

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

What is the definition of a ‘Pet Friendly Hotel’? I looked it up on line and found “that it typically means guests are allowed to bring their pets along for the stay, usually for an extra fee.” According to Wikipedia it could mean “In pet friendly hotels, pets get specialized bedding, leashes, collars and litter boxes; special treats like rawhide bones, catnip and scratch poles.”

Last week I had two cardiology appointments at St. Mary’s in Duluth – they started at 8 am. Our good friend Keith recently moved to Duluth and is now living in Canal Park. Mike, my husband, and I, wanted to go in on Sunday evening, have dinner with Keith at Bellisio’s Italian Restaurant which is located in Canal Park

We currently have two small dogs and we travel with them. We are familiar with “Pet Friendly” hotels. Usually, you are only allowed two dogs and no cats. Well, we were caring for a third dog for friends, so our two dogs went to Alecia’s home and we took the visiting dog with us.

I began making reservations for the one night stay and looked up Pet Friendly Hotels in Canal Park. All but one of the many hotels in the Canal Park area said “Yes, you may bring your dog, yes, there is a pet fee, NO, you cannot leave the dog in the room unattended.” The fees ranged from \$50 to \$125 per pet.

Now, Canal Park is a tourist destination. It is designed for shopping, eating out and enjoying Lake Superior. I now am under the impression the hotels are not “people friendly.” When I told the clerk that we wanted to leave the motel in order to have dinner, she said we should take the dog. Really? It was raining and 38 degrees that night. Not ideal for outdoor dining.

So I personally feel that saying you are ‘Pet Friendly’ and you cannot leave your dog in the room alone, is false advertising. They are requiring a fee in case of ‘accidents’. People know their pets, they know if they can be left alone. We always bring a kennel with us just to be sure that all is well when we leave.

The only place in the Canal Park area (not in the Park) was Pier B. They allowed the dog to stay in the room and the fee was \$125. I called the Radisson which was on the other side of the expressway and they were super welcoming and ‘yes’ you can leave the dog in the room, and ‘Yes there was a fee of \$50.” I took that room and it worked out great.

After the Dr. Appointments on Monday, Mike and I went to Fitzgerald’s and had lunch. I asked the desk clerk if they allowed pets. He said ‘Yes’ they did, ‘Yes’ the dogs could stay in the room alone, ‘No’ there was no Pet Fee. He told me that they have 7 rooms that are designated as Pet friendly rooms. So next trip to Duluth, and there will be another trip, we’ll pick a new ‘favorite’ restaurant – Like the Boat House in Fitzgeralds or the Pickwick right next door.

Holiday plans are underway for the Northwoods Humane Society. We have again been gifted with a total of \$25,000 for a Matching Gift Drive. Last year was so successful as our supporters truly stepped forward with generous donations of all sizes. The mailing for this drive will go out in two weeks.

On December 2nd two things will be happening for NHS – My Villa is again sponsoring a ‘Day of Shopping for the Northwoods Humane Society’. A percentage of the sales for that day will come to NHS. We will need several volunteers that day for two hour shifts to host a table. Eileen Brossard is coordinating this or if you can help you may give me a call at 715-634-4543. We will also need dog biscuits for this event.

The other event on December 2nd is the NHS bake sale at the Hayward High School Xmas Fair. NHS is blessed with super creative and talent bakers. This is my husband's favorite fundraiser – along with Spay-ghettis and No Balls' baking contest. The sale starts at 9 am and goes until 3 pm. Baked goods will be needed. If you have any questions, please call Alecia Austin or Susan Sams at the shelter. 715-634-4543.

Christmas is bursting out all over the NHS Thrift Shop. Each day more Holiday items hit the shelves as we have a wealth of really nice items that have been donated over the past year. Because of this, we are no longer able to take additional Christmas items.

If you are planning a holiday party and looking for very affordable fine china or holiday dishware, please check out the beautiful sets of china along with the crystal glassware.

Our thanks to Jeanne Hornak, Eva Fjerstad, Rob Taite and David Nemecek for creating the holiday spirit at the Thrift Shop. The Thrift Shop is open Monday thru Saturday 11 am to 3 pm. For information about volunteering, call the shop at 715-934-3121 or you can call me at 715-634-4543. The Shelter is still in need of a Saturday office volunteer – 715-634-5394.