

# Garden Destination Welcomes Dogs



How many public botanical gardens welcome both you and your dog? Not many, we'd bet. But the Oregon Garden, an 80-acre botanical sanctuary located about 45 miles south of Portland, takes another point of view. Among their more than 20 specialty assemblages is the appealingly named "Pet Friendly Garden." Horticultural manager Jill Martini says that the purpose is to show visitors how to turn their home gardens into safe playgrounds for their pets. "With a little strategy, your plants and your pets can live in harmony," she notes.

In the Pet Friendly Garden, plants are edible, water is plentiful and flowers are undisturbed. Pathways direct pets through and around the garden, and shade is in ample supply. In other words, dogs can dig the garden without digging up the garden. The Pet Friendly Garden also offers information on edible plants, including catnip, catmint, wheat and oat grass for cats, and dwarf apples, blueberries and gooseberries for dogs. A take-home brochure lists plants that can be harmful to pets.

"The Pet Friendly Garden is part of our larger mission to provide a unique and entertaining garden experience while offering practical ideas for your own garden," Martini says. "We invite you to bring your pet and make a day of it."

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## ARTFUL DOGS

Bring out the art lover in your canine companion at Dougherty Hills Dog Park in Dublin, Calif.



Thanks to the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation's "Art in the Parks" program and Salinas-based artist Michele Alcantara, our four-legged friends can now get a little culture along with their daily romps. Alcantara's brightly colored "Animal Series"—sculptures of dogs, cats and pet "accessories," including fire hydrants, bones and toy boxes—are fabricated from found metal objects. The artist, who has used recycled materials in her work for years, says she loves the idea that she can salvage a discarded item and give it a new life. The permanent art installation is part of the foundation's mission to integrate outdoor artwork into Dublin's neighborhood parks; Dougherty Hills is the city's only art-enhanced dog park, according to John Harnett, Dublin's Heritage and Cultural Arts supervisor. See more at [ci.dublin.ca.us](http://ci.dublin.ca.us) (click on "recreation," then "city parks").



Top: Courtesy Oregon Garden Bottom: Courtesy Michele Alcantara