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SARAH MAYER



FORT COLLINS, COLO.

Dogs: 19,500

People: 130,000

Highlights: High adoption rates, state-of-the-art dog parks, home to Colorado State University Veterinary Hospital, a no-kill record of adoptable animals at the Larimer Humane Society, and miles of hiking trails.

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"On any given day, you will find dogs and their people enjoying the sun in Historic Old Town, bellied up to the bar at New Belgium Brewing Company, or hiking some of the hundreds of miles of dog-friendly trails within the city and nearby in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The odds of finding someone in Fort Collins who doesn't enjoy the company of a dog are pretty slim!"

— Cathy Jones,

Tourism Marketing Manager, Fort Collins Convention & Visitors Bureau

LONG BEACH, CALIF.

Dogs: 50,000

People: 500,000

Highlights: Three-acre, off-leash Dog Beach Zone, superb community activists, activities such as the Haute Dog Howl'oween Parade, interfaith pet blessing, and above-average adoption rates.



JUSTIN RUDD

"Our city of a half million people loves to love its dogs — and we like to celebrate dogs year-round. If you ask me, if a city's dogs are happy, the city's people are happy."

— Justin Rudd,

Founder, Haute Dogs, a community organization of dog lovers

MADISON, WIS.

Dogs: 10,250

People: 221,551

Highlights: The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, the popular Dog Fest event, the Bark & Wine benefit aiding homeless animals, many dog-friendly parks, including four off-leash ones, and a focus on holistic and alternative veterinary care.

"The Madison area has something for every dog. From our numerous dog parks to our lakes to the world-class veterinary care at the University of Wisconsin, Madison is a great place to be a dog — or a dog owner."

— Dave Cieslewicz,

Mayor



TRICK GIBSON/CITY OF SANFORD

SANFORD, FLA.

Dogs: 10,235

People: 49,250

Highlights: Dog-friendly businesses and restaurants, Paw Park of Historic Sanford, cutting-edge animal legislation, the

Sanford RiverWalk along Lake Monroe, the Howl-o-ween in the Boneyard costume party, and the Paw Park Birthday Bash.

"Sanford's dogs contribute to our unique small town, close-knit, community feel. On any given day, your dog may visit the award-winning Paw Park of Historic Sanford, the new, state-of-the-art Dog Day Afternoon [daycare-boarding-grooming facility], the Sanford RiverWalk, or dine with your dog in one of our outdoor cafés. [Our community] events bring people of all ages out to enjoy time with their dogs, showing Sanford's sense of community spirit at its best."

— Christine Dalton,

Community Planner