

“We loved it!”

Dogs Monthly reader **Pam Krajewska** put Morton of Pitmilley Countryside Resort in Fife through its paces.



Bill loved exploring the resort's many trails.

Juli enjoys the farmland view from one of the trail benches.

Staying at Morton of Pitmilley Countryside Resort, near St Andrews, with my friend Juli and her two-year-old Springer Spaniel Bill was a real treat! Our four-night stay was in the Mill Loft, a beautiful two-storey cottage with the living accommodation upstairs and views to the sea. On arrival we found a doggy welcome pack containing a ball, treats and some poo bags.

The cottage was well laid out, and after a walk we could dry Bill off in the hallway, which had floorboards, before allowing him upstairs. It was lovely and peaceful – the only sound we heard was the chirping of the baby starlings nesting outside our kitchen!

ON-SITE TRAILS

The self-catering accommodation is part of a courtyard, which the owners developed into a four-star holiday resort 20 years ago.

There is also a newer five-star development, The Steading.

Reception sells a variety of delicious-looking ready meals, breakfast goodies and other items, including fresh eggs from the resort's own hens.

There's a useful touch screen giving local information (where to eat, things to do and so forth), and the friendly and helpful owners are happy to provide information on walks in the area.

Our first morning dawned dry but cloudy and we explored the many farm trails around the farm – two miles in all. They were absolutely perfect for an extremely energetic Springer Spaniel, and it's true to say Bill absolutely adored them.

The trails were all on beautifully mown grass and meandered through woods, alongside a burn and around field perimeters. There are benches along the way so you

can rest awhile and take in the stunning scenery and views, along with information boards about the wildlife on the resort.

NO NEED FOR LEADS

There is no need for a lead on the Morton trails as they are away from roads and traffic, and there are no worries about livestock as it's all arable farming – perfect for our needs.

There are a few simple rules when you take your dog to Morton of Pitmilley.

The owners ask you to supervise your dog at all times. Dogs are not allowed in the children's play and football areas and must not be allowed to roam free in the central courtyard. You must also always clean up after your dog on the trails (poo bags are available in reception).

None of these rules made it difficult for us, as we wanted to have Bill with us all the time. You would have to source

doggy day care if you wanted to visit attractions in the area that aren't dog-friendly, as the only place to leave your pet inside is in his crate or in the hallway of your accommodation with the other doors shut.

The nearest beach is at Kingsbarns, a short drive away and there is parking next to the beach.

OUT & ABOUT

The first morning we walked along the Fife Coastal Path Trail from Kingsbarns towards Crail, by the golf course. Tip – watch out for stray balls!

This section of the coast is quite rocky with a few stretches of sand, but Bill managed to make short work of the rocks – much better than we did.

Walking along the coastal path was a pleasure as it is a really stunning coastline, offering interest for both serious walkers and more casual strollers.

