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The Relationship Between Tourism, Dog Ownership and Sustainability

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Abstract: The interplay between tourism and dog ownership presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities for sustainability. The relationship between tourism, dog ownership, and sustainability forms a complex nexus that is becoming increasingly relevant in contemporary socio-economic and environmental contexts. Tourism significantly impacts local economies and environments, and its relationship with dog ownership manifests in various ways. Tourist destinations that promote pet-friendly policies can see an increase in visitor numbers as dog owners are more inclined to visit places where their pets are welcomed. This can lead to increased spending in these areas but also poses potential sustainability challenges such as increased waste production and environmental degradation. Conversely, the presence of dogs in tourist areas can enhance the visitor experience, encouraging longer stays and promoting mental and physical well-being through pet interaction. This aspect can lead to a more sustainable form of tourism that values longer visits over quick, high-impact travel. However, managing the environmental impact of a larger number of pets, including waste management and habitat disturbance, is crucial for sustainability. Sustainability in the context of tourism and dog ownership also extends to the practices of accommodations and tourist attractions, such as the provision of eco-friendly pet amenities, promoting responsible pet ownership, and ensuring that tourism development does not harm local wildlife and ecosystems.

Keywords: tourism, dog ownership, sustainability, dog travel

Introduction

In tourism contexts, the understanding of sustainability and the definition of environmentally conscious practices are still uncertain, both among professionals (Sørensen and Bærenholdt, 2020) and consumers (Bernini et al., 2021). Tourism is one of the most promising and fastest growing sectors of the global economy. In this context, it is of paramount importance to plan and promote tourism in a targeted and sustainable way, while seeking a balance between ecological, economic and social objectives. A key element in managing sustainable tourism development is to ensure a high level of satisfaction of tourists' needs, while providing a meaningful visitor experience. They also have an important role to play in raising awareness of sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practices in consumer society. It is important that people become environmentally aware. Environmental awareness is an attitude and way of life, which means that individuals and organisations are aware of environmental issues and take responsibility for sustainable, environmentally friendly practices. Aspects of environmental awareness range widely and can vary depending on the lifestyle and activities of the individual or organisation. Maintaining a balance between society, the environment and the economy, which are the three pillars of sustainability (Szabó, 2020), is the responsibility of our generation to ensure that future generations have all the necessary conditions for social well-being.

Sustainable tourism, also known as ecotourism, is an approach to tourism that aims to minimise negative impacts on the environment, society and the economy, and to balance the environment, culture and the economy. Sustainable tourism seeks to balance the economic, social and environmental aspects of tourism to ensure that tourism remains sustainable in the long term (Butler, 1999). Sustainable tourism also aims to ensure that tourism has a positive impact on tourists, local communities and the environment. This type of tourism helps present and future generations to enjoy tourist destinations while preserving the environment and supporting local communities.

In Hungary, the number of dogs is increasing and the number of pets is close to 3 million, which showed a significant increase during the COVID-19 pandemic (Vetter et al., 2022). However, the purpose and role of dog ownership has also changed along with the increase in the number of dogs. They used to be kept for housekeeping, watch dogs, but today more and more people consider them as companions, treating them as family members (Boni, 2008). International studies have already been published reporting on dog owners' leisure activities, physical activity and, in the case of dogs treated as family members, outings with their owners (Carr, 2009; Blichfeldt et al., 2018). International studies have already been published that report on the leisure and physical activity of dog owners, as well as travel with the owner in the case of dogs treated as family members (Arnberger and Hinterberger, 2003; Carr, 2009; Kirillova et al., 2015; Blichfeldt et al., 2018; Rickly et al., 2020). There are also studies that focus on travel and dog-friendly accommodation (Dotson et al., 2010; Kovács et al., 2020). The experiences of Hungarian dog owners during Hungarian and international travels contribute to a better understanding of the expanding global trends in the dog-friendly tourism industry. These observations point to the need for

the tourism sector to pay attention to the diverse expectations of travelling dog owners and encourage destinations and service providers to develop a more open attitude to cater for this target group.

