



FEB 11 2010 7:45AM

Dog Show Showdown: Which Westminster Hotel Is Tops?

DOGS



As pups descend on Manhattan for this weekend's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, you can bet that local hotels will be going to the dogs! Two of the biggest, the [Affinia Manhattan](#) and the [Hotel Pennsylvania](#), are currently preparing for the hundreds of pooches and people set to check in beginning Friday.

"This is something that our team looks forward to every year," Affinia general manager Steven Kipnis tells PEOPLEPets.com. "The dogs are friendly, their owners are polite and the show is a big deal. It's an exciting time." Adds Hotel Pennsylvania dog concierge Jerry Grymek, "No one does it like the Pennsylvania. We welcome our four-legged guests with open paws."

So what does it take to be a Westminster-winning hotel? We put the two to the test!

Check-in.

- Dogs arriving at the Affinia receive the red carpet treatment — a professional photo taken as they wait in the lobby.
- The Hotel Pennsylvania's pups receive a pet-friendly welcome kit that includes yummy treats and fun products.

Total TLC.

- The Affinia's room service menu expands to accommodate dogs during the show. "We offer beef tips with sautéed rice, sliced steak in au jus and dog bones," says Kipnis. "We'll also line up pet taxis to anywhere people need to go. And we provide water bowls, chew toys and complimentary pet beds."
- While the Hotel Pennsylvania doesn't offer room service, they don't want to see dogs go hungry! "If a person comes alone with their dog and needs someone to grab a snack, I'm happy to pick up a cheeseburger for the pup," Grymek says. Necessary products are also available in the lobby "paw mall."

Spas and services.

- For the first time ever, the Affinia is opening a reservations-only doggie day salon with a walk-in shower, grooming table and towels, for a fee.
- A s'paw' in the Hotel Pennsylvania features treadmills, bathing tubs and a doctor's corner, complete with a doggie masseuse and "animal communicator."

Ahem, "facilities."

- Dogs do their business with a view at the Affinia, which converts its rooftop to a dog run spotted with fake grass and hydrants.
- The Hotel Pennsylvania offers a similar setup indoors for puppies that need to potty.

Lucky streaks.

- Of the 100 to 150 dogs the Affinia boards each year, many have been winners, including last year's top dog, Stump. The 2007 champ, Diamond Jim, also stayed there, as well as 2002's Surrey Spice Girl.
- Beloved beagle Uno is one of the Hotel Pennsylvania's famous alumni. "People always call for his room, 213," Grymek says. "Some people also book their room for the next year when they're here, especially if they performed well." The hotel welcomes 600 to 1,000 pups at show time.

So which hotel comes out on top? To us, they're both best in show! Do you have a favorite? Tell us in the comments below.