







# **Dogs & Mendocino** Where Dog-travel Really Matters!







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# Leave No Dog Behind When Visiting Mendo!



Welcome to DogTrekker.com, the trusted source for millions of California travelers who stay, play, hike, eat, sip, and explore Mendocino County with their four-legged family.

The 2022-2023 year saw many major improvements for both users and destination partners with the launch of DogTrekker.com 2.0!

This enabled us to generate more than 440,000 impressions and over 7,500 handoffs to Mendocino County stakeholders.

The following Barketing report shows exactly how we accomplished this.

# First, a word from someone who knows California travel!





Image courtesy of Visit California

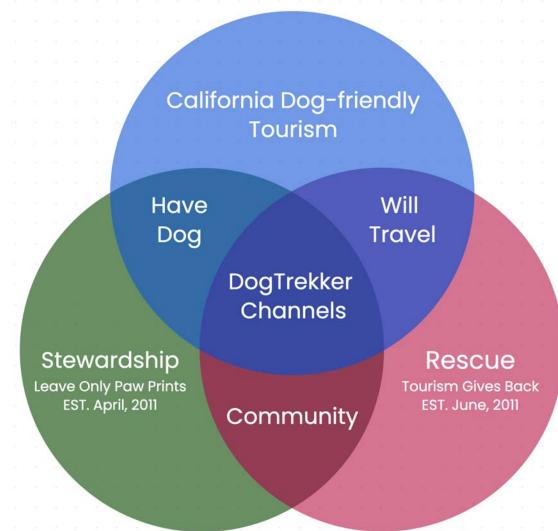
DogTrekker's focus on local, accurate, and engaging travel content was built for these times. Here is how Visit California's Vice President of Marketing, Lynn Carpenter, sees it:

"Dog Trekker provides credible and timely information and resources to millions of travelers who explore California with their pets. As Condor Ferries global research indicates, over half of pet owners are planning to travel with their pets and roughly 2 million domestic animals board commercial flights each year."

Pet travel is an important part of the travel industry and should not be taken lightly by travel businesses."



# Giving back to the communities where we work and play







Maya, DogTrekker Tourism and Rescue Ambassador; 12-year-old rescue from Monterey Bay Labrador Retriever Rescue Since we entered the ring in 2011, the DogTrekker founders have dedicated revenue, editorial, and promotional support to California shelters, rescues, and animal welfare groups.

When destination marketing organizations partner with DogTrekker, we give back to rescue and adoption groups throughout California. We call it "Tourism Gives Back" and it works!

Visit Mendocino's partnership with DogTrekker.com over the years has helped us generate over 500,000 direct links from DogTrekker content to animal welfare organizations. The dogs thank you!



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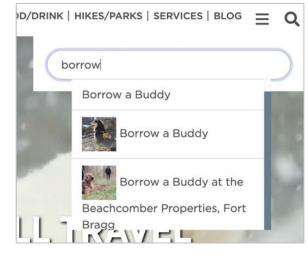
### Local animal welfare coverage



Photo by Kamil Klyta.

### Borrow a buddy at the Beachcomber Properties, Fort Bragg

The "Borrow a Buddy" program is a great partnership between the Beachcomber Motel, Surf & Sand Lodge and the Beach House Inn, all in Fort Bragg, and the <u>Mendocino Coast Humane Society</u>. If guests don't have a dog, or can't travel with their own, this program encourages them to spread the love to our local pound puppies.







Visiting Mendocino County without a dog or looking for a new forever pup? Mendocino Humane has a wonderful Borrow a Buddy program for anyone visiting the coast. Here's Loki on a walk. https://dogtrekker.com/directories/borrow-a-buddy/ Photo by Mendocino Coast Humane.



In April of 2011, a few days before Earth Day and prior to the launch of DogTrekker.com, one of our very first dog-friendly travel newsletters was sent.

This email featured LEED-certified dogfriendly hotel properties, green consciousness, and how DogTrekkers can lighten their environmental pawprint when traveling.

Over the past decade, <u>Leave Only Paw</u> <u>Prints®</u> values have been integrated into Mendocino park and open space district listings, and how-to-travel-responsibly guidelines across our channels.



