

TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

TRAVEL TIPS

Vaccinations: Take current rabies certificate and verification of all vaccinations. If flying, a health certificate is necessary within 10 days prior to boarding.

Identification: Whether traveling by car or plane, a collar and tag is necessary. Include the phone number of a friend or family member who will be at home if there is no one at your home to answer the telephone. It is also suggested that your dog be microchipped or tattooed for positive identification.

Travel Case: Place food and water, dishes and bowls, leads and collars, favorite toys, blanket or bed, chew toys, medication and crate, as room in your car permits.

AIRLINE TRAVEL

Call ahead (at least four to six weeks) to the airline regarding regulations for flying your dog. In many instances, these are governed by federal regulation. Verify veterinary papers and health certificates. Purchase a crate approved for air travel and get your dog accustomed to it. There are times when dogs cannot be flown because of excess temperature. It is necessary to have a reservation for your dog because a limited number of dogs are allowed on each flight. Tell the pilot or attendant you have a dog on board and watch the crate until it is loaded on the plane. A non-stop flight is always preferable.

CAR TRAVEL

If your dog is crate trained and there is room for the crate in your vehicle, your trip will be easier. But even if this is not the case, your trip can be fun for you and your dog with a little advance planning.

Seat belt harnesses and restraining straps are available from pet supply stores and help keep the dog in place in the seat in case of an accident or sudden stop. Dogs should not be in the front seat if there is an air bag. They are less of a distraction and are safer in the back seat. A mat or blanket can be placed on the seat to provide a familiar place.

Pack all necessary items mentioned above. It is sometimes easier to buy drinking water along the way than take as much as needed for the trip, but always bring enough food for the entire time to avoid running out and having to change foods. A change in food can cause vomiting or diarrhea. Changing water can also cause problems so try and buy the same brand each time. Remember, if you are thirsty, so is your dog, so keep something in your car to offer your furry friend.

Bring all medications and a brief medical history from your veterinarian. Obtain a list of emergency clinics along the planned route.

Car Sickness: Begin several weeks ahead to ease this problem. Begin by sitting with your dog in the parked car in the back seat with the door open. Pet and soothe the dog or play with a toy for several minutes. When the dog is comfortable with the first step, put her in the back seat and close the door. Again, pet and soothe and play with a toy. When she is comfortable with the door closed, put her in the back seat with a chew toy and close the door. Get in the front seat and talk to the dog in a happy, upbeat tone. When she is comfortable, start the car and drive to a close park or area where you can get the dog out of the car and play. Gradually extend the drive time, sometimes going to a park or pet store that allows dogs, or home for dinner. Remember always end the trip with a fun time. Often times car sickness is eliminated if the dog can see out a window. If no improvement, consult your veterinarian.

On The Road: Plan frequent rest stops. The rest areas along interstate highways have a pet rest area where you can walk your dog and have a snack at the picnic table. Carry plastic baggies to clean up after your dog. Keep your dog on leash! No matter how reliable your dog is at home, distractions occur and with as many cars as drive into these areas, accidents could happen.

Some motels do not allow dogs so check with some of the national chains. Red Roof Inns are usually “pet friendly,” but always check in advance with the specific location. Before you plan to leave, collect the hotel directories you find most accommodating and carry these with you.

If you plan activities for the day and your dog cannot go with you, investigate day boarding at a kennel in the area. Ask for recommendations from a local clinic or check the yellow pages for a reliable facility. Do not leave your dog alone in the car, even with the windows cracked!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

With advance planning, your furry friend, you and your family can have a fun vacation!