The emergence of an ideology of sustainable tourism

The emergence of an ideology of sustainable tourism is the result of a gradual process, rooted in a number of different sources and initiatives. The idea of sustainable tourism began to emerge in the late 1960s and early 1970s and over the years has received increasing attention from individuals, organisations and governments. Several key events have taken place that have contributed to the development of the sustainable tourism ideology. At the 1972 United Nations Conference in Stockholm, environmental sustainability and the conservation of natural resources became the focus of attention. This was followed by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where the principles of sustainable development were recognised and accepted. Agenda 21 sets out a global action plan for sustainable development. Tourism is included in this document and tourism operators are encouraged to develop and apply the principles of sustainable tourism. In recent decades, various green certificates and sustainability initiatives have been developed in tourism. These initiatives have set standards and criteria for hotels, travel agencies and other tourism businesses to promote sustainability.

The ideology of sustainable tourism has been evolving and developing ever since. More and more international and regional organisations are addressing the issue. Sustainable tourism has become an integral part of the tourism industry, with an increasing number of hotels, travel agencies and tourist destinations committing themselves to the principles of sustainability. The principles of sustainable tourism are increasingly appreciated and supported by the conscious travelling public and society as a whole, as a response to global environmental and social challenges.

Sustainable tourism is a complex and ongoing process that requires a wide range of stakeholders, including tourists, businesses, local communities and governments, to work together. The aim is to ensure that the benefits of tourism are sustainable in the long term and do not threaten the environment or local communities.

To achieve sustainable tourism, a number of measures are needed from both destinations and tourism service providers. These measures could include:

- Introduction and implementation of an environmental management system: destinations and businesses can introduce environmental management systems to help incorporate and maintain sustainable practices.
- Community involvement: the involvement and active participation of local communities in decision-making processes and tourism planning allows local needs and interests to be taken into account.
- Education and awareness raising: Educate both tourists and local people about the importance of sustainable tourism, encourage them to adopt sustainable behaviour and promote sustainable attitudes.

Tourism uses sustainability practices for two purposes. One is to reduce negative environmental impacts by reducing emissions and litter. The second is to use and conserve resources sustainably to minimise the impact of climate events on the sector (Reid et al., 2017).

ESG-Environmental, Social, and Governance

ESG tourism, where ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance, is becoming an increasingly important part of the global tourism industry (Figure 1). This approach emphasises sustainability and responsible tourism, encouraging the sector to proactively contribute to environmental protection, social justice and ethical management practices. ESG tourism is a relatively new approach to tourism and is sometimes used as a synonym for sustainability. It is a framework for evaluating and reporting on the performance of companies and organisations from an environmental, social and governance perspective (Holden et al., 2017). In this context, sustainability is not only about minimising environmental impacts, but also includes social responsibility and ethical corporate governance. ESG tourism aims to have a positive impact on the environment, support local communities and promote transparent, responsible corporate governance, i.e. to align tourism activities with environmental protection, social well-being, and ethical business practices.



Figure 1. Main factors of ESG tourism

In ESG tourism, the aim is to ensure that tourism activities not only generate economic benefits, but also have a long-term positive impact on the environment, local communities and business ethics. This approach is becoming increasingly common in the tourism industry in response to growing global sustainability challenges and conscious consumer demands.

Sustainability efforts in the hotel industry

Sustainable accommodation is a way of developing the hotel sector that not only meets the needs of current guests, hotel employees and other stakeholders, but also

enables future guests, hotel employees and other stakeholders to enjoy the same products and experiences (Sloan et al., 2012).

Sustainability has become increasingly important in the hotel industry in recent years, and many hotels have already taken steps and measures to reduce environmental pollution and promote social and economic sustainability (Janković and Krivačić, 2014). The following figure shows some of the sustainability efforts that are widely applied in the hotel industry (Figure 2).