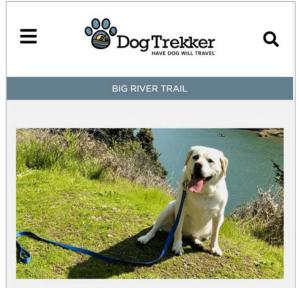








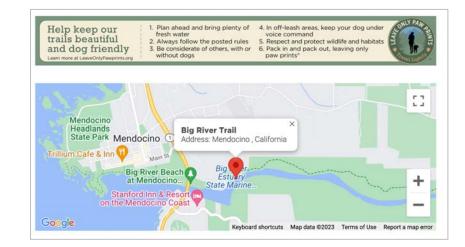
All Mendocino County trails and beaches now have Leave Only Paw Prints<sup>®</sup> messaging on desktop and mobile listing pages



Maya on the Big River trail. Photo by Dave Kendrick. **Big River Trail** 

Address: Mendocino, California

Website



#### Novo Beach

Help

bea

and

While DogTrekker regularly updates off-leash rules, it is important to check to be sure that this area still allows voice control prior to removing your dog's leash.

This small but popular off-leash dog beach sits where the Noyo River enters the Pacific Ocean. The beach parking area is located at the end of North Harbor Drive under the Highway 1 bridge over the Noyo River and Harbor Channel.

After visiting the beach, stop at Nemo's Fishmarket on N. Harbor Drive where you and your dog can sit on the deck and have lunch.

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- 1. Plan ahead and bring plenty of fresh water 2. Always follow the posted rules
- 3. Be considerate of others, with or without dogs 4. In off-leash areas, keep your dog under voice command
- 5. Respect and protect wildlife and habitats 6. Pack in and pack out, leaving only paw prints\* Learn more at LeaveOnlyPawprints.org





- 1. Plan ahead and bring plenty of fresh water
- 2. Always follow the posted rules 3. Be considerate of others, with or without dogs 4. Be aware of heavy surf and fast currents
- 5. Respect natural marine life and habitats
- 6. Pack in and pack out, leaving only paw prints\*

Learn more at LeaveOnlyPawprints.org

Help keep our trails beautiful and dog friendly Learn more at LeaveOrlyPeeprintLorg	Plan ahead and bring plenty of fresh water     Always follow the posted rules     Be considerate of others, with or without dogs	<ol> <li>In off-leash areas, keep your dog ur voice command</li> <li>Respect and protect wildlife and hab</li> <li>Pack in and pack out, leaving only paw prints*</li> </ol>
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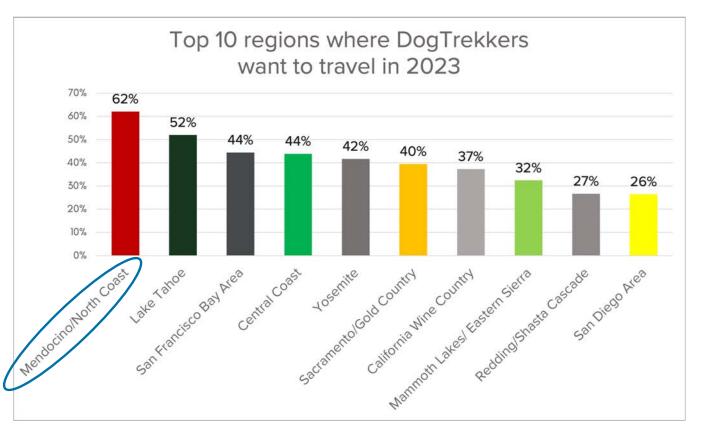
# Advantage: Mendocino & the North Coast!



For only the second time in DogTrekker.com's 12 years, Mendocino and the North Coast rank higher than Lake Tahoe as the region they want to travel to in 2023! And it is by a wide margin.

In surveys by San Francisco Bay Area radio stations pre-DogTrekker.com launch, Mendocino was not in the top 20 destinations! These huge gains are a tribute to the commitment Visit Mendocino and our lodging partners have made over the years.

Note: the 2022 percentage was 51% preferring travel to Mendocino. Nice lift!



