

# Come. Sit. Stay.

Pet-friendly accommodations, amenities become more common

BY KATHERINE CALOS  
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

**W**hen Dr. Julia Nunley packs up for a family trip, there's often a place in the car for a black-haired 3-year-old named Gracie.

Her dog.

The miniature schnauzer went to Vermont when she was 10 months old. She spent her first Christmas at The Jefferson Hotel. She has been on a couple of beach trips.

"They're good companions," said Nunley, a dermatology professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. She traveled with an earlier schnauzer named Maggie before Gracie came along.

Nunley isn't the only one who thinks that way. Pet-friendly travel is popular.

Dogs aren't welcome everywhere, but this year's edition of the AAA pet-friendly guide lists more than 13,000 pet-friendly lodgings in the United States and Canada. More than 1,000 of those listings are new to the ninth edition of "Traveling With Your Pet: The AAA PetBook." In the Bed & Breakfast Association of Virginia, 23 inns describe themselves as pet-friendly, and an additional 33 accept pets under certain conditions.

CornerStone Farm B&B even made room for a goose when Joanna Wilcox of Boone, N.C., came to visit with HonkyTonk, her gander. The fact that Ward Halligan raises geese on the Charlotte County farm had something to do with it.

"HonkyTonk got to pick out a little goose — Tootsie (actually she picked him out)," Wilcox said. The Wilcox dogs had to approve, too, before Tootsie joined the family.

"They've never spent the night in a kennel or with a friend or family



KATHERINE CALOS

**Julia Nunley sits with Gracie at The Jefferson Hotel, where they spent Christmas one year.**



CORNERSTONE FARM

**Mike and Joanna Wilcox hold their herd at CornerStone Farm, where they got a new goose.**

we go, they go, or we don't go."

B&B owners often do a little extra to help visiting pets feel at home. When a Doberman pinscher started howling because the family went to dinner without him, Mary Hill at The Quarters in Charlottesville calmed him down.

"I went upstairs and sat with him until his family returned," she said, "and the big crybaby kept his head on my lap while I read."

At Oak Grove Plantation near South Boston, the animals get home-baked doggie treats, as well as the chance to romp on 400 acres of fields with the resident poodle, Bonnie. At Crump's Mountain Cottage in Amherst County, guests can "adopt" a pup for the duration. Once one slept in a guest's suitcase for nine days.

Fleeton Fields Bed & Breakfast in Reedville has towels available for dogs that swim in the pond or the Chesapeake Bay. The llamas at Ap-

plewood seem happy to have company. "Neither the dogs nor the llamas are content until they check each other out," said owner Linda Best.

One thing the dogs don't get is a plate at the table, even though occasionally one seems to expect it. Innkeepers Sharon and Sam Elswick at Holladay House in Orange remember the time they came out of the kitchen to find a Labrador retriever sitting, as if waiting for his first course.

Hotels and B&Bs often establish rules for pets. Some require that the animal stay in a crate if left alone in the room. Others won't allow the animal to be left unattended. And then there's the obvious: "They should not try to eat our B&B cat," said Paul Edwards at MayneView B&B in Luray.

Most lodgings charge an extra fee for an animal in the room. "They can be dirt cheap or very expensive, any-

## Gone with the dogs

Pets are welcome at several bed-and-breakfast inns around the state.



JOHN G. OWNBY/TIMES-DISPATCH

discovered on her travels.

Having a book that lists dog-friendly lodgings is helpful. But sometimes, things change.

Nunley remembers a trip to Roanoke, "where we used to stay in a lovely little Comfort Inn. Some places are incredibly friendly. It had been like that before. But we came in this time and they said, 'You can't come in here.' They made us stay in smoking rooms and go out the back door."

More typical was the time she went to a friend's wedding in Cincinnati years ago with Maggie, her first schnauzer. The B&B where everyone else was staying didn't accept dogs, so they went to a Hampton Inn.

"It was a cool October. We went rollerblading in the parking lot.

"People always talk to you when you have a dog. It's quite fun."

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• Contact Katherine Calos at (804) 649-6433 or