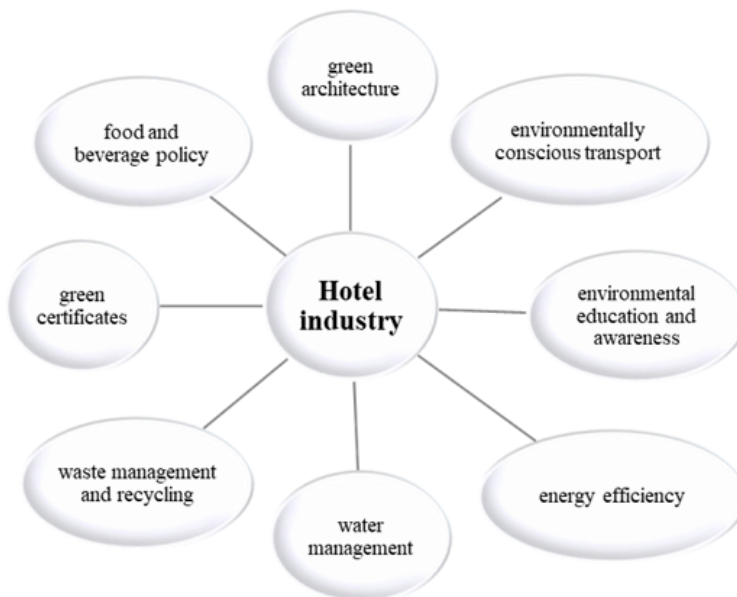


Figure 2. Sustainability efforts in the hotel industry

In green architectural design, hotels use sustainable building materials and follow energy-conscious design principles. The use of energy saving devices such as LED lighting and intelligent energy optimisation systems help to reduce energy consumption.

Hotels use water-saving equipment such as low-flow toilets, shower heads and taps. The use of water collection systems and recycling technologies also helps to ensure sustainable water management. Many hotels are implementing recycling programmes and waste reduction measures. Hotels are using recyclable materials, such as reusable packaging materials, which contribute greatly to sustainable waste management. Sustainable food and beverage sourcing, such as the use of ingredients from local producers. Food waste reduction initiatives such as donations or composting of organic waste. Obtaining green certifications such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification or other local sustainability schemes to recognise sustainability efforts. Hotels encourage the use of sustainable means of transport. For example, they offer bike rentals to guests or allow charging of electric vehicles. Organise education programmes and campaigns for guests and staff on sustainability issues, encouraging sustainable behaviour.

These initiatives show that the hotel industry is striving for sustainability. It is working in a variety of ways to preserve the environment for future generations, support local communities and contribute to sustainable development.

Green hotel

A "green hotel" or "sustainable hotel" is a hotel that adopts practices and measures that are based on the principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability (Ásványi and Komár, 2021).

Today, there is a growing number of consumers who are concerned about environmental pressures and prefer to use green products and services. The emergence of a green consumer in the hotel industry has led to the recognition of the need to introduce and promote green solutions (Claver-Cortés et al., 2007). Green operations can give hotels a competitive advantage by differentiating themselves from other hotels and improving their image, while reducing their energy consumption and thus their operating costs. The definition of green hotels is not uniform in the literature (Manaktola and Jauhuri, 2007). Hotels that voluntarily offer green solutions are often considered green hotels, but there is considerable variation in what and how much green elements are used in their operations. There are different ways of reducing the environmental burden, making it difficult to define what is meant by a green hotel (Millar and Baloglu, 2011).

Kasim (2004), however, does not only define green hotels in environmental terms, but also in social and economic terms, i.e. a hotel that is responsible towards its employees, the local community, the local culture and the immediate environment.

Millar and Baloglu (2011) conducted consumer research specifically on the green attributes of hotels. The research team looked at 12 attributes of hotel rooms, with the highest mean scores for linen change on request only, room occupancy indicator and card keys, while the lowest scores were for low-flow shower heads and refillable soap and shampoo dispensers. However, the use of energy efficient light bulbs, towel reuse program and selective waste bins were the most strongly agreed upon by respondents.

