



Clockwise from top left: Fun in the sun (and snow) with Alpine Dogs. A dog-tired pooch at Summit Lodge. Bathtime with Shampoooch



ALPINE DOGS PHOTO BY CHRISTINE CUTHBERT

Release the Hounds!

If you think Whistler isn't a pet-friendly town, you're barking up the wrong tree. Whether it's the middle of winter or the dog days of summer, many hotels are happy to offer all the creature comforts to Rover or Spot, for a small fee. Summit Lodge Boutique Hotel (www.summitlodge.com; 1-888-913-8811) doesn't charge extra for dogs, all of whom are treated like VIPs (Very Important Pets), and provides special beds, bowls and treats. Plus resident dog Talitha is always on hand to accept treats and cuddles.

To make sure your own top dog stays happy and healthy—and becomes dog-tired by day's end—head to one of the many parks with designated off-leash times, such as Rainbow Park, Lost Lake Park, Alpha Lake Park and Meadow Park. (And since doggie-do is definitely a doggie *don't*, be sure to tuck a few plastic bags into your pocket before heading out.) To give your pampered pooch extra exercise and a chance to social-

ize with canine chums, call Alpine Dogs (www.alpinedogs.ca; 604-902-9663). Their adventure hikes are great for high-energy hounds who feel comfortable in a group, while their private walks and in-room sitting are ideal for pups with special needs or who just want a little extra attention.

After running around on muddy or snowy trails, Fido definitely needs a bath. The deluxe bathing area at W.A.G. (www.whistlerwag.com; 604-935-8364), Whistler's animal shelter, can be rented by donation. If you'd rather leave that whole wet and wiggly process to the pros, call Shampoooch Mobile Dog Grooming (www.shampoooch.ca; 604-902-5512). Shayla Libin brings her fully contained grooming van to your four-legged friend and washes, brushes, flunks and trims, magically turning dirty dogs into pristine pups. Consider it a doggie day at the spa, complete with pawdicure.

It's true that every dog has its day—especially in Whistler. 🐾