

The new rules of dog ownership

By Wes Siler, *Outside*

Human society is made possible by rules, both written and unwritten. Yet there's no such series of concrete, accepted rules for dog owners, and that's becoming a problem.

Take my experience this past weekend. In need of a quick getaway, my girlfriend and I booked a room at the Kimpton Goodland in Santa Barbara with our two mutts. All Kimpton hotels are incredibly dog friendly, which makes the boutique chain a unique resource for dog owners. There's no extra deposit or fees for dog owners, and the pups are allowed anywhere in the hotel. (Except for the restaurants.) It's a unique opportunity to enjoy a nice hotel with your dogs.

But this weekend, even we were annoyed with the behavior of other dog owners. Dogs locked in rooms unattended barked persistently. Owners let their small untrained and unsocialized pets bark at other guests in the lobby and hotel bar. Some took their dogs to the poolside lawn for bathroom breaks.

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