paws Kingdom Campground & Dog Resort (Image: RV LIFE Campgrounds)

BringFido

I give this handy website and app a "4 paws up" rating. The BringFido app on my humans' cell phones tells them lots of cool places where they can take me with them. I love it!

RV Trip Wizard

My fur-Dad uses the [RV Trip Wizard trip planning](#) platform for our RV travels. He finds RV parks and campgrounds on our routes and then uses RV Trip Wizard's quick links to RV LIFE Campground Reviews to dig deeper. (Of course, I have to give my Canine Camper Approval before he books any places!)

iRV2 Forums & RV LIFE Facebook Groups

I always tell my furry friends' human RV owners to check out the [iRV2 forums](#) for suggestions on dog-friendly RV campgrounds. Over on the [RV LIFE Facebook group](#), members will answer questions about places to go – and places to avoid – to make your canine travel buddy happy.

Belly Rubs and Head Scratches = Happy RV Dog Travels

So there you have it, my best tips on what the best dog-friendly RV campgrounds have in common. As an RV-traveling dog, RV parks and campgrounds that have a majority of these dog-friendly features makes me one very happy camper pup!

If you see a handsome Cavalier King Charles spaniel named Hershey Pup at your campground, feel free to give me belly rubs and head scratches! Enjoy your RV travels with your furry friends!

About the Author.

- [About](#)
- [Full Bio](#)



[Erik Anderson](#)

Erik and his wife Jeanne have been living, remote-working, and traveling full-time around the U.S. and Canada in their mid-size Class A motorhome since July 2020. They love hiking,

biking, kayaking, and adventuring with their beloved Cavalier King Charles spaniel, “Hershey Pup”. A well-traveled pup, Hershey has happily wagged his tail through all of the “Lower 48” U.S. states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 40 national parks. And they’re not done yet! Along with RV lifestyle media writing, Erik co-authors their Hershey Pup RV Adventures children’s book series. He loves how their pup’s RVing adventures makes kids smile!