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PLAN AHEAD

By Katie Wells



BAVARIA

Die Blaue Nacht, Nuremberg
MAY 17, 2025

The Blue Night in Nuremberg is a single-day cultural event that advocates for global peace. It is an art competition where visitors can view stunning installations, light shows, and other works like paintings and sculptures. The theme this year, "Love and Peace," is tied to the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Nuremberg trials, and spans throughout the ages to the 1970's hippie movement. Alongside the artwork, over 40 cultural institutions will participate with their own programs including the city archives, history museums, theatres and music halls. Every year, over 20,000 people come to enjoy the programs, live music and museums that are open for longer hours. A family program begins at 5 p.m. and an adult program begins at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online. Children up to 14 years old and individuals with a disability are offered free entry.



KAISERSLAUTERN

Altstadt Festival
MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE, 2025 (TBD)

The Old Town of Kaiserslautern transforms during this celebration where visitors can enjoy street theater, arts and crafts, music on multiple live stages and plenty of culinary specialties. The "Old Town Festival" is considered a symbol of diversity and living culture. Over 150,000 visitors come to see entertainment from blues to rock and eat Japanese and Palatinate specialties. Over 40 restaurants and pub owners offer culinary experiences from around the world. There will also be shopping opportunities for hand-crafted goods from at least 70 different vendors and a flea market. Wander over to Rittersberg and go back in time to enjoy Medieval demonstrations and a "Little Knights Camp" children can enjoy.



STUTTGART

Heusteigviertelfest
JUNE 27-29, 2025

This three-day beloved festival takes place in the lovely Wilhelminian-era district, which is said to be one of Stuttgart's most beautiful neighborhoods. Upholding tradition, Heusteigviertelfest begins Friday evening on the two Mozartplatz squares where residents and visitors are welcome to meet, chat and celebrate community while enjoying music. On Saturday, the entire Mozartstrasse is filled with people, culinary delicacies and a vibrant mix of live music. "The children's mile" includes fun programs like live performances from other talented kids. On Sunday, enjoy an open-air church service and a classic Bavarian white sausage breakfast, or shop at the mile-long flea market. Parking a car is not allowed, so the city has provided guidelines for public transport at the website: viertelfest.heusteigviertel.info.



WIESBADEN

Rose Festival, Frankfurt
JUNE 14-21, 2025 TENTATIVE

Since 1931, the Rose Festival has been a cultural highlight in Frankfurt. For an entire week in June, Frankfurt's largest botanical garden, Palmengarten, invites visitors to celebrate the "Queen of the Flowers." While many beautiful flowers fill the garden, roses are the queen and heart of the event. Breathe in the soft and pleasant scents of over 12,000 cut flowers surrounding you and enjoy live performances, music and shopping for specialties like rose fragrances or rose mustard. Throughout the week, you can participate in guided walking tours, workshops centered around the rose and a family picnic with special programs for children to participate in. Tickets can be purchased online, and it is best to use public transportation to get to the garden as parking is limited. ■

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Germany's Love of Dogs



©STEVEN GAMMON

By Kat Nickola

Germany is a very dog-friendly country. Your pooch can join you on trains, in restaurants, hotels and even in some shops. They are welcome all over town and can run around with you in the forests.

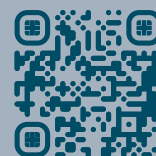
Like with many things Americans consider hobbies, Germans take their dog ownership to the next level. Special clubs elevate dogs from companions to lifestyle icons. I don't just mean the German Kennel Club, Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH), who do all the regular things like dog shows and connecting breeders.

I'm talking about the eingetragener Verein (non-profit association): the e.V. you've seen on signs. There are Vereins for every sport, hobby or political issue imaginable, and many are geared toward dogs. I pass five within a kilometer stretch

of dirt road on my bike ride to work: one for terriers, one for Dachshunds, one for German shepherds, one for basic dog training and one for rescue dog development.

Even if a German dog owner is not regularly in a club, most will be involved with one at some point for dog training. While not required by law (well, in some places like Berlin it is), having formal dog training is expected of a dog owner. That is why my pup gets looks when he jumps and whines at other well-behaved dogs (we're working on it). It's not all judgmental, however, since this cultural difference is also beneficial. The dog clubs have lobbying power to ensure that dogs have rights, so your pup can go on a sunny walk downtown and you can grab some lunch together at a cafe! ■

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REGENSBURG

By Katie Wells

REGENSBURG, BAVARIA is a UNESCO World Heritage city rooted along the Danube River. It is known for its well-preserved medieval core, 12th-century stone bridge, Gothic, 13th-century Regensburg Cathedral and in more recent years, the world's first and only Dachshund Museum.

