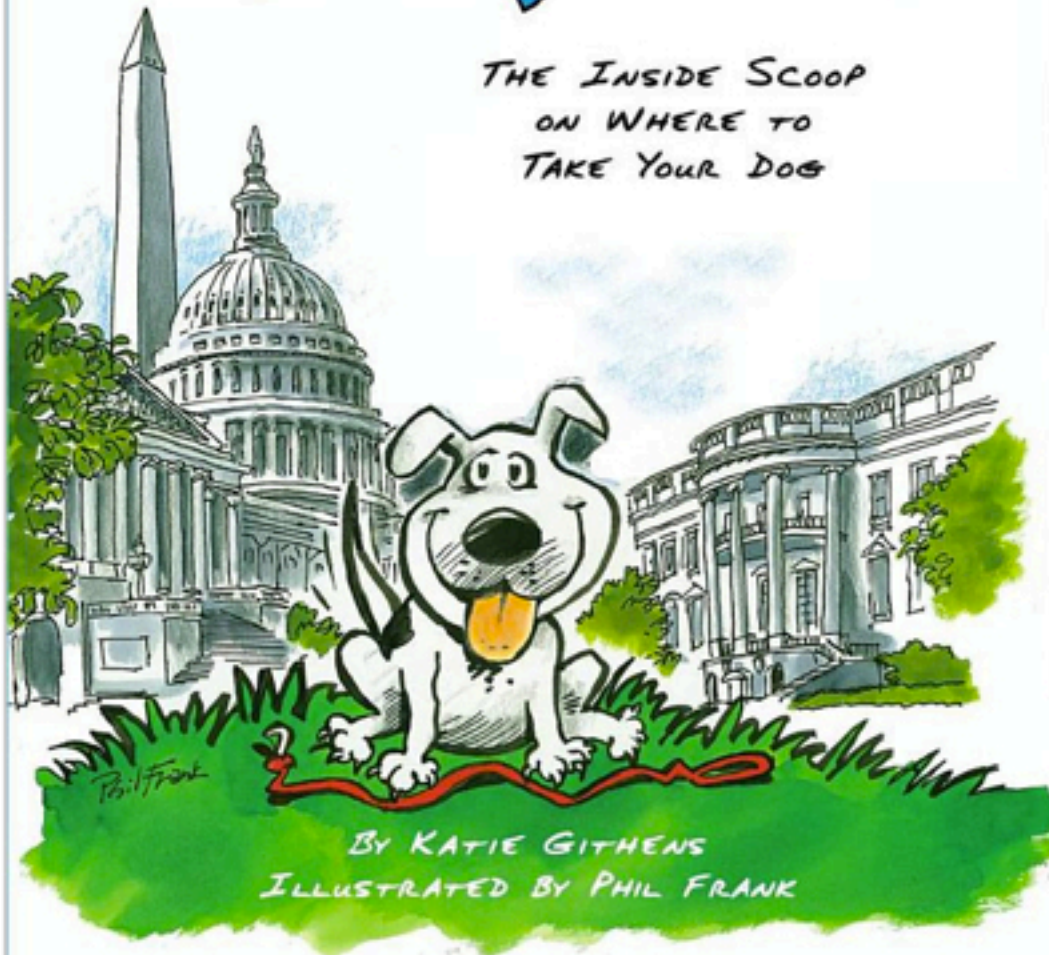


# The Dog Lover's Companion to Washington DC

THE INSIDE SCOOP  
ON WHERE TO  
TAKE YOUR DOG



By KATIE GITHENS  
ILLUSTRATED BY PHIL FRANK

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**Rita's Water Ice:** Two of our former roommates who grew up in southern New Jersey, not far from the franchise's Bensalem, Pennsylvania, birthplace, always rave about Rita's Water Ice. Denali never had a chance to try the much-hyped frozen treats until Rita's recently opened a handful of DC locations. After she received a complimentary sample of vanilla garnished with a dog biscuit, Denali, too, caught the water ice fever. 1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202/332-7482; [www.ritasice.com](http://www.ritasice.com).

## Dupont Circle, Kalorama, and Embassy Row

Dupont Circle is a bohemian, slightly leftist pocket in the traditionally buttoned-up fabric of Washington. Best-known for its proud LGBTQ community, Dupont has become a diverse neighborhood of well-heeled residents of all backgrounds and preferences. Some of Washington's most doted-upon, and well-dressed, dogs hang out in these digs. North of Dupont Circle is Kalorama, which in Greek means "beautiful view." As you walk your dog here and up and down Embassy Row, you'll discover why real estate in this part of town is consistently followed by six zeroes.

While sniffing around Embassy Row, be sure to pay homage to the bespectacled and sandaled statue of Mahatma Gandhi across Massachusetts Avenue from the Embassy of India. Denali likes to meditate on one of his many wise social commentaries: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

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#### **PLACES TO STAY**

**Carlyle Suites Hotel:** Here is one of the best bargains in the city. The art deco Carlyle Suites Hotel includes 170 rooms with fully equipped kitchenettes and complimentary use of the Washington Sports Club, located five blocks away. Other small but crucial perks: a coin-operated laundry and free, limited on-site parking. Pets can stay for no extra fee, but please call ahead to alert hotel staff. Rates range \$129–359. 1731 New Hampshire Ave. NW; 202/234-3200; [www.carlylesuites.com](http://www.carlylesuites.com).