

BREAKS WITH PETS

**The Crown & Castle, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk**

The Crown & Castle stands in the shadow of Orford's 12th-century castle. Old meets new inside with stripped floorboards, open fires and eclectic art. Dogs are received warmly, with handmade biscuits on arrival and secure long leashes by the bedrooms. These warm and airy rooms come with Vi-Spring beds, super bathrooms and lovely fabrics. Take a day and explore Rendlesham Forest, or hop on a boat and chug over to Orford Ness. On return, head over to the designated pet-friendly dining spot and tuck into ambrosial food with dogs at your feet.

*From £130 per night, based on two sharing, with breakfast at weekends. Dogs £6 each (01394 450205; crownandcastle.co.uk).*

**The Farmhouse at A Corner of Eden, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria**

Within a spectacular valley sits this Georgian farmhouse. Luxurious yet homely, the cosy sitting room has a log fire and the dining room has beautiful beams. There are polished wooden floors and bedrooms with original fireplaces and welcoming beds. Everything has been thought of here, with Barbours, local maps and wellies to borrow, everything to explore the immediate surroundings and the distant Cumbrian hills. There's a welcome basket with champagne and drinks in the honesty bar, or head out to nearby dog-friendly pubs (there are three in the village).

*From £995 per week (sleeps eight), short breaks available (01539 623370; acornerofeden.co.uk).*

**Wriggly Tin, Hampshire**

Wriggly Tin shepherd's huts are two lovely off-grid shacks in a wooded corner of Hampshire, hand built after an inspiring family holiday in the countryside. Butser, a two-person hut, is dog friendly with enough space under the raised double bed for a dog to sleep in comfort. You're far enough apart to feel on your own, with your personal fire pit, tripod, cast-iron gridle and plenty of wood and kindling for some daring experiments in campfire cooking. Keep a pan of water on the wood-burner for tea and stroll through the surrounding bluebell woods. Dogs get a bag of sausages on arrival.

*Three shepherd's huts (sleep 2-3) from £75pn (0117 204 7830; canopyandstars.co.uk/wrigglytin).*

**Joiners Arms, Newton-by-the-Sea, Northumberland**

The Joiners Arms is a recently renovated little inn with splendid rooms on the Northumberland coast, half a mile from the sea. In the bedrooms, expect antler chandeliers, low-slung French beds and double-ended baths. Some have Juliet balconies, others feature exposed brickwork and all have rich colours, flat-screen TVs and robes in fabulous bathrooms. Dogs are invited with beds of their own and toys to chew on. Downstairs, there are striped floors, tables in bay windows, local ales and cakes on the counter (or dog biscuits behind the bar). Outside, Alwrick



**A DOG'S LIFE**  
Long Cover Cottage (above); The Farmhouse at A Corner of Eden (right); Marver House (left)  
COLIN CUTHBERT

# Where B&B stands for basket and breakfast

A stylish stay with a pooch is possible, as this selection from the new edition of Sawday's 'Dog-friendly Breaks in Britain' reveals

Castle Holy Island, the magical coast and beautiful hills await.  
*From £140pn based on two people sharing, £20 per dog (01665 576239; joiners-arms.com).*

**21 Shoregate, Crail, Fife**

Welcome to an immaculate fisherman's cottage just above exquisite Crail harbour. The inside is small and perfect: cool colours and pretty objects run throughout. The ground floor is open-plan with a Shaker-style kitchen that holds all you need, plus a dining table for four. Find a handy guide filled with dog-friendly beach, pub and restaurant recommendations, as well as dog toys (free to use and lose!). Upstairs are two stylish

bedrooms with crisp linen, smart carpets and lovely quilts. Small but beautifully formed, No 21 would suit close friends or a family, or a couple of romancers. Stroll out to find Fife coastal path just by the front door.  
*From £470pw (sleeps 4), £20 per dog (07879 480529; 21shoregate.com).*

**Long Cover Cottage, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire**

Stealing its name from the backdrop of ancient undisturbed woodland, Long Cover Cottage and its surrounds make a natural home for frazzled humans and their dogs. Winding up the long track to this converted stable, there are glorious glimpses of the Temе and Kyre

valleys; the setting is spectacular. Windows flood rooms with light that bounces off polished elm floorboards; a wood-burner and Aga keep things cosy. Lucky children can find a secret treehouse with hammocks and a barbecue for midnight feasts; lucky pets are promised treats and seven acres to explore. Resting on the borders of three counties, this is prime walking country.  
*From £900pw (sleeps 6) (01885 410208; a-country-break.co.uk).*

**The Traddock, Settle, Yorkshire**

Those looking for a friendly base from which to explore the Dales will find it here at this northern outpost of country-house charm. Enter

through a wonderful drawing room with a crackling fire, pretty art, daily papers and cavernous sofas. Bedrooms range from coolly contemporary to deliciously traditional, with family antiques and the odd claw-foot bath. Up to two dogs can stay in the room with you and well-behaved pups are even allowed to stay in your room during supper time. Spectacular walks start at the front door with miles of national park, forests and extraordinary caves. Dog-wash facilities and towels are on hand to clean off muddy paws.  
*From £85pn, £5 per dog (01524 251224; thetraddock.co.uk).*

**Marver House, Mawgan Porth, Newquay, Cornwall**

All is big, beautiful and filled with light. The décor is eclectic with period furniture and modern pieces. Further treats await up the sweeping stair: six bedrooms, six bathrooms and amazing sea views. The fridge is stocked with drinks; there are books, board games and huge stacks of logs, surfboards, wetsuits and a Victorian croquet set. Dogs are far from forgotten with supplies of handmade bacon-fat biscuits and half-baked pig's ears.  
*From £3,750pw (sleeps 12) (01637 861820; marverhouse.co.uk).*

**Lower Fifthead Farm, Sturminster Newton, Dorset**

The dramatic dining room has church pews at an oak refectory table; the log fire will be lit in winter and you can eat on the terrace in summer. Hearty breakfasts include bacon and sausages from home-reared pigs. It's a gorgeous house that shines with pretty fabrics, antiques, hand-painted furniture, vintage pieces – and seriously comfortable brass beds. Outside, take walking advice from kindly hosts; dogs return to a post-walk hose down and a chewy pig's ear in front of the fire.  
*From £75pn, dogs £10pn (01258 817335; lowerfiftheadfarm.co.uk).*

**The Humble Hideaway, Upper Meend Farm, near Mornmouth**

Kate Humble and husband Ludo stepped in to save Upper Meend Farm when it was nearly sold off in pieces. They and their team have preserved it carefully. The Humble Hideaway is made up of two huts, a dog kennel, a firepit and a seating area under the trees. It's an off-grid, cosy space and the surrounding woodland tracks and nearby River Wye make it a doggy heaven. The first hut is the bedroom, with custom-made mattress stuffed with wool from the farm's own sheep. The second was once the property of Great Western Railways; ingeniously converted into a kitchen and shower room. For four-legged friends there's a specially made Dog House.  
*From £80pn (sleeps 2), £5 per dog (0117 204 7830; canopyandstars.co.uk/thehumblehideaway).*

For more information and booking details for all properties go to sawdays.co.uk. Sawday's new Special Places to Stay: Dog-friendly Breaks in Britain is out 1 April (£14.99). To buy a copy and for more information go to sawdays.co.uk

