



PETS Any visitor to New York City will spot them soon enough: pups with their leashes looped around street lamps, casting nervous glances or flopping to the sidewalk in resignation while their owner enjoys a leisurely latte next door. A café in the East Village is changing all that. Boris and Horton, which opened in February, is the city's first dog-friendly restaurant to gain an official stamp of approval from the Department of Health.

Logan Mikhly started Boris and Horton with her father after becoming frustrated about leaving their pooches (after whom the café is named) outside when getting coffee. "There's always the bench that the dogs are tied to, where they get super anxious and upset," Mikhly says.

While you can sneak your dog into some not-entirely-legal joints in the city, Mikhly worked with the Department of Health from the beginning to ensure Boris and Horton met strict health code guidelines – even if she didn't entirely agree with them. "[The Health Department] thinks of dogs as contaminated," Mikhly says. "A dog owner doesn't care; dogs sleep in the bed with us, they lick our faces. They're our family."

Nevertheless, to prevent "contamination", the café is divided into two sections: human guests order from the coffee bar or an outside walk-up window and bring their food and drinks over to a partitioned dog area. The latter features squishy dog beds and a free photo booth, complete with props like pooch-sized sombreros. "We had to make it a GIF booth," Mikhly says, "because obviously no dog sits still."

The café has a vegan-friendly menu and serves beer and wine. Dog treats from the local Maison De Pawz "pawtisserie" include pupcakes topped with crispy ham and peanut butter carob doughnuts – both made with human-grade ingredients. While the baker has "taste tested them all herself", Mikhly recommends human customers stick with pastries from the coffee counter: "I haven't tried [the treats]. I'll take her word for it that you can eat them!" Boris and Horton partners with local shelters to host regular adoption events – including a bingo night for senior dogs.

Of course, no NYC restaurant can survive on good deeds alone. "New Yorkers have super high standards about coffee," Mikhly says. "We're just as good as any other café. We've just brought an added bonus of being able to have your dog." Which is, Mikhly believes, "how it should be." fb.com/borisandhorton – Julianne Ross

New York

Lair of the dog

The Big Apple's first dog-friendly restaurant offers squishy beds, a photo booth and treats good enough for humans to eat

PET SPOTTING

Hang out with the furries at these NYC cafés

Chateau le Woof

Located in Astoria, Queens, the city's "first pet market and café" serves up craft coffee and sandwiches by day and hosts pet happy hours by night. The shop also offers private training sessions. chateaulewoof.com

Meow Parlour

No pet? No problem. Meow Parlour in the Lower East Side was inspired by cat cafés in Asia with free-roaming, adoptable cats – yes, all the cats are seeking forever homes! – living in the store. fb.com/meowparlour

Brooklyn Cat Café

You can snuggle with adoptable cats at this entirely volunteer-run non-profit in Brooklyn Heights. The café has a Kitten Cam on its website featuring a livestream of the fur-babies. fb.com/catcafebk

