

DOGS

Just Wanna



Ann Whitla enjoys a beach walk with her dogs: Mabel, a rescue mix, and Brüggén, a golden retriever puppy.

Have Fun!

From seaside yappy hours to custom doggy doors and quality day care, pups are wagging their way through the good life.

BY MARJORIE
MCDONALD PITTS

As the crowds disperse and the days turn cooler, Chatham becomes a playground for our four-legged friends. Off-season strolls along the beach let dogs run free across wide-open stretches of sand. A walk down Main Street brings its own simple joys—from the water bowl waiting outside The Chatham Squire to the whimsical dog treat machine at Chatham Candy Manor. This welcoming spirit makes it clear: Chatham loves its dogs. On the following pages, we celebrate that canine connection—from “paw-some” pet weekends and dog-friendly design details for the home, to trusted training and quality day care. Here in Chatham, every season is dog season.

PHOTO BY BETTY WILEY



Lauren Shea and her dog Luna, left, and Judy Smith with Ziggy stop at the familiar water bowl outside The Chatham Squire during a walk.

Yappy hour and ‘paw-some’ weekends

Wequassett Resort and Golf Club has a century-long history of attracting discerning two-legged visitors to enjoy the resort’s fine dining, luxurious accommodations and dynamic special events. More recently, the resort has also welcomed four-legged guests to take part in a fun-filled lineup of dog-friendly activities and “paw-some” pet-centered weekends.

Leashed and eager to party, our own two fur babies—tails wagging in anticipation—happily lead the way as my partner and I join the fun at one of the popular “Yappy Hour” events—this one with a St. Patrick’s Day theme. As we enter the Garden Terrace, our dogs are enthusiastically greeted by a friendly pup named Dash. “He came from Alabama, and we adopted him from the Animal Rescue League of Brewster,” shares Aram Goshgarian, who resides in Dennis. “I think these events at Wequassett are good for the pups to socialize—and for the humans who come along with them.”

An enticing array of dog-themed vendors is set up around the room to cater to the pooches, while their human companions head to the inviting bar and concession area for St. Patrick’s-themed refreshments. As the dogs exchange sniffs and wags, their people engage in an exchange of pets’ names and convivial, canine-centered conversation.

“This is our third Yappy Hour,” explains Jamie McPhee, director of guest relations and membership services at Wequassett. “Each one gets busier—it’s such a fun event, where the community and our guests can come together and enjoy it with their furry family members.”

As part of Wequassett’s commitment to supporting the local community, the resort donates a portion of its pet fees to the Animal Rescue League in Brewster. “When we host our ‘paw-some’ weekends, we donate 100 percent of the pet fees to the ARL,” says McPhee. “It’s been a great success—we really enjoy working with them.”

PHOTO BY BETTY WILEY



Tucker, a German shorthaired pointer, takes in the view of Pleasant Bay.

Representatives from the Animal Rescue League of Brewster set up a photo booth replete with St. Patrick's Day-themed props for both dogs and their families. They cheerfully help guests prep and pose to capture the festive moment, while also sharing information about their work supporting pets in need across Cape Cod. "We've been so fortunate to have this generous support from Wequassett," says Whitney Tropeano, development officer for the ARL.

Tropeano shares some of the details of that support—including a recent visit by McPhee and other staff members to the ARL in Brewster, where they delivered not only funds from the resort's pet fees but also much-needed sheets, towels and other supplies. "It's been a great relationship," adds Tropeano. Judging by the tail wags and smiling faces at Yappy Hour, it's clear: The partnership is truly paw-some, indeed!



Oliver strikes a regal bulldog pose as he watches over the "pawsome" canine crowd.

Coastal Style Meets Canine Charm

Chatham is well known as a dog-loving town—welcoming both residents and visitors—with many opportunities for Fido to roam. From on-leash strolls along Main Street, complete with a water stop in front of The Chatham Squire, to off-leash romps on pristine beaches during the off-season, pups are never left out of the fun.

For homeowners who also want to provide secure spaces for their pets at home, **Seaport Shutter Company** recently launched a new product line, The Puppy Gate, a stylish selection of doggie-approved interior gates. The craftsmen at Seaport Shutter have also designed an operable doggie panel at the bottom of their iconic mahogany screen and storm doors to allow pets to venture in and out. The puppy gates and doors are customized to meet the aesthetic and practical needs of discerning pet lovers.



