

AUGUST 21, 2009

Weekend



Happy Tails

Jackie doesn't ask for much.

Food, water and the occasional belly rub.

I picked her out from the neighborhood shelter nearly 11 years ago because she looked the most like the beagle my dad wanted. In truth, "mutt" would be a more appropriate word: She has hints of basset and Lord knows what else.

Dog lovers like me are a special breed. There isn't any place we would rather be than with our pup. From Alexandria to Annapolis, Wheaton to Washington, dog lovers have more options than ever to spend time with our four-legged friends. On these pages you'll find suggestions for activities that are bound to delight both owner and pet: happy hours, hikes, gourmet restaurants, cruises and pool spots that indulge and celebrate man's best friend. (And in our dating column, the suggestion that old Fido can help man find a mate!)

Jackie, you might not appreciate it as much as a dog treat or a long walk, but this story is for you.

— Amy Orndorff

Chic Treats on the Hill

Good dogs get kibble. Great dogs get a treat.

Top dogs? They get beef tips in vitamin-enhanced sauce with rice at one of Washington's top restaurants.

Art and Soul on Capitol Hill earned accolades in November from Post critic Tom Sietsema for its regional and Southern offerings.

But among dog lovers it is known for its Pooch Patio Menu.

The patio, most popular after work and for weekend brunches, has fairly extensive offerings. As soon as dogs arrive, they are given a big bowl of ice water. Other drinks include Bowser Beer (a non-alcoholic, beefy ale) and VitaPaw (a vitamin-enhanced water).

For an appetizer, dogs can munch on granola treats, puppy cakes and dog biscuits. When Shannon McKenna of Arlington and her mom, Leanne McKenna, of Olney brought their golden doodle, Jake, to Art and Soul a couple of weeks ago, they were almost jealous of what he got to eat.

"When [the biscuits] came to the table I was like, 'They smell really good. Do they make them for humans?'" Shannon McKenna said.

As for the main courses, dogs can choose from steak, beef tips and frozen raw bones. Jake got the Hungry Dawg: a six-ounce grilled steak.

He didn't even have to beg.

WHERE IS IT? Art and Soul, 415 New Jersey Ave. NW.

WHEN IS IT? The patio is open daily (weather permitting) from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; until 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; patio opens at 10:30 a.m. for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? Bowser Beer is \$4, VitaPaw is \$3. Treats cost \$5 and main dishes cost \$5-\$8.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW? Dogs must be leashed.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION? Call 202-393-7777 or visit www.artandsoul.com.

IF YOU LIKE THIS, CHECK OUT: Pat Troy's, 111 N. Pitt St., Alexandria. 703-549-4535 or www.patroysirishpub.com. The Irish restaurant offers chopped chicken, chopped burger, beef stew and lamb stew to four-legged friends.



PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW BY RICKY CARROTI — THE WASHINGTON POST



ABOVE, golden retriever Chase sinks his teeth into a frozen raw bone at Art and Soul on Capitol Hill, where the Pooch Patio Menu