DogTrekker subscriber survey 2023

### The all-new DT site: Advantage partners!



### Previous DogTrekker.com landing page



### New DogTrekker.com landing page





### DogTrekker.com listing & partner ad takeover

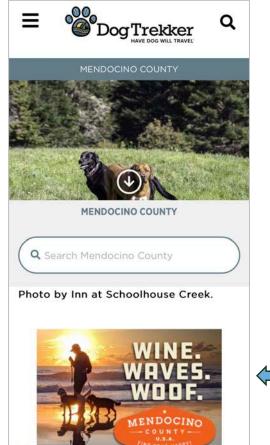


#### **Mendocino County**

Dog-friendly <u>Mendocino County</u> is one of the most canine welcoming destinations on Earth, a place you where you and your dog can rest at cozy B&Bs, luxury resorts and everything in between. Explore this coastal wilderness with beach access and hundreds of miles of trails to trek.

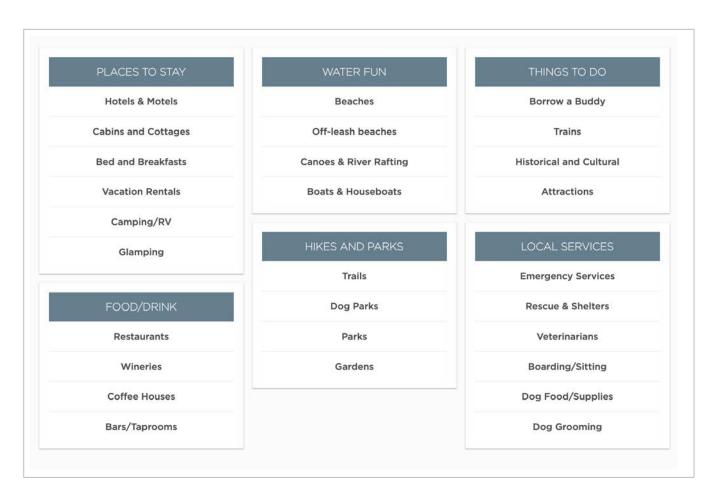


### New DogTrekker.com mobile





Hundreds of dog-friendly places to stay and things to do in Mendocino County!



Nearly 300 dog-friendly listings and counting! Includes nearly 100 places to stay.

