

grilled. For Sam I Am, there are green pesto eggs and ham. Relax at sidewalk or courtyard seating next door to Urban Dogs and the Museum of Glass, or order a boxed lunch with all the trimmings to go. 1701 Dock St.; 253/627-5882.

**Harmon Brewing Co. and Restaurant:** This is the place to meet friends after work, be they furry or fair, for a pint and a burger in the heart of Tacoma's museum and university district. When you're stuck at work, the "Real Fast" express lunch menu is just the ticket. 1938 Pacific Ave.; 253/383-2739; www.harmonbrewingco.com.

**Hello Cupcake:** Isis really hopes the cupcake craze isn't just another passing fad, for life is simply sweeter when topped with buttercream frosting. Wouldn't you know it, the cupcakes are cheaper by the dozen. 1740 Pacific Ave.; 253/383-7772; www.hello-cupcake.com.

**Infinite Soups:** At least a dozen homemade soups per day, both meaty and vegetarian, are infinitely pleasing to the palate. Sampling is encouraged; how else can you decide between the dozens of choices? When you've finally chosen your soup du jour, get it to go. 445 Tacoma Ave. S.; 253/274-0232; www.infinitesoups.com.

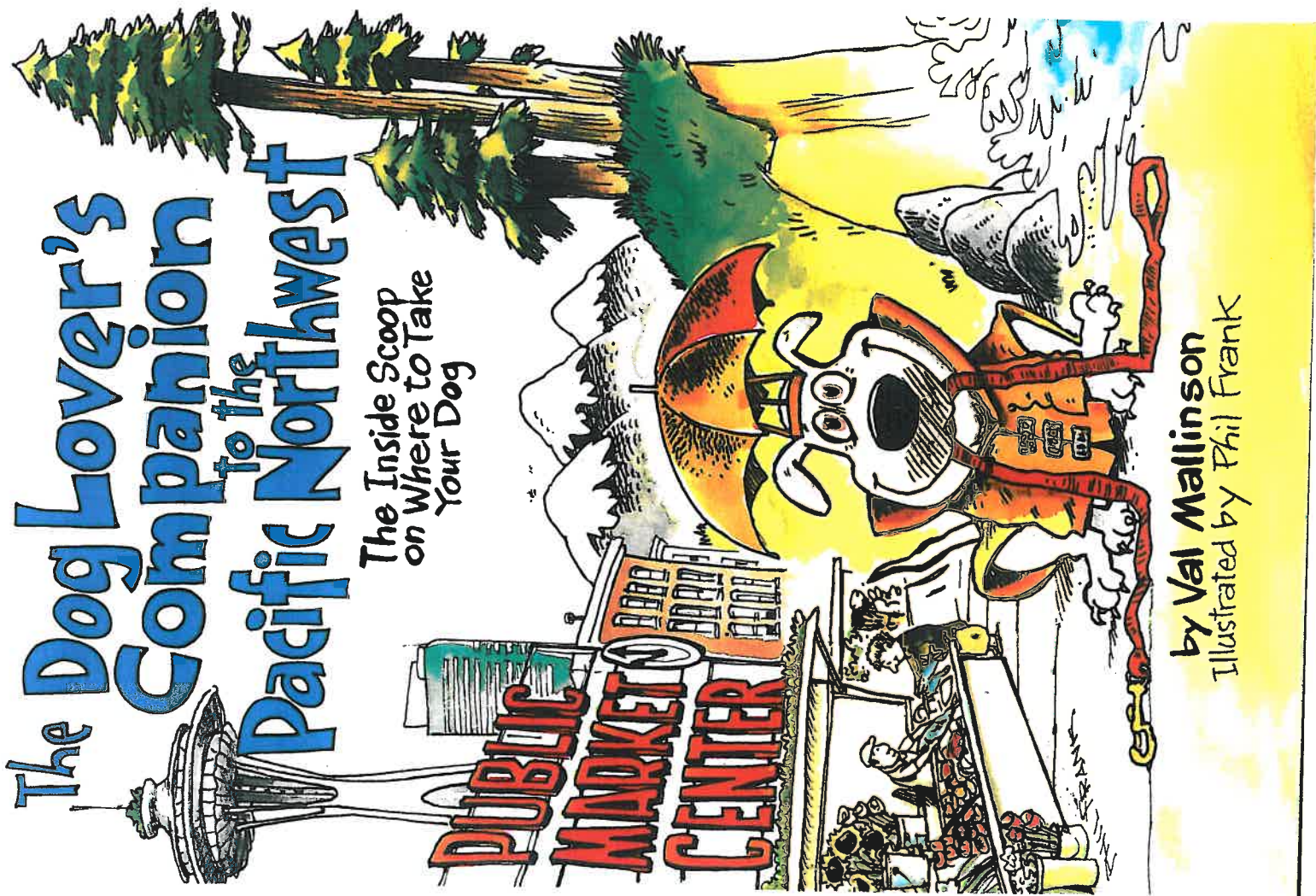
**PLACES TO STAY**

**Days Inn Tacoma:** Off I-5 before Tacoma, at Exit 129, the reliable Days Inn is convenient to the Tacoma Dome. They limit you to two dogs, each under 65 pounds. Rates range \$70-110, plus a \$10 pet fee. 6802 Tacoma Mall Blvd.; 253/475-5900.

**Hotel Murano:** The Dachsie Twins are occasionally prone to pronouncements, so you won't be surprised when they utter this one: If you stay in only one hotel in this entire guide, save up your pennies and make it this one. In fact, even if you can't stay here, come in to look at the glass art. Grab a guide from the Front Desk and walk through the building as though it were an art gallery, with the same hushed respect, because that's really what it is.

The original Murano is an archipelago of islands in Italy, where all glass-makers were forced to move to protect the city of Venice from the fires of their hot shops. The hotel does its namesake proud. Each floor is named for an artist, with pieces representing his or her work and an artist's statement describing the methodologies and artistic influences. Beyond all that, the beds are blissfully comfortable, the city views, from the fifth floor up, are unforgettable, and Murano has spared no expense on amenities. We could go on and on—just go! Rates are fairly reasonable, ranging \$150-220; the pet fee is a flat \$45 per stay. 1320 Broadway; 253/238-8000; www.hotelmurano.com.

**La Quinta Tacoma:** The La Quinta chain is wonderfully pet-friendly. As usual, there are no pet fees and no restrictions. Renovated in 2007, this location is especially spiffy. Rates range \$120-210; 1425 E. 27th St.; 253/383-0146; www.lq.com.



# The Dog Lover's Companion to the Pacific Northwest

The Inside Scoop on Where to Take Your Dog

by Val Mallinson  
Illustrated by Phil Frank