

Dining out: a delicious
Colombian bargain

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come to Burrillville

Rhode Island

MONTHLY

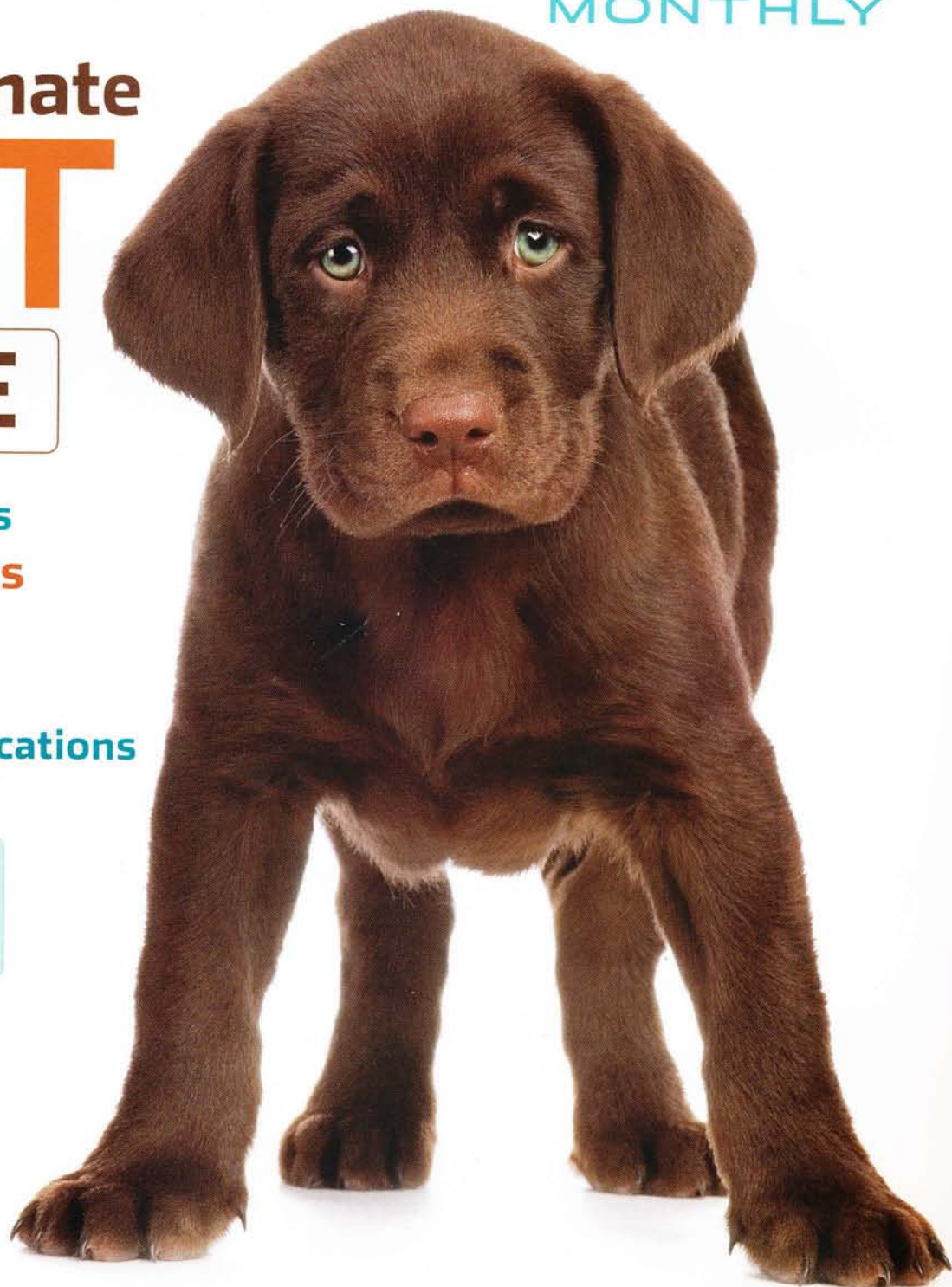
The ultimate

PET

GUIDE

- > Best dog parks
- > Specialty vets
- > Doggie yoga
- > Cute outfits
- > Pet-friendly vacations

Plus
How to pick
the right pet



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Katenna Jones with her pit bull mix, Maison, and cat, Tori.