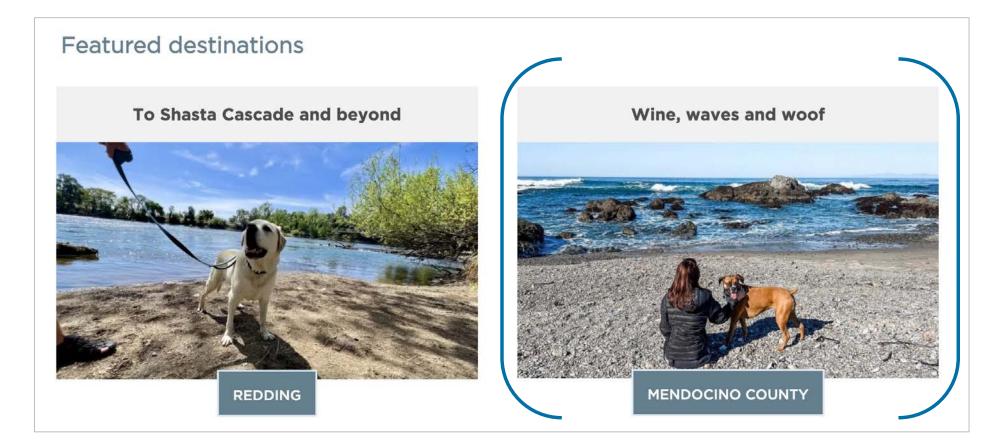


Intelligent Search on all desktop and mobile pages

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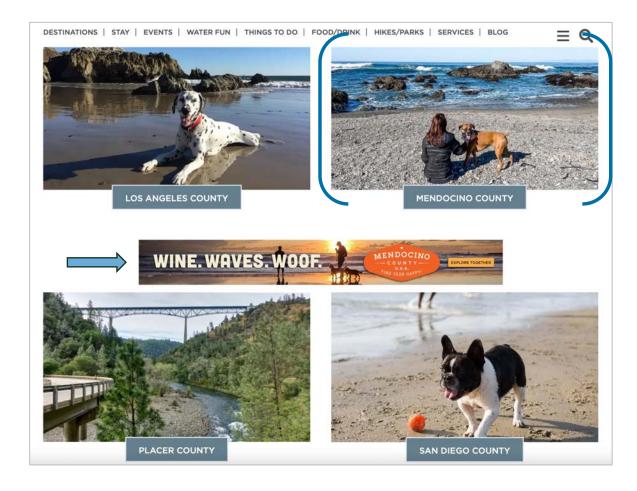


Pathways to Mendocino content – new DogTrekker.com partner benefits: Top line "Premiere destination" on the Destinations page (#2 ranked page)



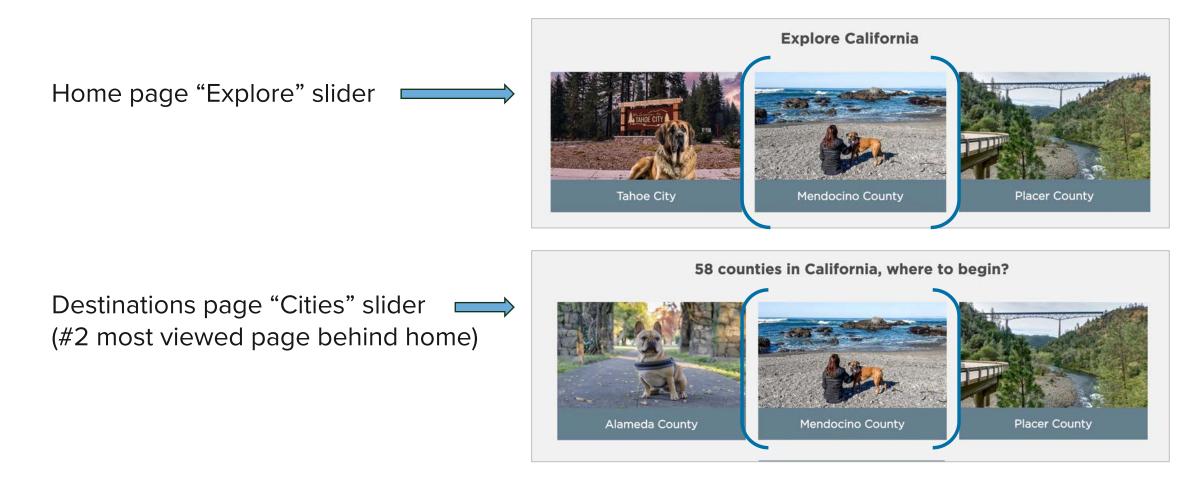


Pathways to Mendocino content – new DogTrekker.com partner benefits: Partner position on "Counties" page





Pathways to Mendocino content – new DogTrekker.com partner benefits: Key competitive positions on "Home" page and "Counties" pages





Pathways to Mendocino content – new DogTrekker.com partner benefits





### Targeted custom Mendocino "related stories"

#### **Related Stories**



Dog-friendly wineries in Mendocino County

Paws and pours, wagging tails and swirling glasses, Mendocino County, affectionately known as "Mendo", is a wine lover's... Read more.



Wine, Waves & Woof in Mendocino County

Photo credit: Leanne Haney Mendocino wine country can be broadly divided into two areas: the Highway 101 corridor... Read more.



The dining with dog conundrum

While most Mendocino County restaurants with outdoor dining venues allow dogs to curl up under the table with... Read more.



Chow Down With Your Pup Within Sight of the Sea

Travel with your dog can be very rewarding, but there are always a few problems to solve—such as... Read more.



North Coast Winery Ramble

If your dog is like most, she doesn't give a sniff about how "approachable" the wine you're sipping... Read more.



Fall into Mendocino County

California travelers know fall is the ripe time to pack the hiking boots for an adventure in Northern... Read more.



### The "Best of Mendocino County" newsletter



### The Best of Mendoci County



Standing guard at Point Cabrillo Light Station. Photo by Visit Mendocino County.

