PAW

Dog-Friendly Door County

A printable guide to beaches, trails, patios, lodging, ferries and adventures with your dog

North Shore Family Adventures

Updated July 2026

Plan a Door County trip your dog can enjoy, too

Door County offers an unusually broad mix of dog-friendly hiking trails, off-leash parks, outdoor dining, lodging and water activities. This printable guide highlights the most useful options while keeping changing policies and seasonal restrictions front and center.

Before you go: Private businesses may change pet policies without notice. Patio seating is seasonal and weather-dependent. Always confirm directly before making a special trip.

Quick rules

- Dogs in Wisconsin state parks must generally remain on a leash eight feet or shorter.
- Pets are usually prohibited from designated swimming beaches, buildings, playgrounds and most picnic areas.
- Municipal swimming beaches generally do not allow dogs. Use designated pet-swim areas or private dog-friendly beaches.
- Bring waste bags, water, identification, tick protection and proof of rabies vaccination.
- Never leave a dog unattended at a campsite, lodging property or restaurant patio.

Best bets at a glance

Best public dog beach	Whitefish Dunes State Park pet swim area
Best off-leash option	Captain Baileys Dog Park
Best scenic hike	Newport State Park or Peninsula State Park
Best dog-focused meal	Harbor Fish Market & Grille
Best beach lodging	Beachfront Inn
Best remote adventure	Rock Island State Park
Best rainy-day stop	Door County Dog Store & Stove Dog Bakery

Dog-friendly parks and trails

State-park admission stickers may be required. Trail and beach restrictions can vary by season, so follow posted signs even when a park generally welcomes dogs.

Potawatomi State Park

Sturgeon Bay - Most hiking trails welcome leashed dogs when trails are not groomed for skiing. Pets are excluded from buildings, playgrounds and designated swimming areas.

Official information

Whitefish Dunes State Park pet swim area

Jacksonport/Sturgeon Bay - The peninsula's most reliable public dog-swimming option. The designated area is about a three-quarter-mile walk from parking. Dogs are not allowed on the main beach from April 1 through November 1.

Official information

Cave Point County Park

Jacksonport - Leashed dogs are welcome. Keep pets secure near the unfenced limestone ledges and crowded overlook areas.

Official information

Peninsula State Park

Fish Creek - Dogs are permitted on most trails unless posted otherwise. They are prohibited at Nicolet Beach, buildings, playgrounds and most picnic areas.

Official information

Newport State Park

Ellison Bay - Leashed dogs are welcome on most trails and campsites. Use the Europe Bay area for dog-friendly shoreline access; Newport Bay swimming beach is off-limits.

Official information

Ellison Bluff County Park

Ellison Bay - A short wooded walk and dramatic Green Bay overlook. Keep dogs close near the bluff and viewing platform.

Official information

Door Bluff Headlands County Park

Near Gills Rock - Rugged, undeveloped terrain with faint trails and steep bluffs. Best for experienced hikers and sure-footed dogs.

Official information

Rock Island State Park

Washington Island area - Vehicle-free wilderness reached by two ferries. Leashed dogs are welcome on trails, shoreline and designated campsites.

Official information

Off-leash dog parks

These parks provide fenced areas where dogs can run without a leash. Owners remain responsible for supervision, cleanup and safe interactions.

Shiloh Road Bark Park

South of Sturgeon Bay on County Road U - About four fenced acres with separate small- and large-dog areas.

Captain Baileys Dog Park

2567 Summit Road, Baileys Harbor - Large off-leash property with separate sections for large and small dogs.

Sister Bay Dog Park

Autumn Court near the sports complex - Fenced grassy space with picnic tables and waste-bag stations.

Harbor Hounds Dog Park

Village View Park, Egg Harbor - About two fenced acres with separate sections and seasonal water.

Dog-friendly swimming

Whitefish Dunes pet swim area

Lake Michigan side - Best public swimming choice. Expect a walk from the main parking area and keep the leash handy.

Official information

Europe Bay shoreline

Newport State Park - Leashed dogs may access shoreline away from the designated Newport Bay swimming beach.

Official information

Beachfront Inn private beach

Baileys Harbor - Available to registered guests in dog-friendly rooms; property rules and fees apply.

Official information

Rock Island shoreline

Rock Island State Park - Miles of primitive shoreline for leashed dogs, reached by two ferries.

Official information

Common no-dog beaches: Sister Bay Beach, Fish Creek Beach, Ephraim Beach, Egg Harbor Beach, Nicolet Bay Beach and Newport Bay swimming beach.

Dog-friendly patios and tasting rooms

Nearly all food-and-drink options are outdoor only. Seating may disappear during poor weather or peak periods, and dogs may need to remain outside while someone orders.

Harbor Fish Market & Grille

Baileys Harbor - Outdoor waterfront seating and a dog menu.

Official information

Door County Brewing Co.

Baileys Harbor - Leashed dogs welcome in the outdoor beer garden.

Official information

Stabbur Beer Garden

Sister Bay - Dogs welcome outside; not inside the main Al Johnson's restaurant.