The greening of the hotel industry is becoming increasingly important due to growing demands and expectations for sustainability. Sustainability activities and programs in the hotel industry have a significant impact not only on greening hotel operations, but also on increasing guests' environmental awareness and loyalty.

The demand side of sustainable tourism refers to travelers who are increasingly aware of environmental, social and sustainable lifestyles. A growing number of travelers are becoming more environmentally conscious and more concerned about protecting the natural environment. Travelers are becoming increasingly informed about sustainability and the impact of tourism. Those who are aware of sustainable tourism principles and practices are more likely to choose this type of travel. Furthermore, some travelers are looking specifically for nature and cultural experiences and choose destinations that offer these experiences in a sustainable way.

Hotels, destinations and tourism businesses that have green certificates or sustainability accreditations can be more attractive to those interested in sustainable tourism.

Social media and social impact information are increasing interest in sustainable tourism. Satisfied travelers are more likely to share their experiences and experiences can influence the decisions of others.

Government policies and stricter regulations can help to increase demand for sustainable tourism.

Together, these factors are contributing to the growing demand for sustainable tourism, which in turn is encouraging the tourism industry to develop and promote more sustainable solutions and services. Domestic research shows that Hungarian travellers consider themselves to be environmentally conscious (Lukács et al., 2022) and claim to take environmental considerations into account when travelling (Gonda and Raffay, 2021).

Several studies have shown that tourists are also increasingly interested in environmentally friendly products and services (Buffa et al., 2018; Peng et al., 2019), which is perhaps one of the most tangible elements of sustainability. On the demand side of the sector, studies already show that people are willing to pay more not only for environmental protection but also for green products and services (Kang et al., 2012).

The link between dog owners and sustainability

There are many links between dog owners and sustainability. Responsible dog ownership should also include a commitment to sustainability. There are different ways in which dog owners can contribute to sustainability.

1. Responsible dog ownership: It is the responsibility of dog owners to look after their pets. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to take care of their pet (Swanson et al., 2013).
2. Sustainable, environmentally conscious nutrition: It is important that farmers take into account the environmental impact of pet food. Considering the importance of pet food for the environment is important (Rushforth 2013).
3. Active lifestyles: Dog owners contribute to their own and their dog's health and well-being through regular walks and exercise (Cutt et al., 2007), while reducing the carbon footprint from transport and other energy-intensive activities. Owners should make use of sustainable transport options when walking their dogs (cycling, public transport, walking)
4. Handling and collection of dog waste: Dog waste can cause environmental pollution, especially if not properly handled. Dog owners should give preference to biodegradable bags and dispose of dog waste in designated waste bins.
5. Adoption of dogs: Adoption can be a sustainable alternative to dog ownership, as it offers the opportunity to find a new home for dogs in shelters.

6. Sustainable toys and accessories: When buying toys and accessories for your dog, it's a good idea to choose products that are made from environmentally friendly materials. Avoid single-use plastic toys and choose more durable, longer-lasting toys instead.

Sustainable dog ownership, in addition to the love and care of dogs, focuses on reducing the environmental footprint and adopting environmentally friendly practices. This is becoming increasingly important in modern society. This approach not only has a positive impact on the welfare and health of dogs, but also contributes to environmental goals. Dog owners can have a significant impact on their impact on the environment through their conscious choices and daily activities. It is important for dog owners to be aware of the environmental impact of dog ownership and to continuously look for ways to reduce pollution (Yavor et al., 2020).

Sustainable dog ownership is not only about reducing environmental impacts, but also about developing a lifestyle that promotes the harmonious coexistence of dogs and the environment, so that dog owners can become active players in building a sustainable and environmentally conscious society.

