

Dog-friendly dining up 20% as Aussies put pups first (National Dog Day - August 26)

It's a dog's world, we're just booking the table.

New research from [OpenTable](#) has found dining at dog-friendly restaurants is up 20% year-on-year*, with over half of Aussie pet owners saying they'd dine out more if it were easier to find dog-friendly venues**.

In fact, 37% have stayed home rather than leave their dog behind, while almost two thirds (64%) have chosen a restaurant specifically for its outdoor conditions**.

With **National Dog Day on 26 August**, OpenTable has revealed its [Top 50 Restaurants for Pet-Friendly Dining](#) across Australia – spotlighting the venues worth visiting with your four-legged dining companion***.

Thought this could make a fun feature on the rise of the dog-friendly diner and how our pups are increasingly calling the shots on where we eat.

I've attached a media release with additional findings on Aussies' relationships with man's best friend, along with the full Top 50 list. We can provide additional OpenTable commentary, case study diners and venues as needed.

Let me know if this is of interest to you!

Bone Appetit: Pet-Friendly Restaurants are a Top Priority for Aussie Diners, Finds OpenTable

OpenTable Reveals its List of the Top 50 Pet-Friendly Restaurants in Australia

MELBOURNE [August 24, 2026] - Australia's dining scene is going to the dogs in the best possible way, with [OpenTable](#) data revealing a 20% increase in dining at pet-friendly restaurants over the past year.* With **International Dog Day** (August 26) fast approaching, there's no better time to discover the dog dining trend.

The interest in pet-friendly dining is undeniable, as new [OpenTable](#) research shows that over half (51%) of Aussie pet owners would dine out more if it was easier to find dog-friendly venues.** What's more, over a third (37%) have felt so strongly about bringing their pet along that they have opted to stay home rather than leave their dog behind if they can't find an appropriate venue.**

It's smart business for restaurants, cafes and bars to embrace the *pup-tential* of pet friendly policies with these diners on average eating out twice a month with their pets, and 17% saying they spend more when dining outside with their dog.**

"Aussies consider their dogs to be part of their family, and our data shows they increasingly expect the hospitality industry to accommodate that," said **Jackson Pola, District Manager at OpenTable in Australia**. "With a 20% increase in diners actively eating out at pet-inclusive venues, restaurants that adapt by offering designated spaces, clear policies, and even 'doggy menus' are capturing a highly dedicated, fast-growing demographic of diners.* We're launching our data-backed list of the [Top 50 Pet-Friendly Restaurants](#) across the country to make it easier than ever to discover these venues."

Additional research from OpenTable found:**

- **The 'Doggy Bag' is in Demand:** For half of dog owners, having pet-friendly food or drink options on the menu is an important factor when choosing a restaurant.
- **Al Fresco Appeal:** Aussies love dining outdoors, and are willing to go the distance for it. On average, Australians would travel 41 minutes for a great outdoor dining space, 64% of dog owners have even chosen a restaurant specifically because it had the best sun or outdoor conditions at that time.
- **Dog Dining Wishlist:** Dog owners have clear preferences for what they want to see at restaurants. Shaded outdoor areas (61%), designated dog areas (54%), and clear signage and policies (42%) are amongst the top pet-friendly features they would like to see venues implement.**

OpenTable has launched its [Top 50 Restaurants for Pet-Friendly Dining in 2026](#),*** backed by diner reviews and data to help Aussies find the best venues for International Dog Day and beyond. To learn more, visit [OpenTable](#), or check them out below in alphabetical order by state:

New South Wales

- [Amalfi Ettalong Beach](#), Ettalong Beach
- [Argyle Hotel](#), Maclean
- [BART Jr.](#), Redfern
- [CARMELA Nonna of Piccolina](#), Double Bay
- [McCarrs](#), Terrey Hills
- [Newmarket Hotel](#), Mascot
- [No Bones Byron Bay](#), Byron Bay
- [Riverbank Moama](#), Moama
- [The BOX on the Water](#), Ettalong Beach
- [The Heritage House](#), Kenthurst
- [The Potting Shed](#), Alexandria

- [The Union Bank Orange](#), Orange
- [Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel](#), Watsons Bay

Queensland

- [Bam Pow](#), Port Douglas
- [BAR DECO](#), Yandina
- [Burpengary Tavern](#), Burpengary
- [Coffee Cat on Kings Beach](#), Kings Beach
- [Enzo's on the Beach](#), Scarness
- [Goodslice Pizza Napoletana](#), Maroochydore
- [Juan Fifty](#), Alexandra Headland
- [Tziki Bar](#), Forest Glen

South Australia

- [Boatshed Cafe](#), Hallett Cove
- [Crisp Port Elliot](#), McLaren Vale
- [Fiore at Down The Rabbit Hole Wines](#), West Beach
- [West Beach SLSC](#), Port Elliot

Tasmania

- [The Bush Inn](#), New Norfolk

Victoria

- [3030 Waterfront](#), Werribee South
- [Anh Chi Em](#), Highton
- [Ascot Vale Hotel](#), Ascot Vale
- [Bridge Road Brewers](#), Beechworth
- [Home Hotel - Launching Place](#), Launching Place
- [Lion and Wombat](#), St Kilda
- [Lost Watering Hole - The Lancefield Brewery](#), Lancefield
- [Merricks Store](#), Merricks
- [Mona Castle Hotel](#), Seddon
- [Royal Oak Hotel](#), Fitzroy North
- [Sister of Soul](#), St Kilda
- [Sporting Club Hotel](#), Brunswick
- [St Andrews Beach Brewery](#), Fingal
- [Stags Head Hotel](#), Williamstown
- [Tesoro Gastronomia](#), Balwyn North

- [The Morning Star Hotel](#), Williamstown
- [The Standard Hotel](#), Fitzroy
- [The Victoria Woodend](#), Woodend
- [Three Crowns Hotel](#), Melbourne

Western Australia

- [Mahogany Inn and Distillery](#), Mahogany Creek
- [Masonmill](#), Carmel
- [Rocky Ridge Duncraig](#), Duncraig

****ENDS****

***OpenTable Dining Data:** OpenTable looked at seated diners from online reservations for restaurants tagged as “dogs allowed” in AU from January 1 - July 20, 2026 and compared it to the same time frame a year ago (January 2 - July 21, 2025).

****Consumer Research Methodology:** An online survey was conducted by Ripple Research among 1005 Australians, including a split of 505 dog owners and 500 non-dog owners. Fieldwork was carried out between April 8th, 2026 and April 14th, 2026. All data was collected in accordance with MRS (Market Research Society) and ESOMAR guidelines, ensuring ethical standards and robust data quality.

*****The Top 50 Pet-Friendly Restaurants List Methodology:** OpenTable’s Top 50 Restaurants for Outdoor Dining in AU for 2026 list is generated from over 191,000 reviews from verified OpenTable diners and dining metrics from March 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026. Restaurants with a minimum threshold of diner reviews were considered and evaluated by a compilation of unique data points, including diner ratings, the percentage of five star reviews, the number of alerts set, the percentage of reservations made in advance, percentage of capacity and direct searches. Metrics were weighted to comprise an overall score. The qualified restaurants were then ranked by the percentage of reviews with the tag “dog friendly.” The resulting list appears A-Z, not in ranked order.

About OpenTable

[OpenTable](#), a global leader in restaurant tech and part of [Booking Holdings, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ:BKNG), helps more than 70,000 restaurants worldwide fill 2 billion seats a year. OpenTable’s world-class technology empowers restaurants to focus on what matters most – their team, their guests, and their bottom line – while enabling diners to discover and book the perfect restaurant for every occasion.