In sun-dappled <u>Mendocino County</u>, summer is in full swing! You'll find plenty of room to roam here, whether you venture to the coast for cool, clear air, or head inland for winery patios and exciting events. DogTrekkers love Mendocino's fun, sun and open spaces, and that's why we've written more than <u>120 destination stories</u> about exceptional lodging and dining options plus unique experiences on the ground, in the water, and on the trails and rails. Here are some of our readers' Mendocino County favorites.



Maya at Navarro Vineyards. Photo by Dave Kendrick.

#### One dog-friendly Mendocino drive: Highway 128

Start your road trip at Cloverdale, turning off Highway 101 and heading west on Highway 128. This scenic route offers up many delights, including the <u>Boonville</u> <u>General Store</u> in southern <u>Mendocino County</u>. The store is a stellar pit stop for sandwiches, soups, pizzas and other deli delights. Continue north for coastal adventures in Little River and Mendocino, or stop off elsewhere along this 55-mile stretch to enjoy memorable, <u>DogTrekker-approved activities</u>. <u>Read more...</u>



### The "Best of Mendocino County" newsletter



Water dog at the Little River Inn. Photo by Brendan McGuigan.

#### Special adventures for furry friends

Mendocino County has so many dog-friendly activities that you might want to stay a few extra days. The Skunk Train is a northern California classic that departs from depots in coastal <u>Fort Bragg</u> and inland <u>Willits</u>. If splashing around with your pooch is more your style, book the <u>Water Dog Package</u> at the Little River Inn. Or, take to the waves with a specially designed canine cruiser from <u>Catch A Canoe & Bicycles</u> <u>Too</u>, at the adjacent Stanford Inn. Check out our <u>full list of pup-centered attractions</u>. <u>Read more...</u>



Pacific sunset at the Little River Inn. Photo by Dave Kendrick.

#### Cuddle up with your pup in Mendocino County

<u>Mendocino County</u> may be within a day-trip drive of most of the Bay Area, but we encourage you to snuggle up with your pup at one of our dog-passionate lodging partners. DogTrekker's editors love staying in Mendo and have personally experienced all of these pup-friendly properties. Go north along the coast from Little River to Fort Bragg to find the <u>Little River Inn</u>, the <u>Stanford Inn</u>, <u>Beach House Inn</u>, <u>Beachcomber Motel</u>, <u>Surf & Sand Lodge</u> and the <u>Noyo Harbor Inn</u>.



Chandelier drive-thru tree.

#### **Discover Mendocino's inland empire**

Many <u>Mendocino County visitors</u> stick to the Instagram-worthy sweep of coastline between Little River and Fort Bragg, but you can veer inland for different views. Interior Mendocino is dotted with redwood groves, wineries, off-the-beaten-path parks and small towns that extend a warm welcome to travelers with pets. Take Highway 101 north from Cloverdale to reach Ukiah, Willits and Leggett, where you'll find the winding Eel River and an irresistibly kitschy roadside attraction: the <u>Chandelier Drive-Thru Tree Park. Read more...</u>



### "Train" newsletter story inclusion



The Skunk Train steams into the redwood forest. Photo by Robert Jason Pinoli.

Hi ...

Summer is a time for family vacations, and whether it's a multi-day trip or daytrip, not much can get children more excited or add to the memory bank than a train ride.

"Family" incudes dogs of course, and there are many dog-friendly "all aboard!" <u>choochoo options</u> in California. Here are a few of our favorites, including some tailwagging surprises. This issue is powered by Mendocino County's Skunk Train.



Skunk railbikes with a dog carrier. Photo by Robert Jason Pinoli.

#### Don't get skunked by the Skunk Train

For more than 130 years, this <u>No. 1 vintage excursion train</u> in California (it started out as a logging train carrying cargo and workers) has traveled through Northern California redwood forests. These days, there are two departure points — Fort Bragg, on the Mendocino Coast, and Willits, inland off Hwy. 101. The original name was the California Western Railroad, and has been known as the <u>"Skunk Train"</u> since 1925. <u>Read more...</u>



"Water Dog" newsletter story inclusion

# Splash time! Summer is the season for water dogs



Bixby Bridge, Big Sur coast.