Sustainable dog travel

Sustainable dog travel is becoming increasingly popular for those who want to explore the world with their pet. When holidaying and travelling with a dog, dog owners who are committed to sustainability can take many steps to reduce their environmental footprint and help protect the environment, while ensuring the well-being and safety of their pet. Below are some tips and ideas to help you do this (Table 1).

Table 1. Tips for sustainable dog travel

Accommodation that adopts sustainable practices can be particularly attractive. Many places already offer eco-friendly services.

Choosing eco-friendly accommodation	
Sustainable packaging and equipment	You can reduce the amount of luggage and choose reusable or biodegradable products when travelling. The use of reusable water bottles, bowls, plates and cutlery is recommended for both people and dogs.
Environmentally friendly mode of transport	Where possible, lower carbon travel modes such as train or bus are recommended. For short distances, walking or cycling is recommended. When travelling by car, sharing the journey with other families with dogs can reduce the impact on the environment.
Environmentally friendly dog walking	Collect dog waste in biodegradable bags when walking in new areas. Avoid walking in protected areas where dogs can disturb wildlife.
Use of natural dog cosmetics	Dog shampoos and conditioners made from natural ingredients have less of an impact on the environment, especially if you are on holiday in places where water is discharged directly into nature.
Supporting the local economy	Purchasing local products and services, such as dog-friendly local attractions, dog food and accessories from local producers, not only helps the local economy, but is often a more sustainable option.
Education and awareness raising	To learn about the environmental standards and challenges of the place visited, and to share experiences and lessons learned with other dog owners, enabling them to travel more consciously with their pets.

These steps and actions will contribute to more sustainable dog ownership and environmentally conscious lifestyles, while allowing people and their four-legged friends to enjoy their travels without unnecessarily burdening the planet. This type of travel sometimes requires more effort, attention and planning, but it is worth it because you don't have to give up your pet's company during your journey.

The link between sustainability and dog sports and recreation is becoming increasingly important for both environmentally conscious dog owners and the wider community. This relationship is particularly significant given that reducing the environmental footprint and protecting natural resources is a global priority. Canine sports and recreation can contribute to sustainability goals in a number of ways. Canine activities such as dog walking, agility or canicross (dog running) often take place in outdoor areas, which can help to enhance the valuation and protection of natural areas. Dog owners and athletes can raise awareness and encourage respect and conservation of the natural environment. Dog events such as competitions and exhibitions can be organised in a sustainable way, for example by reducing waste, using recyclable materials and minimising carbon emissions. This could include electronic applications, on-site selective waste collection and the promotion of public transport. Equipment and products used in canine sports and recreational activities, such as leashes, toys, training equipment and nutritional products, can also be sustainable. This includes giving preference to products made from recycled materials, the use of environmentally friendly packaging. Combining sustainability and dog activities therefore creates the opportunity to have a positive impact on the environment while spending quality time with our pets. To achieve this, it is important to do all activities consciously and with a view to minimising environmental impact.

Summary and proposals

Dog-friendly accommodation and tourism operators are increasingly focusing on sustainability and environmental awareness, especially in view of the growing demand for eco-friendly travel options. The following strategic guidelines and development suggestions can help them to reduce pollution and create sustainable dog-friendly destinations. Practicing dog sports and recreational activities in a sustainable way can not only improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners but can also make a significant contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development. Promoting and supporting such activities can encourage environmentally conscious choices and reduce the environmental footprint of both dog owners and the wider community.

Sustainable Operation

Energy-saving solutions: using solar energy to achieve energy savings can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and thus significantly reduce carbon emissions. The use of LED lighting and energy-saving appliances further optimizes energy use.

Water saving means not only reducing water bills, but also protecting water resources. Rainwater harvesting systems, water-saving taps and showerheads, and grey water recycling systems make a significant contribution to reducing water use.

Waste reduction: composting allows organic waste to be recycled, while the use of reusable or biodegradable products reduces landfill pressures. Minimizing packaging waste is particularly important as it is a major contributor to environmental pollution.