Official information

Wild Tomato

Fish Creek and Sister Bay - Dog-friendly outdoor tables when patios are open.

Official information

Husby's / The Garage

Sister Bay - Dogs are commonly welcomed in the outdoor Garage area.

Official information

Blue Horse Beach Cafe

Fish Creek - Leashed dogs welcome at designated outdoor tables.

Official information

Not Licked Yet

Fish Creek - Outdoor seating and play area welcome dogs.

Official information

Lautenbach's Orchard Country

Fish Creek - Leashed dogs welcome in designated outdoor areas.

Official information

One Barrel Brewing Company

Egg Harbor - Large dog-friendly outdoor beer garden.

Official information

Stone's Throw Winery

Egg Harbor - Dogs are commonly welcomed in outdoor areas.

Official information

Wilson's

Ephraim - Designated outdoor tables may accommodate dogs.

Official information

Island Orchard Cider

Ellison Bay - Dogs welcome on the outdoor patio.

Official information

Door County Coffee & Tea Co.

Carlsville - Shaded outdoor tables welcome leashed dogs.

Official information

Simon Creek Vineyard

Sturgeon Bay area - Dog-friendly outdoor deck, including many seasonal music days.

Official information

Dog-friendly lodging

Reserve directly and specify that you are traveling with a dog. Confirm the designated room type, number of dogs, weight limits, fees, vaccination requirements and unattended-pet rules.

Country House Resort

Sister Bay - Guests ages 13 and older; dog-friendly rooms, shoreline and walking trails.

Official information

Beachfront Inn

Baileys Harbor - First-floor dog-friendly rooms and private beach access; waiver and fees apply.

Official information

Open Hearth Lodge

Sister Bay - Designated dog-friendly accommodations and grassy walking areas.

Official information

Edgewater Resort

Ephraim - Limited dog-friendly condos and cottages; book directly.

Official information

Holiday Music Motel

Sturgeon Bay - Limited pet-friendly rooms in a walkable downtown location.

Official information

Julie's Park Cafe & Motel

Fish Creek - Pet-friendly motel rooms near Peninsula State Park.

Official information

Camping with dogs

Dogs are welcome at designated campsites in Peninsula, Potawatomi, Newport and Rock Island state parks. Pets must remain leashed, cannot be left unattended and are excluded from buildings, playgrounds and designated swimming beaches.

Wisconsin state park reservations

Boat tours, ferries and attractions

Sister Bay Scenic Boat Tours

Door County - Many cruises welcome dogs; confirm the specific departure before booking.

Official information

Sail Door County

Door County - Dogs sail free; advance notice is recommended.

Official information

Bella Sailing Cruises

Door County - Small-vessel sailing; call ahead because space is limited.

Official information

Northern Sky Theater

Door County - Leashed dogs are generally allowed at the outdoor amphitheater, not the indoor Gould Theater.

Official information

Skyway Drive-In Theatre

Door County - Dogs are welcome if quiet, leashed and under control.

Official information

Door County Dog Store & Stove Dog Bakery

Door County - Pet supplies, local treats and a self-service dog wash in downtown Sturgeon Bay.

Official information

Washington Island Ferry

Leashed pets ride free and may stay in the vehicle or join passengers on the outdoor deck. For 2026, round-trip passenger fares are $16 for adults, $8 for children ages 6-11 and free for children 5 and younger. Vehicle fares are separate.

Current schedule and fares

Rock Island Ferry

A second ferry from Jackson Harbor is required to reach Rock Island State Park. Pets ride free, but schedules are seasonal and weather-dependent.

Rock Island Ferry information

Packing checklist

- ■ Leash eight feet or shorter and a backup leash
- ■ Collar identification and vaccination information
- ■ Waste bags and a portable water bowl
- ■ Enough food, medication and treats for the full trip
- ■ Tick and flea protection
- ■ Towel, paw wipes and a brush
- ■ Canine life jacket for boating or paddling
- ■ Dog first-aid kit
- ■ Cooling mat or portable shade
- ■ Crate or travel bed if required by lodging

Safety reminders

- • Door County has ticks, steep bluffs, rocky shorelines and occasionally rough Lake Michigan water.
- • Keep dogs close near cliffs, overlooks and busy waterfront areas.
- • Check paws and coats after hikes, especially after walking through tall grass.
- • Do not allow dogs to drink untreated lake or stream water.
- • Use extra caution during summer heat; shaded trails and early-morning outings are easier on dogs.

Veterinary care

Animal Clinic of Sturgeon Bay

Sturgeon Bay - Phone: 920-743-2328

Official information

Door County Veterinary Hospital

Sturgeon Bay - Phone: 920-743-7777

Official information

BluePearl Pet Hospital

Green Bay - A regional option for after-hours or advanced emergency care. Call before driving.

Official information

Useful online resources

Destination Door County pet-friendly vacations

Destination Door County dog parks

Wisconsin DNR pet rules

North Shore Family Adventures Door County guide

North Shore Family Adventures dog-friendly Wisconsin hikes

Policies, admission prices, ferry fares, operating hours and pet fees can change. Confirm directly before visiting. Information reviewed July 2026.