#### Hi ...

Go ahead, both of you. Get wet! Summer is here; time to dip paws and toes in the water, if not go for an all-out swim (if your dog likes to fetch, now's the time to throw those balls into the lake or waves). It's not all about the coast, of course. Here are some suggestions for water dogs - both dogs and their people.



Water dog at the Little River Inn. Photo by Brendan McGuigan.

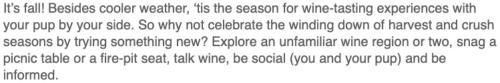
#### Become a water dog in Mendo County

Ah, Mendocino! This Northern California county's beautiful stretch of coastline is a perfect place to retreat to in the summertime, especially when the Central Valley is a bit warmer (don't forget a sweatshirt—you may need it). And you can't choose a more beguiling place to stay than super dog-friendly Little River Resort & Spa, perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific. As far as water and your dog goes, check out their popular Water Dog package online or call 888.INN.LOVE. Read more...



### "Fall Winery-trekking" newsletter story inclusion

### Sip and savor with your pup: Fall winery-trekking



We feel that to be able to meet a winemaker and not be rushed or scheduled or hit with large tasting fees or have to sit in traffic to get to or away from a winery, is important. Here are our DogTrekking suggestions for affordable, impromptu wine country getaways.



Hi ...



Pup at Testa Vineyards. Photo by Mendocino Winegrowers.

#### Mend your mind and thrill your dog in Mendocino County

Mendocino County isn't just about that beautifully sculpted coast. The inland regions are also gorgeous in a green and hilly kind of way. The county is one of the largest wine producers in the state. Its <u>12 American Viticultural Areas</u> (AVAs, or winegrowing regions) each have a distinct personality, terroir and topography, along with unique characteristics in the wines they produce. You'll find plenty to sample and sights to see along the county's Highway 101 or 128 "wine roads." Read more...



"Happy Thanksgiving" newsletter, exclusively sponsored annually by Visit Mendocino

### Happy Thanksgiving from DogTrekker, and lodging specials from our Mendocino partners



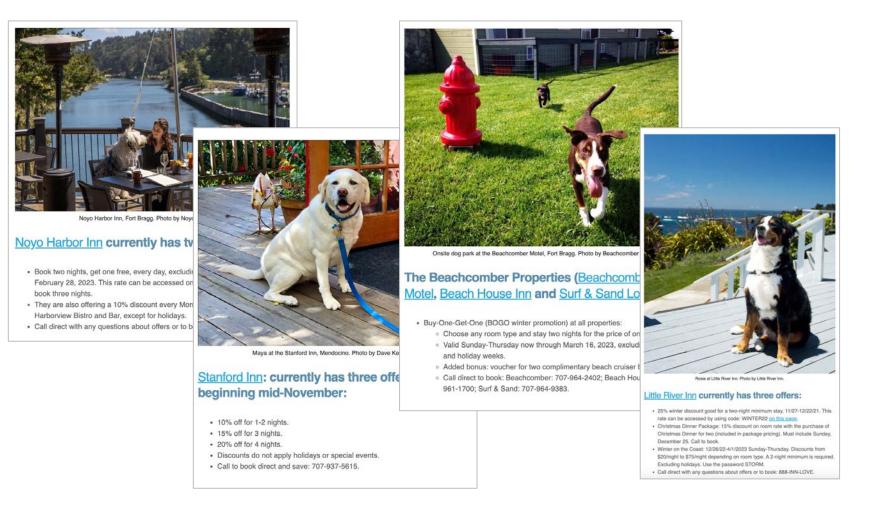
Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude and our dog and human families at DogTrekker are so thankful to have such a supportive, engaging, and responsive group of dog parents to share our California dog-travel stories and insight throughout the year. We also love the feedback we have received about our exciting <u>all new DogTrekker.com</u>!

We are also so thankful for the selfless support DogTrekkers continue to show for dogs in the <u>shelters we promote</u>, either by providing a new forever home, fostering or donating much needed funds. We and the dogs thank you!