Seaport Shutter recently launched a new product line, The Puppy Gate, which provides secure and stylish spaces for pets at home.

Founded in 1992 by owner Peter Malone, Seaport Shutter has established itself as the go-to source for custom architecturally correct shutters, mahogany screen and storm doors, mahogany porch panels, Adirondack chairs and handcrafted signs. More recently, the company has added customized puppy gates, screen doors with paw-proof screening and doggie doors with a movable panel to its product line, providing pet-loving homeowners elevated solutions for their furry family members.

“We’ve been catering for years to clients who always request tougher screening for their pets and who may

also want to add something custom on the door that is an ode to their dog,” says Lauren Huard, daughter of founder Peter Malone, who works alongside her father in sales and design. “We handcraft dog-themed appliques in any finish, or we can carve the pet’s name on the gates and doors—our cutouts, like the dog bone, are also very popular options.”

Like all of Seaport Shutter Company’s products, including its extensive selection of appliques, the puppy gates, screen doors with pet-proof screening and doggie panel doors, are made in house at the company’s Chatham facility by a team of skilled craftsmen; none of the work is subcontracted.

“They’re beautiful, and they coordinate with our décor and style,” says Victoria Quake, a longtime customer who has had Seaport Shutter’s doggie panel doors installed in both her Chatham and Connecticut homes for her two Labradoodles. “They look like traditional Seaport Shutter screen doors, but the bottom has a movable piece that dogs can push to go in and out—they work great.”

This design provides more freedom for the pets and gives pet parents more flexibility as they juggle busy schedules. “We’re dog people,” Huard adds with a smile. “We understand.”

Training, Trust and Tail Wags

Membership has its privileges, and that certainly holds true for the dogs at **Chatham Dog Club**, where happy

pups have been enrolled by their discerning human companions since 2012 for high-quality doggy day care, professional training and, more recently, overnight accommodations.

Primarily during the off season, the CDC also offers a host of specialized dog-centered classes and workshops, such as canine CPR and first aid, massage therapy, essential oils and canine fitness.

“I have been in animal care my entire life,” says Chatham Dog Club (CDC) founder and owner Anne Corrigan. “I am a certified trainer and agility

instructor with the American Kennel Club, and I'm also an American Kennel Club judge."

Corrigan's extensive experience and expertise handling dogs was immediately apparent when I recently visited the CDC facility during the scheduled nap time. She and her staff had already settled all 45 dogs into their designated spaces, each pup quietly enjoying doggy downtime before the next round of structured play in the early afternoon. During our nearly 45-minute conversation and tour, barely a yap was heard from the comfortably resting pooches.

"I use what's called the LIMA approach, which is 'least intrusive, minimally aversive' training," says Corrigan. "Dogs can learn much better with positive reinforcement—I am passionate about that—it's morally how I want to handle dogs, and it's how I know my clients want their dogs handled."

Longtime client and pet parent Barbara Matteson recalls when she first brought in her 15-year-old miniature Pinscher, Ted, for his admission "interview." Matteson watched in awe as Corrigan adeptly quieted the excited dogs in the room. "Anne looked around, softly said, 'Quiet,' and then raised her hand and slowly waved it across the room, and every dog stopped barking. She's a true dog whisperer."

"Anne has a system where she basically interviews the dogs—they have to be vetted," says Barry Desilets of Chatham, whose granddog, Ellie, attends CDC's day



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHATHAM DOG CLUB

Having a ball during play time at Chatham Dog Club.

program, which he lovingly refers to as "Ellie's camp," each summer. "I feel very safe and comfortable with Ellie being there, knowing it's a great community and Ellie has friends there."

During the day, the pets follow a set schedule with plenty of outdoor activities, including use of structures to promote agility and build the dogs' confidence. "We like to keep the dogs happy and satisfied," adds Corrigan.

In addition to the daily training that occurs with Anne and her professionally certified staff, Corrigan also offers targeted one-on-one sessions. She often brings both the dogs and their human companions for walks along Main Street in Chatham, giving the pups abundant opportunities to practice socialization, get used to real-world scenarios and learn to walk on leash while keeping their focus on their owners' lead.

"I love doing training sessions on Main Street because it gives my clients confidence to take their dogs out in public," Corrigan says with a smile. "Chatham is such dog-friendly community." ▲



BETTY WILEY

Lisa Gillort's huskies, Moose and Storm, enjoy an outing at Chase Park.