

THE **ff** DIRECTORY



Rustic Charm

Calming water, rustic cabins and the scent of tranquility in the air at Tahoma Meadows Bed & Breakfast Cottages.

by Heike Hellwig

A scrumptious Tahoma Meadows breakfast spread.

Arriving for check-in late one evening at the Tahoma Meadows Bed & Breakfast, a welcoming note greeted us at the office door with directions to our cottage. In the morning, we were invited to a delicious breakfast prepared by the hospitable staff. We found our stay in this serene and cozy environment very enjoyable and felt right at home, as did our dog Jazz. Her interest piqued at the many squirrels and birds she observed from the little porch of our cottage.

Innkeeper Dick White recommended a few activities for our pack to partake in while visiting Lake Tahoe. We walked the Cascade Falls Trail, which was an easy two- to three-mile hike leading us to a great vista overlooking Cascade Lake. Due to the time of year, the waterfalls were nearly gone and only a few water holes remained. Nevertheless, we enjoyed a picnic lunch and encountered some wildlife in the form of squirrels, blue jays and two garden snakes in one of the water holes. Near Hurricane Bay, a designated dog beach, Jazz did the doggy paddle in the lake amidst the ever-watchful eye of nearby ducks.

We stayed in the Angler, a two-room cottage with pine interior, queen bed, full kitchen and claw foot soaking tub/shower with a fly-

fishing motif. The rustic coziness made for a perfect mountain cabin experience.

Innkeepers Ulli and Dick bought the historic Tahoma Meadows B&B Cottages in 1999. Since that time, remodeling has given way to new roofs, pavement, gas log fireplaces, windows, carpets, decorations, paint, furniture and landscaping. Tahoma Meadows is one of the few Fido-friendly properties around Lake Tahoe. Initially, two of the 15 cottages were dedicated for dog lovers. Over time, due to the ever-increasing requests for Fido-friendly accommodations, more cottages have been converted to welcome pets. Dog lovers themselves and companions of Osito, a friendly and well-behaved Labrador Retriever, the innkeepers mentioned that today roughly 50 percent of their business is because the property is Fido-friendly. It's no wonder many guests are repeat customers year after year. *Tahoma Meadows Bed & Breakfast*, P.O. Box 810, Homewood, California 96141; \$109-199; \$15 per night per pet; (866) 525-1553; www.tahomameadows.com.

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Tahoma Meadows B&B Cottages has been mentioned in Former's, Foder's, Best Places to Stay in northern California, Lonely Planet and Sunset Magazine.

Innkeepers Dick and Ulli White have published their own cookbook with all of their breakfast recipes.

Dating from the 1920s, each of the cozy red cottages includes a gourmet breakfast for two.