Environmentally Friendly Dog Friendly Services

Biodegradable dog waste bags: these bags help reduce the plastic waste that persists in the environment over time and threatens wildlife.

Natural dog shampoos and conditioners: using products containing natural ingredients instead of chemicals reduces water pollution and is safer for dogs' skin and fur.

Environmentally friendly dog toys: toys made from sustainably sourced or recycled materials not only reduce the environmental footprint, but also protect dogs' health from harmful substances.

Green Spaces and Dog Friendly Attractions

Native Planted Gardens: gardens that use native plants require low maintenance and use less water because these plants are adapted to the local climate. In addition, these plants help local fauna such as pollinators, birds and small mammals to survive, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health. For accommodation and tourism establishments, this means that their green spaces are not just decorative, but also play an active role in supporting and maintaining the local ecosystem.

Dog-friendly trails: creating dog-friendly trails that are clearly marked and well maintained will reduce disturbance to wildlife and vegetation. These trails are designed to minimize soil erosion and other negative environmental impacts, while providing dogs and their owners with safe and enjoyable hiking opportunities. The use of designated trails contributes to the preservation of natural areas and ensures that visitors do not stray from designated trails, thus reducing their environmental footprint.

Educational Programs: Educational programs that inform guests about the importance of protecting local ecosystems and how to hike with dogs responsibly and sustainably are vital to raising environmental awareness. These programs can include information about local wildlife and plants, guidelines for dog behavior in nature, and tips on how to apply the "leave everything as you found it" principle. This type of education can help reduce visitors' environmental footprint while increasing respect for ecological and cultural values.

The overall aim is for accommodation and tourism providers not only to offer guests and their dogs the opportunity to enjoy nature, but also to play an active role in protecting and maintaining ecosystems. The integration of native plant gardens, dog-friendly trails and educational programs are important elements in the development of a sustainable dog-friendly destination that promotes environmentally responsible tourism and contributes to the conservation of local biodiversity.

Involving local communities

Local products and services: relying on local products and services, such as food grown by local producers, artisanal products and local services, not only helps to stimulate the local economy, but also to reduce carbon emissions from transport. It also increases the sustainability of tourism activities by reducing the resources needed to transport goods and services to the destination.

Community programs: programs to build links between local communities and tourists, such as joint volunteering activities, participation in local cultural events and joint environmental projects, not only enrich cultural exchange but also promote environmental awareness. These programs provide an opportunity for visitors to gain a deeper insight into the local way of life and to understand how their own activities can affect the environment and the community.

Educational initiatives: educational programs and workshops focusing on environmental awareness, sustainable practices and local biodiversity conservation can be important tools to raise awareness among local communities and visitors. Such programs can help visitors to understand the importance of local ecosystems and how they can contribute to their protection, even during their short stay.

Employing local labour: providing a local workforce that is favoured by dog-friendly accommodation and tourism providers helps to promote economic development in the local community and reduces the environmental pressure of commuting. In this way, tourism activity also contributes directly to the sustainability of the local economy.

Supporting local environmental initiatives: local environmental projects, such as afforestation schemes, wildlife conservation projects or initiatives to protect natural water sources, with the active participation and support of dog-friendly accommodation and tourism operators, not only contribute to the preservation of the local environment, but also strengthen the relationship between guests and local communities. By participating in such activities, tourists can play an active role in promoting sustainable tourism and local environmental protection.

Marketing and Communication

Marketing and communication play a key role in promoting sustainable dog-friendly destinations and encouraging tourism in this direction. Through targeted communication strategies, accommodation and tourism providers can effectively inform potential guests about their sustainability initiatives and practices and how they can contribute to these initiatives.

Digital Marketing: digital platforms such as social media, websites and blogs play a prominent role in spreading sustainability-focused messages. Dog-friendly accommodation and service providers can showcase their sustainable practices, such as energy efficient lighting, water saving equipment, use of organic bedding, or partnerships with local communities. In addition, special content, such as sustainable travel tips, dog-friendly places to visit, and educational videos can help inspire visitors to make more informed choices.