DACKEL MUSEUM

Wooden, porcelain and mechanical sausage dog figurines; soft dogs, miniature dogs, large dogs, paintings, sculptures and royalty, the Dackel Museum is every dachshund lover's dream. It was first opened in Passau in 2015 (which is said to be the origin place of the breed) and has since moved locations to the town of Regensburg where the collection that has been lovingly curated for over 25 years by two Passau master florists, Sepp Küblbeck and Oliver Storz is on display. The exhibits are staged with over 30,000 delightful and charming dachshund objects. There are many showcases ranging from fun themes like "Hot Dog," "The WackelDackel" and the "Dachshund Parade" to more

historical and cultural themes such as "The Dachshund as a Muse," "Royal Family" and "The Dachshund and the Nobility".

The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is €6.00 for adults and free for children up to 12 years. Dogs are allowed in the exhibition and what fun it would be to watch your dog admiring other dogs! If you can't make it to the museum, Moni, Blüten and Little Seppi, three nearly identical dachshund figureheads of the museum, invite you to walk through the virtual museum shop for all your doxie-themed needs. For more information, visit dackelmuseum.de.



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Sylvia Holzapfel



REGENSBURG



HISTORY

In the 17th century, dachshunds were bred in the Bavarian city of Passau for hunting. Their long cylindrical torsos, narrow snouts and paddle-shaped paws were perfect for flushing out badgers and foxes from their burrows, so hunters could stop them from attacking ducks and hens. The breed's deep and wide chest adapted to increase their lung capacity while underground. Recent discoveries of engravings depicting short-legged hunting dogs along with mummified dachshund-like dogs in Cairo, suggests the beloved breed had early roots in ancient Egypt.

Dachshunds, translating to "badger hounds," make wonderful companions, so much so that they have been part of many royal courts. Napoléon Bonaparte had his dachshunds painted alongside him in portraits and, upon his death, even requested they be entombed with him. Queen Victoria also adored dachshunds famously saying, "Nothing will turn a man's home into a castle more quickly and effectively than a Dachshund." Many other royal and famous people have loved dachshunds. Kaiser Wilhelm II, The Last Emperor of Germany and Queen Margrethe of Denmark favored the breed. Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso were both doxie owners and made their companions subjects of their artwork. Albert Einstein was a big fan of dackels and so was Leonard Nimoy. John Wayne's dachshund, Blackie, won a hero's medal for alerting her family to a fire that would have been fatal if they didn't get out in time.

*"Nothing will turn a man's home into a **castle** more quickly and effectively than a **Dachshund**."*



TYPES OF DACHSHUNDS

However you refer to them, the dachshund, doxer, dackel, hot dog or sausage dog, has a playful and sometimes stubborn personality. They love multiple long walks and long naps per day. Because of their hunting origin they often display burrowing behavior, meaning they love to snuggle into blankets, wedge themselves between couch cushions or tunnel through their human's shirt. Their average lifespan is 12–17 years.

Sizes

- Standard – The most common and original sized dachshund bred for chasing badgers and foxes.
- Miniature – These dachshunds were bred when the rabbit population in Germany expanded in the 1800s.
- Kaninchen (Rabbit) – These pint-sized pups were also bred to fit into smaller burrow holes of animals like rabbits.

Coat Types

- Smooth-haired
- Wire-haired
- Long-haired

Main Colors

- Boar (grey, black and brownish)
- Black and tan
- Red ■

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It's a Dog's Life

IN GERMANY

By Slim Jim | Photos by Kat Nickola

I'm busy sniffing a deliciously moldy tree stump, catching up on all the messages left by other dogs at this neighborhood bulletin board. Just as I squat to leave my own note, Boss Mom yells, "Slim Jim, come!"

I pause and consider delaying just long enough to communicate with the stump, but instead, I run to her side. "Such a good boy."

A new friend is walking up the dirt trail in the forest behind our house. She looks so friendly I whine and pull on my lead. I want to run and play with her!

"Slim, sit." Boss Mom stands in front of me, so I look at her instead of the fluffy dog. I sit and calm down, then peek around her legs.

Fluffy is trotting along beside her Boss without a leash. She doesn't even look at me as I whine again. I want so badly to go, but I try hard to be calm. Once they are past, Boss Mom gives me a treat, she unhooks me, and I bolt back to the tree stump.



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I've been working hard on my manners since moving to Germany. It's tough for an adopted **Strassenhund** like myself. That's what Boss Mom calls me when we make new friends: "**Er ist ein Strassenhund.**" This tells them that I'm a former stray mutt.

It also answers the two first questions most German dog people ask:

- "**Ist dein Hund ein Junge oder ein Mädchen?**" (Is your dog a boy or girl?)
- "**Was für ein Hund ist er?**" (What kind of dog is he?)

