



## **The Ultimate Dog-Friendly Destination Welcomes Disney Defector**

*Mickey-Marked Mascot Prefers St. Pete/Clearwater's Pet-Friendly Beaches, Paw Playgrounds*

St. Pete/Clearwater, FL (February 20, 2009) -- A tiny, black-and-white puppy sporting the distinctive brand of that *other* popular Florida destination caused quite a stir in St. Pete/Clearwater this week.

Naturally marked with one of the most iconic symbols of all time---Mickey Mouse Ears---the nine-week-old lab orphan has become a mascot for pet-friendly tourism to the St. Pete/Clearwater area.

Both Honeymoon Island State Park and Fort De Soto Park---named the #1 Beach in the US by TripAdvisor---offer dedicated dog beaches, where pups and their owners can relax on America's Best Beaches and frolic in the surf together.

And with Gulf-front pet-friendly resorts and dog parks located throughout, the St. Pete/Clearwater area is the perfect getaway for the ultimate pet-friendly vacation.



It also offers visitors of all stripes the one thing they won't find in Central Florida: 35-miles of white sand beaches fronted by the sparkling, emerald-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

For video and more photos of this special dog frolicking on America's Award-Winning Beaches, visit <http://www.floridasbeach.com/cms/index.php?id=3302>

*Note: February is Responsible Pet Owners Month. This cute pup is one of thousands that get placed in caring homes every year by Pinellas County Animal Services. For more information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices)*

*For more information about Visit St. Pete/Clearwater: [www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)*

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