

Pause 4 Paws & Claws

Newtown

On any given day, you can walk down King Street and see a wide selection of people and their pets. We're not just talking dogs here - there are regular ferret walkers, rats draped around necks, the odd macaw or other exotic bird, and cats either in purpose packs or perched out of harm's way, shoulder surfing. Dogs do make up the visible amount of pets on the streets or in parks. There's every possible breed and mix. Although fashions change in breeds in other parts of Sydney, Newtown does have a large collection of rescue mutts.

It's long been a pet friendly place to live or to visit with a collection of off leash parks and dog people determined to keep it that way. It is for this reason that you will find most dog people very responsible in ensuring poo is collected, using recy-

clered supermarket bags or the ones provided by Marrickville and Sydney councils. Peacekeeping is also a responsibility taken on by most dog owners. Keeping the peace with other dog owners is viewed as a necessity since suitable dog walking space has been disappearing in many urban and suburban areas of Sydney. Walk around the narrow grid of residential streets and you would be hard pressed to find a dog barking incessantly because dog owning residents understand the need for suitable amount of exercise to maintain a happy hound.

There are plenty of dog welcome areas for you to enjoy Newtown with your dog. Most cafes with outdoor areas will accept your pooch if under control but it's always polite to ask first.

Cinque - next to the Dendy Cinema, King Street

Breakfast lasts until sunset here and on the menu is a mix of carefully prepared meals. They have the usual brekkie fare as well as Turkish grills, banana bread, frittata and frappes. Lunch and dinner is a mix of burgers, pasta, risotto, soups and salads. Staff are efficient, fun and friendly. In the heat of Summer your dog can lay on the cool tiled area of the Dendy entrance.

The Old Fish Café

This little café occupies a tiny space on the corner of King and Church Street. There's an area where you can sit on the street front cushions and people watch with your four-legged companion at your feet. Rocket fuel coffee and a selection of simple food make this place a popular spot for locals.

Pentimento

Although they don't allow dogs inside, this shop has a wide array of books and greeting cards for animal fanciers. This lifestyle shop often stocks fancy pet bowls and beds for discerning pet-people who want snazzy accessories to fit into their decor. They also stock a range of bags in the shapes of cats and dogs. Other vinyl handbags can be found with monkeys, poodles and giraffes.

Gelatomassi

Cross King Street and you'll find Newtown's favourite gelato shop, Gelatomassi. Brothers Salvatore and Ciccio scoop and serve a wide range of icy confections that include Belgian Chocolate, Sticky Date Pudding and Hazelnut to fruity sorbets including Passion Fruit, Fresh Fig and Strawberries and Cream. They also have a wide range of cakes by the slice. There's sidewalk tables and chairs so you're welcome to bring your dog and the hospitable Gelatomassi boys will often offer canine customers a sample of their delights.

Vintage Cellars & Elizabeth's Books

Many shops in Newtown understand that people shop with their dogs. For this reason they will often leave big bowls of fresh water outside so that your dog can slurp while you shop.

If you're wanting a good bottle to take home then stop in to see the knowledgeable and friendly folk at Vintage Cellars. While you're perusing their wide selection of Australian and overseas wines your dog can be tethered outside and have a thirst quenching drink from the bowl of water provided.

Likewise Elizabeth's New and Used Books cater for dog shoppers as they have a dog water bowl in their doorway too.

Off-leash parks

Camperdown Memorial Rest Park

This is a great park for walking, playing and socialising with local dogs and owners. It's bound by Federation Road, Church Street, the St Stephens Church wall and the diagonal path leading from the church to Federation Road. Marrickville Council have allowed dogs to be off-leash from the hours of 5:00pm to 9:00am, seven days a week. During working hours (9:00am to 5:00pm) dogs must be leashed. There are several bins with dog poo bags available for responsible clean up. At sunset, the park looks like it has been invaded by some exuberant dog-cult as there is a mass of happy, wagging tails and balls flying.

St Stephens Church, Church Street

Within these walls you'll find one of the oldest European burial sites in New South Wales. Established in 1848, there are very interesting grave-sites and big trees to shade you on a sunny day. This is a much-loved site for locals to bring their dogs as they can roam and sniff within the safe confines of the enclosed interior. It's also a great spot for a picnic as there are grassy areas and crypts on which you can spread out your food and beverages. Local dog walkers take great effort in maintaining this very special area and you are asked to pick up after yourself and your dog.

Harry Noble Reserve and Bitton Café

Travel down to Copeland Street from Erskineville Road and you will find Harry Noble Reserve which is bound by Ashmore Street and Elliott and Fox Avenues. Sydney City Council have kindly kept this an all day off-leash area so no time restrictions on when you can play ball with your dog. On any day it's a great place to combine exercise with breakfast or lunch because just across the road is Bitton. This little café serves a great range of breakfast and lunch options. These include large omelettes filled with the freshest ingredients. Other gastronomic delights featured are paper-thin crepes and a local favourite, the 1 pan breakfast. Originally from France, David Bitton runs his café with affable personality, speedy service and high quality fare. He also makes and sells the Bitton Gourmet range of dressings, oils, Monkey Nut Chutney, spices and jams.