They are always super impressed because there are no stray dogs in Germany and most pet dogs are particular breeds. So, they think a good-boy **Strassenhund** like me is quite special!

Once you've nailed down your good manners, it is so fun to travel all over Europe.



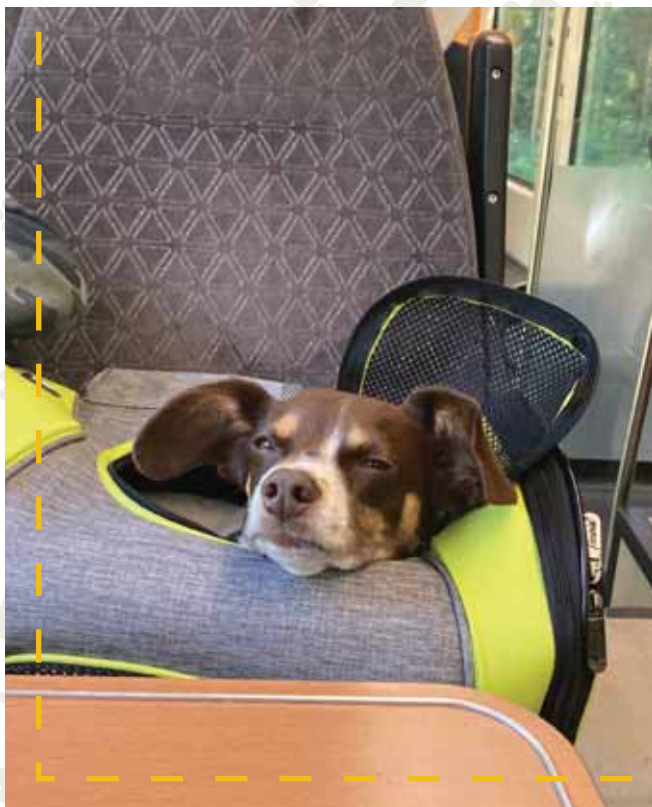
Bide your time at a café

This is the perfect next-level activity, and you can bring your old **Strassenhund** skills if you have them. I love to take my family to outdoor cafés. The first thing I do is choose a table by winding myself through the table legs until my leash is tight. Once she sits, Boss Mom will put out my little travel bowl of water and I take a few licks to imply that I'm parched and starving.

Then, I lay down under the messiest kid to gather falling snacks. Pretending to be asleep, shivering or looking starved are great ways to get extra treats. I've become a master at working it. The key is to use the best tactics for your location. In Germany, I maintain an air of obliviousness to look cool. In Italy, I attempt to be as pathetic as possible. Same result: Treats! No matter where you are in Europe, don't acknowledge the presence of other dogs and risk jeopardizing their 'not'-begging strategy; barking is a no-no.

Trains are good for naps

Riding the **Deutsche Bahn** is one of my favorite snooze fests. I'm always super distracted by the smell of the local train station newstand, and I really want to leave my own message, but Boss Mom never lets me. On the platform, the trains can be loud. I was a little scared boarding the first time, so Boss Mom put me in my doggy backpack. As it got going, I was lulled to sleep in one of the best naps ever. I didn't even notice or care when the ticket taker came past. Since I travel in my bag, Boss Mom doesn't pay for me. All you big dogs will need your own ticket, but that doesn't mean you can sit on the seat.





Slim Jim's List of Good-Dog Manners in Germany

As a proud mixed-breed mutt from the streets of Tucson, it took some time before I understood all the rules here in Germany. So, to help you new pups, here is a list of important things I've learned along the way.

In urban areas:

- Always stay on a leash in towns and cities.
- Resist pulling to go sniff other dogs unless your Boss asks their Boss first.
- If you whine, bark or pull the other dogs will think you are being rude, and their Bosses will NOT let you play or sniff.
- Those bowls of water outside bakeries, cafes and shops are for you. Drink!
- When you poo, give your Boss time to properly pick it up and toss it in the trash. They can be fined if you drag them away and it gets left behind.
- NEVER even think about biting or being aggressive. I don't even want to talk about the dire consequences. At best, your Boss will get sued: They should have liability insurance just in case your tail gets overly excited and accidentally breaks something.
- Don't bark or howl for no reason, even in your own backyard. This is especially rude during quiet hours or for more than 10 minutes, which means your Boss may get in trouble with the neighbors. Save it for when you mean it.

