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PAW'S CORNER

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By Sam Mazotta

## Can I bring my dog to a Pride parade?

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I adopted "Allie," an adorable black-and-gold mutt, last fall. She trained wonderfully and does well with other dogs at the dog park. I'd like to bring her along to Pride celebrations this month, but I'm getting mixed information about whether dogs are allowed at parades and parties. Should I bring her at all? — Gemma B. in White Plains, New York

**DEAR GEMMA:** What I'd recommend is to list which events you'd like to attend this month, and contact the organizers by email to find out their policy on bringing pets.

Most Pride parades allow owners to bring leashed pets on the sidelines as spectators, but not as parade participants. This could be due to insurance or permitting requirements.

On the other hand, many LGBTQ+ celebrants want to bring their pets to the festivities. So separate, pet-friendly events are now part of the celebrations, from big cities like Los Angeles to small towns like Springfield, Vermont.

Pets are such an integral part of our lives, and are especially important for the LGBTQ+ community. Their unconditional acceptance and love provide emotional connection and support for so many people. They can be a bridge to a greater community, helping their owners find social connection and develop new friendships.

I'm so glad you want to bring Allie along to celebrate. Because she is socialized and can handle a busy environment (thanks to regular trips to the dog park), she will probably do very well as a sideline spectator at parades or as a participant at a well-organized, dog-friendly event. Do plan to take breaks with her in a quiet spot, and bring plenty of cool water and snacks for her so she doesn't get dehydrated on a hot day.

*Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*