

PETA's Top Tips for Traveling With Dogs

Dogs are a part of our families, so of course many of us want to take them along on vacations. Tens of millions of animals make journeys with their guardians within the United States every year. Vacation packages are being designed around animals and their guardians, and sales of items such as canine backpacks are soaring. Some major hotel chains have changed their attitudes toward animals and now welcome them. The American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the number of lodgings accepting companion animals in the United States surpasses 12,000.

A. -----

Staying home is a must for sick, injured, or pregnant animals.

If dogs suffer from **motion sickness**, get over-stimulated easily, or get physically or emotionally upset when their routines are disrupted, the best option for them may be to stay home. This is especially true if your trip is a relatively quick one.

Will the trip be fun from your dog's point of view, or will he or she be cooped up in a hotel room while you're sunning on the beach or riding roller coasters?

Leave dogs where they are most comfortable, such as curled up on the couch or in the care of a trusted sitter, relative, close friend, coworker, or neighbor. It's best to stick with adults because even well-intentioned youngsters can forget to come by when they are supposed to.

B. -----

Research rules and policies regarding animals, such as **quarantine** laws and transportation restrictions. Double-check that the hotel or other location where you'll be staying is prepared to welcome your animal with open arms.

Consider having your animal microchipped by your veterinarian. This is a painless process in which a microchip containing all identification information is inserted under the animal's skin.

Get a vet **checkup**. Have your vet issue a health certificate stating that your animal is healthy and able to travel and that all necessary **vaccinations** (recommendations and requirements change frequently) are up to date.

C. -----

Although driving is less risky for companion animals than flying is, there are, of course, some **precautions** to take:

- Never leave your pooch alone in the car: Dogs can suffer and die when left inside parked cars, even on mildly warm days. On a 78°F day, the temperature inside a shaded car is 90°F, and the inside of a car parked in the sun can reach 160°F in minutes. Animals can succumb to heatstroke within just 15 minutes.
- To prevent sickness, feed dogs early so that they don't eat in the few hours before departure. Exercise them several hours before you depart so that they aren't hot and thirsty in the car or forced to "hold it" for hours after gulping down water after a walk.
- Don't carry your dog in the bed of a pickup truck. All it takes is one abrupt stop for them to be propelled into the street; plus, heat brings the added danger that they might burn their feet on the hot metal.
- Carry water and ice in containers for rest stops. No-spill travel bowls are available in pet supply stores and online.
- For dogs who are prone to car sickness, consult your veterinarian for remedies or try ginger capsules, available at health-food stores.

- Use a **kennel** or restrain your dog with a canine seat belt, available from pet supply stores and catalogs.
- Never open a car window or door when your dog is unrestrained. Countless dogs have been lost at **tollbooths** and rest stops this way.
- Stop to walk dogs often.
- Use a window shade for the back and side windows.
- Make sure that your air conditioning is working properly, and use it while driving.
- Don't let your dog hang his or her head out the window.

D. -----

Although flying might sometimes seem to be the fastest and least stressful way to go, it can be the opposite for a dog forced to fly in the **cargo hold**. The only time a dog (or any animal) should be placed on a plane is if you're relocating and all other options are unavailable.

E. -----

Dogs thrive on healthy routines. This doesn't change just because you're away from home. Provide regular walks, playtime, access to fresh water at all times, and food, preferably the kind they eat at home (if you need to switch, do it gradually to avoid upsetting your dog's stomach). Wash bowls with soap and warm water daily.

Help show that dogs make good guests by being one yourself. Follow **leash** laws. If your dog barks a lot, don't leave him or her alone in a hotel room (if you do leave your dog in the room, for safety reasons, let the front desk know).

F. -----

The American Animal Hospital Association (1-800-883-6301) can refer you to a local **veterinarian**. Better yet, be prepared by asking your dog's veterinarian for a reference in that area before you go. Print a map from the Internet and take it on your trip so you can get there quickly in the event of an emergency.

G. -----

Don't forget to put a **flotation vest** on your dog. Although dogs are natural swimmers, they can tire easily and may drown. Flotation vests are especially important for dogs who are prone to **seizures** and other medical problems or who are new to boating.

I. Match the headings with the paragraphs A-G:

- ___ On the Road
- ___ Boat Safety
- ___ Should You Take Your Dog Along?
- ___ Pooches and Planes Don't Mix
- ___ Illness or Injury
- ___ Preparing for Your Trip
- ___ Now That You're There

II. Explain the meaning of highlighted words and phrases.

III. Underline the words and phrases you do not understand and check their meaning with a dictionary.

IV. How many tips do you remember? Which of them do you find especially useful? Why?

Internet source: <http://www.peta.org/living/companion-animals/tips-traveling-dogs/>

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