



# TRAVELLING WITH A furry friend

Avoid the hassle of arranging pet care while you go on holiday – take your pup along too

When it comes time to arrange a holiday, pet owners all know the planning is more difficult if there's a four-legged family member to consider. Leaving a pet behind can be upsetting for you – even more distressing for your deserted pussycat or faithful pooch.

Of course there's a great range of pet boarding facilities available but if there's the chance to take your pet along, then why not holiday with the whole family?

The *Life. Be in it* *Holidaying With Dogs* book (and website, see contact box) are devoted to helping you plan a great break

with your pet. The directory lists more than 2000 motels, B&Bs, cottages, caravan parks, camping grounds and farmstay options that are pet-friendly.

Cape Otway Cottages, off Victoria's Great Ocean Road, is a perfect example of the type of accommodation to which *Holidaying With Dogs* can lead you. The cottages won the National and Victorian Five Paw award in 2002 for excellence in pet-friendly accommodation, so your dog will love a holiday there as much as you do.

Willie Bedford, co-author of *Holidaying With Dogs*, says it is terrific to see how the attitude towards travelling with pets has changed in recent years. "No longer is there a need to sneak a pooch into a holiday house or cabin," says Willie, who has a Jack Russell.

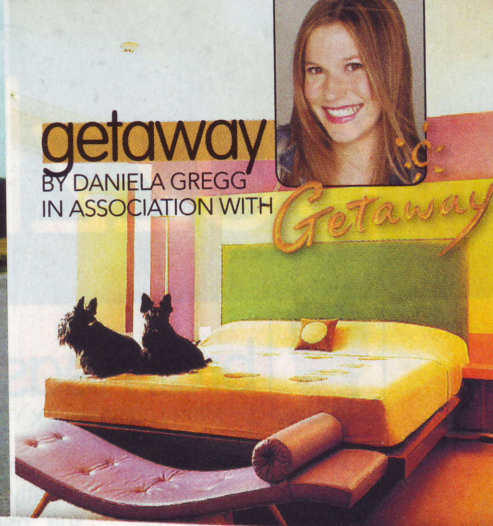
The book also has a set of Golden Rules to help prepare your pets for a happy, healthy and relaxing holiday.

Dogs on Holidays is another useful source of information. The website (see contact box) has a directory of venues happy to have pets as guests.

If you must arrange care for your pets while you travel, Don't Fret Pet (see contact box) can help find family care while you're away. So although they won't get to holiday with you, they'll be on vacation with a family who will love and care for them as much as you do.

The boutique Medusa in Darlinghurst is a luxury Sydney hotel that accepts dogs. There are special courtyard rooms so you and your pooch don't feel too cooped up inside. The luxurious Observatory Hotel in Sydney and Lilianfel's Blue Mountains hotel are also pet-friendly and even offer a special pet menu.

So pack up your pet and make some room in the car – now your best furry friend can go along for the ride!



Both Medusa (top) and Cape Otway Cottages welcome your furry friends.

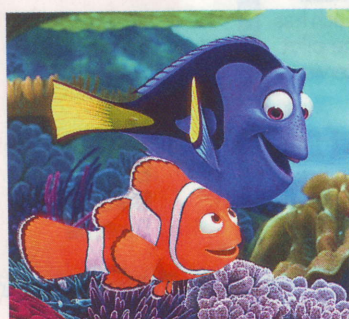
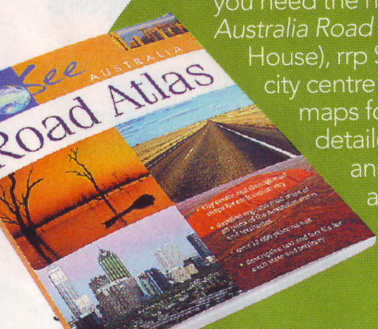
## CONTACT

- Cape Otway Cottages (03) 5237 9256
- Medusa Hotel (02) 9331 1000
- Life. Be in it (03) 5237 6622. *Holidaying With Dogs* by Willie Bedford and Sandy Dennis can be bought through the website and at BIG W, bookstores, vets and pet shops, rrp \$18.95
- Don't Fret Pet [www.dontfretpet.com.au](http://www.dontfretpet.com.au) or call 1300 307 021
- The Observatory Hotel (02) 9256 2222
- Lilianfel's Blue Mountains (02) 4780 1200

Send your 400-word travel story and photos to My Getaway, GPO Box 5245, Sydney, NSW 2001, or e-mail [womansday@acp.com.au](mailto:womansday@acp.com.au) Include contact details and SSAE. We pay \$250 for printed stories. See contents page for location of our privacy notice.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

■ If you're planning a road trip, you need the handy *Go See Australia Road Atlas* (Cameron House), rrp \$24.95. It contains city centre and thorough road maps for each capital city, detailed regional road maps and helpful information about each state and territory. Available from bookstores.



## Finding great deals

■ *Finding Nemo's* clownfish Nemo loses his dad Marlin at the Great Barrier Reef. If you'd love a Great Barrier Reef escape, then take advantage of some of the great Sunlover Holiday offers available. Deals start from \$264 per person, twin share, for five nights at All Seasons Sunshine Tower, Cairns (conditions apply). Contact the Queensland Travel Centre on 13 88 33.