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

As a humane educator and animal behaviorist with the Rhode Island office of Humane Education for the American Humane Society, Katenna Jones has a passion for pets. Here she dispels some of the common misconceptions about our furry friends.

Myth: Shelter animals often have behavioral issues. I've seen people return a shelter dog the next day because it peed inside, but the dog didn't know where the door was. Or a Huskie will be surrendered because it runs away, but that's what Huskies do. A cat might be relinquished for scratching the furniture or not using the litter box. In most cases, these issues are completely treatable. It takes about two weeks for pets to "unpack their bags" before you see who they truly are.

Myth: You can't get a purebred at a shelter. On average, about 25 percent of shelter dogs are purebred so you can get one if you're diligent. Become a familiar face at the shelters and call them often. There are also breed specific rescue organizations for cats and dogs. (See "To the Rescue," page 53)

Myth: It's best to purchase an animal from a pet store. Some pet store puppies come from puppy mills, so they're more likely to have health and temperament problems. The puppies are usually put up for sale at seven to eight weeks because they're cutest then, though they should stay with the litter until they're nine to twelve weeks old. Any purebred puppy should have documents on its health, parents' temperament and lineage.

Most pet store cats are garden variety cats, the same as you'd get at a shelter. If you buy more than one rodent at a pet store, make sure they have been sexed properly so you don't end up with a pregnant guinea pig. I advise people against buying rabbits from pet stores. There are rabbit rescues, stores that sell homeless pets, and animal shelters often have rabbits. If "pocket pets"

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Room for Two

NEARLY 20 PERCENT of dog owners admit to smuggling their pet into hotels. Why be an outlaw when some places not only welcome dogs but cater to them? Here are five New England camps and resorts that will have your pet barking to book a return visit.



Stowe Mountain Lodge

VERMONT • Rooms at this resort are stocked with Orvis dog beds, food and water bowls, a walking trails map, dog toys and treats baked by the lodge's pastry chef.

Adventurous pups can sign up for Camp K-9 to go off-road for walks and mountain hikes; owners receive digital photos and a letter chronicling the dog day at camp. Rooms start at \$229 a night with a 100-pound pet weight limit per room. 802-253-3560, stowemountainlodge.com

Nine Zero BOSTON • This sleek modernist hotel has a complimentary package for dogs that includes a welcome treat from Boston's Polka Dog Bakery, bowls and a bed. Pet sitting, grooming, walking and massage are available for a fee (the hotel allows other animals such as cats and birds—there has even been a penguin guest). What doesn't cost a cent is the open space of Boston Common, a fifty-acre park across from Nine Zero. Rooms start at \$279. 617-772-5800, ninezero.com

Woof Cottages NANTUCKET • Guests receive a therapeutic bed, bowls, a basket of treats, toys, doggie sunscreen and customized pet tags with an on-island emergency phone number. The cottages' mascot, Sherwood, greets newcomers and is often "borrowed" by petless visitors. A Doggie Beach Bus shuttles dogs and owners to Tupancy Links, where trails and open spaces overlook Nantucket Sound. Cottages start at \$420 per night (\$50 additional fee for dogs; cats, birds and ferrets also allowed). 866-838-9253, thecottagesnantucket.com

Camp Unleashed MASSACHUSETTS • This Berkshires retreat boasts a "dogs gone wild" atmosphere, which means forest hikes throughout 1,300 acres, lake dips and classes on natural dog food prep and canine first-aid. For two-legged creatures, dog-themed films are shown on an outdoor screen at night and there are arts and crafts during the day (making leash racks and dog toys, for example). Participants can opt to stay in a tent, a rustic cabin or a historic lodge. \$125 per day to \$899 for four days and three nights. 518-781-0446, campunleashed.com

Camp Gone to the Dogs VERMONT • This bucolic state is doggie nirvana. A big summer camp in Marlboro boasts sheep herding and dock diving while two fall programs are offered in Stowe. Owners remain with their dogs during activities, but some areas are restricted to humans (no dogs in the dining room, pool or hot tub; massages are offered for owners at the Marlboro camp). \$1,000 to \$1,450 for six nights and seven days. 888-364-3293, campgonetothedogs.com