In the forest or fields:

- It's fun to run off leash in forests or on rural dirt roads and trails, but you must ALWAYS run straight back to your Boss if they call. NEVER wander far.
- Near most U.S. military bases, you can go for walks off-leash in the forest all year, but in some states, like Saarland, it's not allowed during hunting season. In other states, mostly in northern Germany, it's never allowed. Have your Boss check www.leinenpflicht.com before traveling.
- Even if you are super-good, it is polite to put your leash back on if you pass another leashed dog.
- Don't ever run up to another dog, especially one who is on a leash. Your Boss needs to ask their Boss first.
- NEVER hunt forest animals or the local human hunter may hunt you.
- Unless there are signs saying otherwise, it's okay to jump into the ponds or lakes you find on doggie walks! ■

Get involved with

KMC ADOPT DON'T SHOP



KMC Adopt Don't Shop is a local animal rescue that helps foster and re-home pets in the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC). The animals can come from the local area, Luxembourg, Croatia and all over Germany. I had the pleasure of speaking with foster coordinator and dog trainer, Ronda Smith. Smith, someone who prefers animals to people (me too), is currently in school for veterinary medicine and just wants to give back to the animals. Smith stressed that fostering and adopting are not for everyone. Animals can be a huge commitment; however, fostering can be a way to figure out if you are ready to adopt.

If you are interested in adopting, KMC Adopt Don't Shop has a rigorous five-part process to ensure that the situation is ideal for both the family and the animal. It involves applications, interviews and meet-and-greets. However, Smith is passionate about connecting animals with families and by the end of the interview she asked me, "Have you ever thought about a cat?"

If you love animals but cannot make a commitment to foster or adopt, there are plenty of other ways to help the organization. Caring for animals is expensive: There are vet visits, boarding fees, food, training and more. You can donate funds or items for special events. Volunteers also help with the re-homing process and transport animals to adoptive and foster homes. Something as simple as sharing the animals up for adoption on your social media page can make all the difference.





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SEGA'S SUCCESS STORY

As Autumn adjusted her camera, the biggest, most lovable-looking face filled the frame. I'm sure Autumn was talking, but I must admit, my focus immediately switched to this giant dog. She noticed fairly quickly. "This is Sega," she said and turned to him. "Sit, we are going to an interview."

Sega came with many warnings: He was aggressive and reactive! He had already been rehomed six to seven times. The previous family had him only three days before calling to say that someone had to pick him up. While Autumn is telling me all this, Sega is in the background rolling around in a sunbeam peeking through the window.

*"This is Sega," she said and turned to him.
"Sit, we are going to an interview."*

Autumn wasn't sure what to expect when Sega showed up at her house in the backseat of a car with no lead or muzzle and aggression warnings. Autumn simply reached in and Sega came right out. For three months, Sega has been training to work on his reactivity. He does really well, but he is still protective of "his" people and "his" house.

When I asked Autumn if he was at risk of becoming a "foster fail," she said that while she loved Sega, he really needed a ranch and something to protect because he was going stir-crazy in a house.

Lucky for Sega, that dream came true! Since we first spoke with them, KMC Adopt Don't Shop let us know that Sega has officially been adopted. He lives on a farm where he has plenty of room to roam and has a donkey for a best friend. His new owners even built him his own mini-pool.

If you are interested in learning more about fostering, adopting, volunteering or donating to KMC Adopt Don't Shop reach out at kmccadoptdontshop@gmail.com, or go to their Facebook and Instagram pages. ■



StripesEurope.com has partnered with KMC Adopt Don't Shop to feature an **"Adoptable Pet of the Month"** so there can be more success stories like Sega's. So far three of these featured pets have found forever homes. We want that number to be higher!

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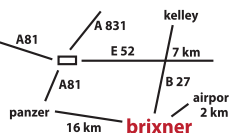


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YOUR

SNAPSHOT

Photo by Melissa Rall



WOOF! My name is Pepper, and I recently went on an adventure to the Black Forest in Germany. It was pawsitively awesome.

The highlight was our visit to the **Black Forest Open Air Museum** and all the farm animals I got to smell. Since the museum is dog-friendly, I had to walk my humans on a leash to make sure they followed the rules, keeping them close by and out of trouble from those pesky cats. I also got to sniff some other interesting characters like chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, cows and even a donkey!

After the best day of exploring, we returned to a cozy farm for a fresh meal! We stayed on **Rommelehof Farm** in a little town called Gutach. Can you believe it has been around since 1665? I felt like we went back in time. Each morning, I woke up to the smell of freshly baked bread and rolling hills with tall trees calling my name. My humans and I went hiking through the dense, mysterious woods. The forest floor was covered in squishy moss, funny looking mushrooms and crunchy, autumn leaves. I even found the BEST stick.

The Black Forest has everything a dog could wish for, with lots of wide-open trails to discover and new scents to smell. If you're a dog with a nose for adventure, this place is a real treat! ■



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