

NEW to ABQ ®

Things to do With Your Family Dog

By Sally Sacco

As the co-owner and caretaker of our very important family members, our Golden Retrievers, 6-year old Ginger and 5-year old Mia, I am always on the lookout for things to do in the local area that would be fun to share with my family, both human and K-9. As an Albuquerque-native, I've compiled several lists of local things to do in the Albuquerque area including the following information and resources to care for and pamper your family dog(s).

- Finding a furry friend
- Local pet stores
- Maintaining your dog's health
- Taking your dog on the town
- When you're leaving town
- Just for fun

Finding a Furry Friend:

The first place to start is to find a new dog to bring home to your family. There are several places to purchase or adopt a dog including many reputable national chains and rescue organizations, which typically also provide a wide range of foods and supplies, and in some cases, grooming services, such as:

- Animal Humane New Mexico, <http://animalhumanenm.org/>
- City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare, <http://www.cabq.gov/pets/>
- Petco, www.petsmart.com/live-pet
- PetSmart, www.petsmart.com

Local Pet Stores:

And if you prefer to support a locally-based business, I'd suggest some of the following establishments:

- Arie's Dogland, <https://www.ariesdogland.com/>
- Bone-a-fide Dog!, <https://bone-a-fidedog.com/>
- Boofy's Best for Pets, www.boofysbest.com
- Clark's Pet Emporium, www.clarkspets.com
- Long Leash on Life, <http://longleashonlife.com/>
- Pet Food Gone Wild (in nearby Rio Rancho), www.petfoodgonewild.com

There are also several novelty pet stores that serve bakery goods and gifts, including:

- Tailwaggin Temptations Gourmet Dog Treats, www.tailwaggintemptations.com
- Three Dog Bakery, <https://www.threedog.com/three-dog-bakery-albuquerque/>

Maintaining Your Dog's Health:

To maintain your dogs' health, there are several animal hospitals and veterinary clinics to choose from. Here's Yelp Albuquerque's most recent top 10 list of these type of facilities (<https://www.yelp.com/albuquerque>):

- 4 Paws Pet Hospital, www.4pawspethospital.com
- Aztec Animal Clinic, <https://www.aztecanimalclinic.com/>
- Del Norte Animal Clinic, <https://delnorteanimalclinic.wordpress.com/>

- Desert Hills Animal Clinic, www.deserthillsvet.com
- Fetch! Pet Care, <https://www.fetchpetcare.com/albuquerque/>
- Lomas Veterinary Clinic, <http://lomasvet.com/>
- Southwest Veterinary Medical Center, <http://mysouthwestvet.com/>
- St. Francis Animal Clinic, LTD, <http://www.nmvet.com/about>
- Taylor Ranch Veterinary Hospital, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Taylor-Ranch-Veterinary-Clin/247319492044623>
- VCA Veterinary Animal Hospital and Referral Center, <https://vcahospitals.com/veterinary-care>

Taking Your Dog on the Town:

There are also several restaurants who accommodate pets, typically on their outdoor patios including for example: Flying Star Cafe, Gecko's Bar & Tapas, La Crepe Michel, Steelbender Brewery, O-Niell's, and several other brew pubs to name just a few. Here are some links to locate a restaurant nearby...

- Bring Fido, https://www.bringfido.com/restaurant/city/albuquerque_nm_us/
- Dog Friendly Restaurants, <http://petfriendlyrestaurants.com/state/NM>

And one of my favorite sites for local pet information and resources is the City of Albuquerque's "Pet Friendly" web page, <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/travel-tools/pets/>, that includes comprehensive information on...

- Dog Parks
- Pet-Friendly Lodging
- Pets on Public Transportation
- Pet-Friendly Dining
- Animal Welfare Events
- Pet-Friendly Hotel Packages
- Pet-Friendly Albuquerque News

When You're Leaving Town:

When you have to leave your furry friends behind, there are a long list of pet hotels and pet sitters to entrust your pets to, including Yelps' list of the best 10 Pet Boarding/Pet Sitting services:

- Bath Brush & Beyond, www.bathbrushandbeyond.com
- Fetch! Pet Care, <https://www.fetchpetcare.com/albuquerque>
- Camp Bow Wow Albuquerque, www.campbowwow.com/albuquerque
- From Wags to Whiskers, <http://fromwagstowhiskers.net/>
- Caring Paws Doggie Day Care, <http://caringpawsdoggiedaycare.com/>
- Doggie Den Grooming, <http://doggieden.biz/index.html>
- New Mexico Kennels, www.newmexicankennels.com
- Canine Country Club and Feline Inn (2 Locations), www.caninecountryclub.com
- Animal Humane Albuquerque, www.animalhumanenm.org

For additional ideas, refer to the New Mexico Pet Sitters' Alliance, www.nmpetsitters.com.

Just For Fun...

Albuquerque is also host to several fun dog-related events and related activities including:

The Albuquerque Mayor's Dog Gala

The Mayor hosts an annual gala to fund dog-related community programs. Here's information on last year's gala...

Mayor and First Lady's Dog Ball Event 2016

A Paw-lynesian Dog Ball

- www.kennelkompadres.org/DOG BALL 2016.html

- <http://albuquerque.eventful.com/events/mayor-and-first-ladys-pawlynesian-dog-ball-2-/E0-001-095699367-5>

Albuquerque Area Dog Parks

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/parks/dog-parks>

There are 15 dog parks in the Albuquerque area, including:

- Bud Warren & Lady Dog Park
- Canine Skyline Dog Park
- Coronado Dog Park
- Los Altos Park
- Montessa Park
- North Domingo Baca
- Ouray Dog Park
- Rio Grande Triangle Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Santa Fe Village Dog Park
- Tom Bollack Urban Forest Park
- Tower Pond Park
- USS Bullhead Park
- Westgate Dog Park

And if you live in the East Mountains area, be sure to visit the Vista Grande Community Center in Sandia Park with a large dog park with a wonderful view of the Sandias... here's the link:

<http://www.bernco.gov/community-services/vista-grande.aspx>.

Most of the parks are open 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, fenced and provide water and waste bags. Be sure to read about what each park offers before you go to be sure you maintain the safety of your dog and other visitors. Having visited several parks, I highly recommend them for giving your dog an unleashed "workout!"

And probably the most fun event of all is the annual Doggie Dash and Dawdle. It's Animal Humane's signature event and largest fundraiser. Recognized as Albuquerque's must-attend pet owner event, Doggie Dash attracts more than 4,500 attendees each year. Here's the link...

Doggie Dash and Dawdle

Balloon Fiesta Park

<https://animalhumanenm.org/events-ahnm/doggie-dash-dawdle/>

I hope to see you and your canine companion at the next one... and if you see me, be sure to say hi... Mia will happily greet you with a big furry hug!!!

For more information about your new home of Albuquerque including jobs, schools, best areas of town to live in, or finding a home that is perfect for you and your fur baby, please let me know. I would be happy to provide additional information and lists to support you and your family.



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