In addition, we want to share with you fall/winter specials from our premier lodging partners in Mendocino County. All of these hotels and motels go out of their way to make the pups feel just as welcome as the humans that follow. We encourage you to fetch some of these barkingly great deals!



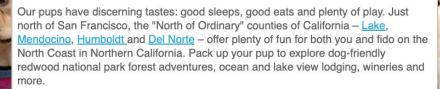
"Happy Thanksgiving" featuring Mendocino County lodging partners





North of Ordinary! bonus newsletter featuring Mendocino County

### North of Ordinary! Leash up for endless dog-approved adventures



Frenchie hiking the redwood forests of the North Coast.

Kayla ready to board the Skunk Train. Photo by Dave Kendrick.

#### An unforgettable ride in Mendocino County

<u>Mendocino County</u> is known for its breathtaking beaches, wineries and even some redwood forests. Hop aboard a historic train with your pup. This adventure takes "Wanna go for a ride?" to epic excitement levels. <u>The century-and-a-half-old Skunk</u> <u>Train</u> starts in Fort Bragg and winds through redwood groves, panoramic trestles and along a stunning river canyon. Pups are welcome on both open and closed carriages. <u>Read story...</u>

Fall is a wonderful time to travel, especially to the North Coast of California. This

holiday season, the <u>Stanford Inn</u> in scenic Mendocino is your "natural" choice for the entire family—including dogs, of course. Joan and Jeff Stanford recently celebrated

their 42nd anniversary as innkeepers here, and they're busy unpacking a collection

of holiday decorations as they prepare to extend a warm welcome during the festive

Hi ....

months ahead



Lodging campaigns extending Mendocino's reach, made possible through Visit Mendocino County's partnership with DogTrekker.com



To make summer memories on the California coast, book a stay at the iconic <u>Little</u> <u>River Inn</u>. This dog-friendly jewel just south of Mendocino overlooks the majestic Pacific Ocean, and it's a short walk from state beachfront and trails. The locally owned resort has extended a warm welcome to couples, families and four-legged companions for more than 80 years.

The <u>very\_dog-friendly</u> Little River Inn knows that pups are cherished family members. Staff members serve up welcome treats for furry guests, and you'll find pet-friendly accommodations, dining options and activities galore.



Mendocino County 2022 – 2023 display ad set – new "Discover the Magic" ads will be created and deployed on the DogTrekker Media Network





### Mendocino 2022 – 2023 display ad key placements



**Placer County** 







WINE. WAVES. WOOF.





**Canine-friendly coastal gems** 

beaches, and welcoming accommodations.

Mendocino's <u>unspoiled beaches</u> are a sanctuary for dogs and their humans alike. Your furry companion will relish playing on the sun-kissed sands, frolicking in the surf, and investigating the fascinating tide pools. Two exceptional dog-friendly beaches, <u>Novo Beach</u> and <u>Seaside Beach</u>, provide plenty of space for dogs to roam off-leash while under voice control.

dream destination for dog lovers, offering stunning vistas, dog-friendly

#### Venture into nature's wonders

Mendocino boasts an array of striking <u>hiking trails</u> that meander through towering redwood forests, verdant meadows, and picturesque coastal bluffs. Experience unforgettable moments with your canine buddy on

the <u>Russian Gulch State Park's Waterfall Loop</u>, where you can immerse yourselves in the tranquility of nature.