Storytelling: powerful storytelling allows accommodation and service providers to connect emotionally with their guests. They can share their guests'

success stories, such as how they discovered eco-friendly activities in the area or how they got involved in supporting the local community. Sharing real stories and experiences increases guest engagement and loyalty.

Highlighting Green Certifications and Awards: sustainability certifications and awards such as the Green Key or ECO-Label can provide evidence of sustainable operations of accommodation and tourism service providers. These certifications and awards should be actively communicated in marketing materials so that guests can see and appreciate the efforts that the accommodation is making to protect the environment.

Interactive and Educational Content: Interactive and educational content focused on environmental awareness, such as quizzes, games and workshops, can be not only entertaining but also informative for guests. These activities will help raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, while also providing practical advice on how to travel and live more sustainably.

The key to a sustainable dog-friendly destination's marketing strategy is to build and maintain trust with guests through authentic and transparent communication. This includes showcasing the real results of sustainability efforts, honestly sharing ongoing challenges, and encouraging guest participation in promoting sustainable tourism.

Applying the above strategies and development proposals will not only reduce the environmental footprint, but also create an experience that encourages dog owners and their pets to travel responsibly and sustainably. These types of destinations not only provide environmental benefits, but also increase guest satisfaction, which in the long run fosters a loyal customer base and positive word of mouth.

Conclusion

Kularatne et al., (2019) have shown in their publication that environmental sustainability and responsibility enhance the efficiency of hotels - especially in terms of energy consumption and water use. Gyurácz-Németh (2014) also linked the two sustainability pillars by identifying cost savings as the main motivating factor for environmental sustainability, and Asadi et al., (2020) investigated the impact of green innovations on hotel operations. They found a positive and significant relationship between green innovation processes and environmental performance, i.e. if the hotel is involved in a "green" development process, it can achieve more acceptable environmental performance. This has generated an incentive to comply with government and industry conditions, and has succeeded in reducing waste and pollution, thus protecting the environment and even enhancing competitive potential (Asadi et al., 2020). Hotels' environmental decisions can undoubtedly bring a number of benefits to firms.

The relationship between tourism, dog ownership, and sustainability is multifaceted and requires a balanced approach to optimize benefits while minimizing negative impacts.

Economically, the advent of pet-friendly tourism has opened new avenues for revenue generation for local businesses and has contributed to diversifying the

tourist experience, attracting a broader demographic of visitors. However, this should be carefully balanced with investments in local infrastructure and services to handle the increased demand without straining local resources.

Socially, fostering a dog-friendly environment in tourist areas can significantly enhance the quality of life for both visitors and residents, promoting inclusivity and a sense of community. However, creating inclusive environments that cater to both tourists and residents can significantly enhance the overall community well-being and visitor experience.

The future of integrating dog ownership into sustainable tourism lies in adopting a holistic approach that considers environmental stewardship, economic viability, and social well-being. Stakeholders, including policymakers, business owners, and community members, must collaborate to develop and implement policies and practices that safeguard local ecosystems, promote economic prosperity, and enhance the social landscape. By doing so, tourist destinations can not only accommodate dog owners but do so in a manner that aligns with sustainable development goals, ensuring the long-term viability and resilience of these communities.

In conclusion, the relationship between tourism, dog ownership, and sustainability is intricate, with significant implications for environmental, economic, and social dimensions of tourist destinations. The surge in pet-friendly tourism offers both challenges and opportunities: environmentally, there is a risk of increased waste and habitat disturbance, but this can be mitigated by responsible tourism practices. Economically, destinations can benefit from the niche market of pet owners, though they must also invest in infrastructure to manage these impacts. Socially, accommodating pets can enhance visitor experiences but requires balancing with local community interests. Effective management and policy strategies are crucial for ensuring that pet-friendly tourism supports sustainable development, leveraging educational initiatives and strict regulatory measures to harmonize the needs of tourists, residents, and the environment.

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