"Reverence: the spiritual attitude of a man to a god and a dog to a man."

Ambrose Bierce



King Street Dogs



Camperdown Memorial Rest Park

Each quarter, Urban Animal researchers hit the streets of two suburbs to uncover great places for you and your pet to visit

Woollahra

Let's all woof for Woollahra where pampered pooches can be found hob-knobbing with more muddy mutts. Surprisingly you can find a bunch of off-leash and dog permitted on-leash parks on the doorstep of this genteel and leafy historic suburb. Most cafes that have outside tables will accommodate well behaved dogs with their owners. Take a walk along Queen Street past swanky boutiques, up-market art galleries and posh antique dealers and you will be surprised how many times you can trip over doggie bowls filled with fresh water.

Happy yappers who love the finer things in life can stop into upper-class pet store Dogue which is located on Edgecliff Road. Specialising in haute dog-couture, they stock everything from premium pet food, fun fashion, custom made beds and other

frivolities. A quick drive over to Rose Bay you'll find a relatively new posh pet shop called Urban Pets situated on Newcastle Street which runs off New South Head Road. Double Bay now features a brand new posh pet palace - Dogs In The City on Transvaal Avenue.

Churchill's The Butcher is situated on Queen Street and has the choicest cuts for humans and high quality bones for your dog. Jones The Grocer, on Moncur Street, is the hot stop for fine foods. They have a shiny stainless steel dog bowl next to the entrance so your dog can watch you shop through the glass doors.

Quaife's Restaurant, Hughenden Hotel

The alfresco dining area of this restaurant attached to the historic Hughenden Hotel can, at times, accommodate you and your dog but always best to enquire with the staff first. Breakfast is served weekdays between 7 to 9. During the week it is closed for lunch but open from Tuesday to Saturday for dinner from 6. Dinner entrees range from \$8 to \$13 and mains are \$15 to \$23. You can choose from antipasto plates, salads, lamb and rosemary sausages and steak and kidney pie as well as daily specials. Service is fast, efficient and courteous.

Centennial Parklands Restaurant

Situated on the corner of Grand and Parkes Drive within Centennial Park is this fully licensed restaurant. They're open from 8:30 in the morning and close at 3:30. If you're lucky enough to secure a table next to the open French doors you can keep an eye on your dog. The restaurant has dog spikes and bowls of fresh water available for thirsty mutts. For health reasons dog should be tied up at least 2-3 metres from the restaurant. They serve basic breakfast food ranging from \$5 to \$17 and lunch is \$12 to \$18 for an entrée or \$22 to 29 for mains. Some days the service can be really slow so you're advised to go when you're not pressed for time. If this means that weekends are your only downtime, be aware that they have a 10% surcharge on weekends.

Off-leash parks

Lough Playing Fields

Boarded by Manning and Suttie Roads this park has netball courts and cricket pitches. Dogs are permitted off-leash between the times of 4:30pm and 8:30am but must be on-leash outside those times. There are public toilets for dog walkers' convenience.

Lyne Park

If you want to take a short drive to Rose Bay, you'll find this great park with stunning harbour views. There's plenty of parking and playground facilities and public toilets. Dogs are permitted off-leash between 4:30pm and 8:30am and on-leash outside those times. It's a fabulous spot for dog socialising as you watch the Sydney Harbour Seaplanes and Rose Bay Ferries come and go. The boat ramp can be used to launch dogs into swimming around too!

Steyne Park

Travel east from Lyne Park and you'll find Steyne Park (close to the sailing club) accessible from William Street. Since May 2002, Woollahra Council have been trialling the northern end of this park as an off-leash area and to date it still is. There are public toilets and play equipment.

Centennial Park

Loved by dog walkers all throughout Sydney, Centennial Park is a favourite for dog socialising and exercise. Off-leash areas are designated as outside the Grand Drive. Dogs are not allowed inside the Equestrian exercise area or near ponds to protect bird life. Dogs must be supervised at all times and not within 10 metres of barbeque/picnic areas or children's playgrounds. You can visit the park from sunrise to sunset.

"Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate"
Sigmund Freud

Leash controlled parks

Cooper Park

Right next to the Lough Playing fields is Cooper Park which has a nature trail and limited bushwalking areas. There are tennis courts, children's play areas, picnic tables and barbeque facilities (Cooper Park provides the wood). Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Harbour View Park

This leafy green park is well known by locals who use this as a short-cut from Bondi Junction to Double Bay. You can enter the park from either Russell or Harkness Streets. Mature trees provide shade over much of the park so it's a great spot to bring Rover, a latte and a good book. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Trumper Park

Access from either Glenmore or Hampden Streets or Quarry Street which runs off Jersey Road. The park has playing fields, play grounds and a turf running track for the athletically inclined. Dogs permitted but must be on a leash at all times.



Jones The Grocer



Queen Street