MENDOCINO

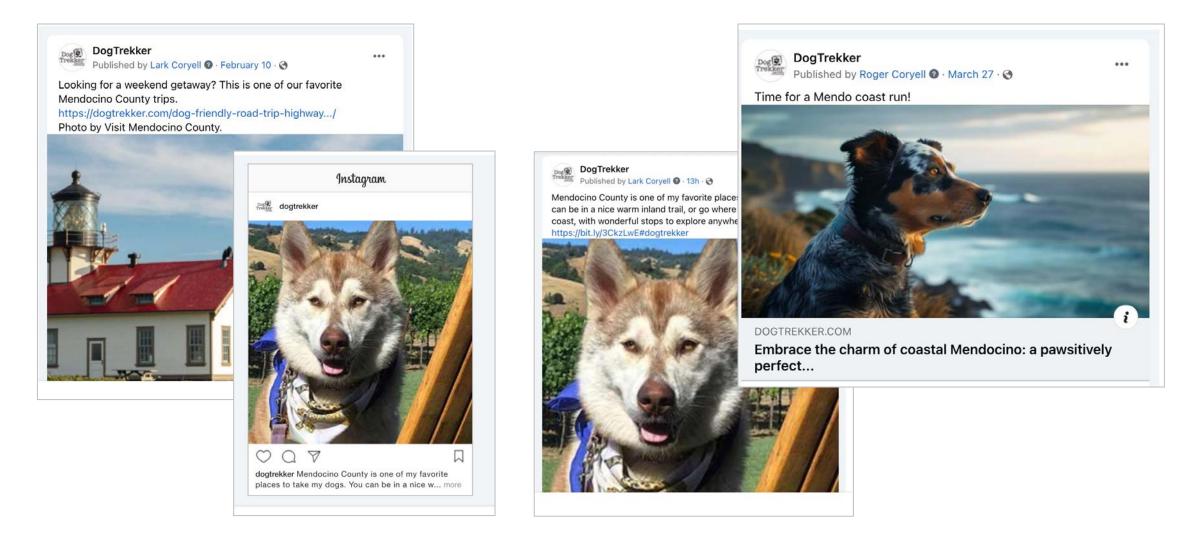
EXPLORE TOGETHER







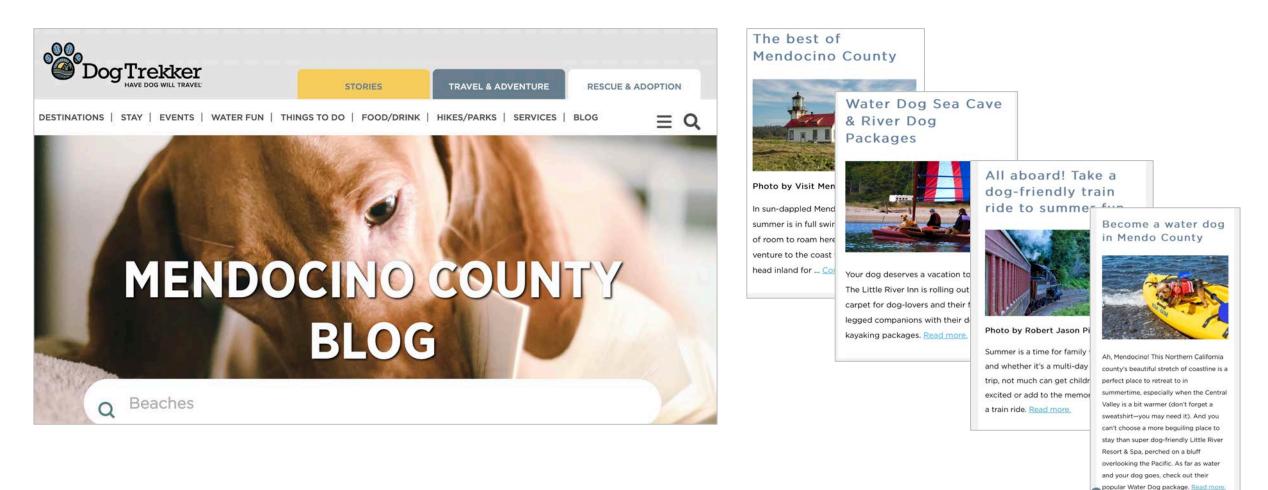
### Social media posts



# Visit Mendocino looking ahead 2023 - 2024



"Long-tail" story coverage for on DogTrekker.com: Customized Mendocino County Blog



# Visit Mendocino looking ahead 2023 - 2024



We are looking forward to an extraordinary 2023 -2024 campaign, as we have significantly expanded access to Mendocino County content on DogTrekker.com, including the Visit Mendocino Blog, which can be seamlessly linked from your dog-friendly pages on VisitMendocino.com.

Additionally, we are developing enticing road trip itineraries and engaging display ads to match the new Visit Mendocino brand.

Together, our teams will elevate your outreach and engagement.

Questions, call Dave Kendrick at (415) 519-2557 or write <u>dave@dogtrekker.com</u>.

