

ANNUAL MOUNTAIN ISSUE

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## *the* **COLORS** *of* autumn

OUR GUIDE *to* AMAZING FALL VIEWS

THE  
**MAPLE SYRUP**  
MAKER *of* NC  
P.124

**CANTON:**  
PAPERTOWN  
PROUD  
P.138

*The fall foliage  
reflected on  
Lake Junaluska's  
glassy surface makes  
this mountain view  
twice as nice.*



BREVARD

# Shelter for Shelter Dogs

From play parks to “yappy hour,” wooing guests with furry friends has become a point of pride for many hotels. But for shy or territorial pups, what they need is room to roam and relax with the humans they love.



The cabins at DogWoods Retreat feature high-end amenities like hot tubs, wraparound porches, and luxury bedding for people and pooches.

PORTER TOOK HIS FIRST vacation when he was 6 — or 42 in human years. The black-and-white pit bull, a former stray, loves people and even cats, but he fears other dogs. A busy dog-friendly resort is hardly his idea of a holiday. But Porter's owner, Jacqueline Drake, had heard about cabins in Brevard designed for people with dogs like him. Big, fenced yards. No shared spaces. And a rarity: no breed or size restrictions. Drake drove 10 hours from Michigan to stay at DogWoods Retreat with Porter. “I was so excited I could have cried,” she says. “He wasn't worried about anything. Enjoying the peacefulness of [vacation] when you have a reactive dog is huge.”

The cabins are the brainchild of professional dog trainer Nan Long. She works with dogs — many of them former strays — who prefer not to play in packs. When she heard their owners bemoan the lack of quiet, dog-friendly travel destinations, she created one. “I set this up from the standpoint of a professional dog trainer,” Long says. “How can I make this a good experience for people and dogs?” Each of the three cabins sits on a full acre, with space between yards to allow territorial dogs to feel off-duty. Long leaves notes for guests with training ideas for common problems, like scratching at the door. She'll even drop by for training sessions. “It's designed to be a vacation for all dogs,” she says. “The bigger the dog, the better.”

— Jen Tota McGivney

**DOGWOODS RETREAT**  
164 Breckenridge Trail  
Brevard, NC 28712  
(828) 507-3020  
dogwoodsretreat.com