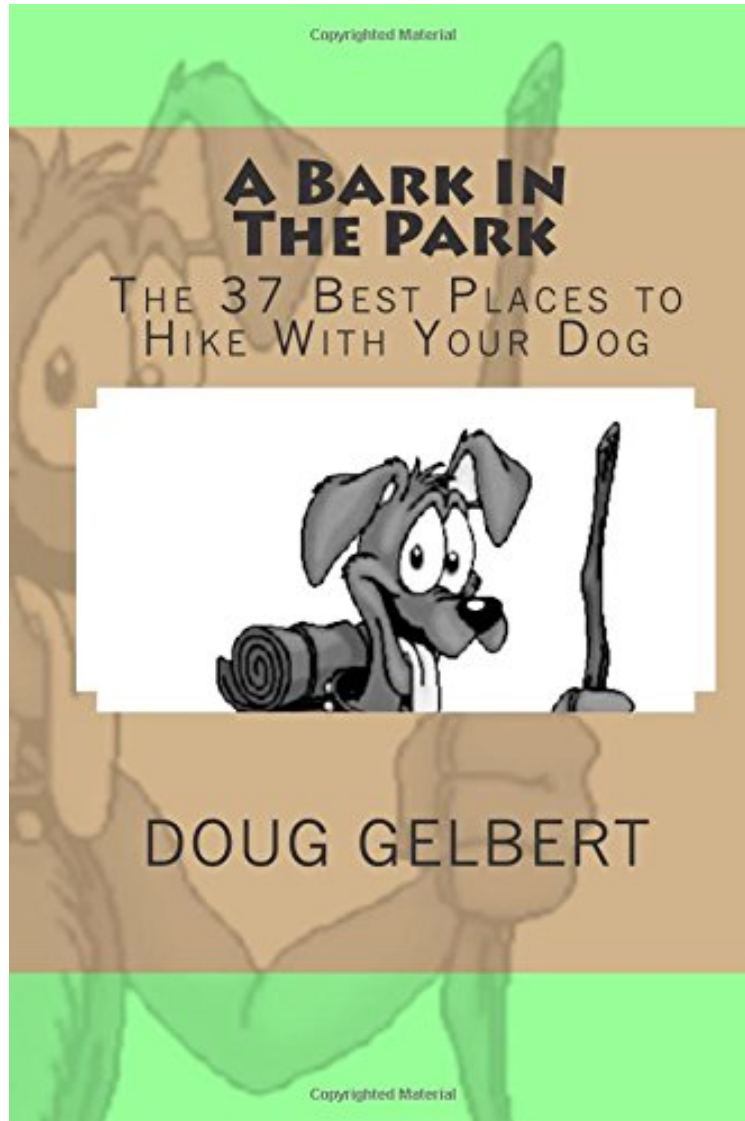


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A Bark in the Park

Doug Gelbert

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Doug Gelbert : A Bark in the Park before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Bark in the Park:

Places where you won't be able to wipe the wag off your dog's tail... Have you ever considered how far you walk with your dog? If you walk just 15 minutes a day you will have walked far enough in your dog's lifetime to cross the United States. With all that walking ahead of you, aren't you ready for a new place to take a hike with your dog? Pennsylvania

Dutch country is a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive your dog can climb mountains that leave him panting, walk on some of the most historic grounds in America, explore dark ravines or circle lakes for miles and never lose sight of the water. DOGGIN PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH COUNTRY explores the region's top trails with your best friend in mind... What makes a great place to take your dog hiking? Well, how about a paw-friendly surface to trot on? Grass and sandy soil are a lot more appealing than asphalt and rocks. A variety of hikes is always good - long ones for athletic dogs and short ones for the less adventurous canine. Dogs always enjoy a refreshing place to swim as well. For dog-friendly parks our guides describe the trail options for your dog, evaluate park traffic from other users, tell you whether you will need a guide dog to find your way around and, of course, tell you how to get to the park. While walking the dog around Pennsylvania Dutch Country, we bring along generous helpings of local history, botany, geology, architecture and more. So what are you waiting for? Your dog will want to hike past the remains of Stabe Tavern (page 83), hike past Americas largest patch of pawpaw trees north of Washington DC (page 75), hike to the worlds first bald eagle sanctuary (page 19), visit Pennsylvanias first hard-surfaced, high-crowned road (page 53)...

THE BEST OF THE BEST... BEST PLACE FOR YOUR DOG TO SWIM Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center Dogs looking to get in some dock diving practice will appreciate North Pond at Nolde Forest. Secluded North Pond is tucked away from many of the trails, use the Beech Trail to reach the Pond Loop or drive to a small parking lot on Church Road.

BEST ONE-HOUR WORKOUT FOR YOUR DOG Susquehannock State Park The star walk is the 1.2-mile Rhododendron Trail that rolls through dense growth of the namesake plants; expect this rollercoaster terrain to leave your dog panting in places - especially if you take advantage of the Phites Eddy Trail to drop down to Susquehanna River for a swim.

PRETTIEST HIKE FOR YOUR DOG Tucquan Glen Nature Preserve Two trails envelop the Tucquan Creek. The southern leg supports most of the foot traffic as it hugs the banks all the way to the Susquehanna River and provides the best experience for enjoying the many waterfalls in the stream.

BEST HIKE TO VIEWS WITH YOUR DOG The Pinnacle This is not a casual canine hike. Expect to devote a solid five hours to completing the 9-mile loop to the Pinnacle and back but your dog will get the best view in Pennsylvania.

BEST HALF-HOUR HIKE WITH YOUR DOG Kellys Run Natural Area Near the parking area, the 3/4-mile Oliver Patton Trail was named a National Recreation Trail in 1992. This lively little track traverses a stand of Norway spruce and white pine planted in 1968.

MOST HISTORIC HIKE WITH YOUR DOG Lebanon Valley Rail Trail This was Robert Colemans Cornwall Lebanon Railroad, the last of Cornwalls grea tiron barons. To keep his line busy Coleman built the Mt. Gretna retreat for the rich and exhausted.

BEST PLACE TO CIRCLE A LAKE WITH YOUR DOG Wildwood Lake Sanctuary The main canine hike here is a circle of a little more than three miles around the lake. The lake is shoehorned into a few hundred acres dominated by major roadways and an industrial park but once the barrage of vehicular noise and public address pages disappear into background noise, the magic of the sanctuary reveals itself.

About the Author Author/Publisher Doug Gelbert has written more than twenty books. He is the creator of the acclaimed A Bark In The Park series of guidebooks for hiking with your dog, including The Canine Hiker's Bible. He is a columnist for Fido Friendly magazine and contributor to several leading dog publications.