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Passport's Forum for letters, comments, information, and anecdotes
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DOGGIE SPAS

I know you cover spas in October, but since I am known far and wide as the world's greatest spoiler of my canine companion, Tuileries, I need the scoop on where to travel for a doggie spa (not just a pet-friendly hotel). Where can she be spoiled rotten with spa treatments?

—R.P.J. San Diego, CA

Publisher: So many hospitality options exist where your pooch can be pampered with everything from gourmet meals and biscuits to high thread-count linens on her personal dog bed, but for dog massage the options are fewer. If she is interested in acquiring pedigree spa products, San Francisco's Hotel Palomar (<http://www.hotelpalomar.com>) has a "Woof for Wellness" package. Included are a **Spa Dog Botanicals** pail for ultimate pampering that includes a variety of aromatic, botanical sprays, Smell Sweet Ear Care, Natural Breath Drops, a Robbie Dawg tin of turkey sausage and romano cheese biscuits, and a dog toy, as well as a leopard-print bed, and a donation made to the SPCA in your pet's name. A full day of pampering at Chicago's doggie hotel and spa, plus an in-room fashion show of the latest dogwear can be scheduled when you stay at the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower (<http://www.sofitel.com>).

In Los Angeles, the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza (<http://www.centuryplaza.hyatt.com>) offers a "Gold Pawspport" program where your pooch's pawspport is stamped for each visit. While here she'll get a specialized bed and treats as well as special excursions to the LA Dogworks Hollywood Resort (<http://www.ladogworks.com>) for spa treatments. If Tuileries is a show dog and visiting New York for the Westminster Dog Show, the Hotel Pennsylvania (<http://www.hotelpenn.com>) sets up a dog spa within the great hall of the hotel. The spa for contenders has a 4,000 square-foot dog grooming/comfort station with bathing/beauty parlor/salon, exercise area, walking/relieving area, and a Dog-tor's Corner, which includes a canine and handler masseuse and an animal sychic/communicator.

If the two of you are just in the audience at the dog show, the five W Hotels (<http://www.whotels.com>) properties in NYC schedule a licensed pet massage therapist for in-room massage. In Boston, the Nine Zero Hotel (<http://www.ninezero.com>) has pet concierge services including pet massage service. Don CeSar Beach Resort (<http://www.doncesar.com>) on St. Pete Beach, Florida has a full line of "Pampered Pet" massage bodywork—dogs are spoiled with eight different spa treatments from Swedish massage to acupuncture. More options are sure to become available all the time as recent studies say that more than half of Americans take family pets along on vacations.