



Traveling With Your Dog

Hitting the road? Why not bring your dog along with you? Traveling with your pet can seem daunting at first, but with a few precautions and arrangements you will see that it is really not difficult at all - in fact, having your furry best friend along for the ride is half the fun! Whether you're flying or driving, these tips for traveling with your pet will surely come in handy.

If you are reaching your destination by plane, first check with the airline for availability. Only a limited number of dogs are allowed in the cabin per flight, so be sure to inquire about a reservation for your dog when you purchase your ticket. Most airlines require a health certificate issued from your veterinarian within 10 days of travel; find out your requirements and allow yourself enough time to schedule an appointment. You will also want to travel with copies of your dog's vaccination records, rabies certificate, microchip information, and an adequate supply of your dog's medications. Even if you are going on a road trip this is excellent information to have at your fingertips in case of an emergency. Talk with your veterinarian about where you will be visiting with your dog and what to do in case any travel-related sickness issues arise. Some areas of the country have higher incidences of diseases like heartworms and Lyme disease, so do your research and ask if your dog should be on any preventative medications or have additional vaccinations prior to your journey.

Set your dog up for success on long car rides by having something fun and stimulating for him to do. Chew toys such as Nylabones, bully sticks, or Kongs stuffed with kibble are a great distraction. On road trips, plan to stop every couple of hours to give your dog a chance to stretch and relieve himself. When stopping at rest areas, which are new and exciting for your dog, always attach the leash to his collar before you open the car door to prevent possible escapes. Do not allow your dog to wander off leash no matter how peaceful the area looks! If you need to leave your dog in the car, be aware of how quickly heat stroke can occur for any animal in a parked car. Never leave your dog unattended in the car in warm weather for any length of time.

Since you and your dog will be exploring new areas together, it is essential idea to have your dog microchipped and registered with your current information. Your dog's collar should have identification tags that include your name and address and a cell phone number where you can be reached while away from home.

Remember - plan ahead, be safe, and have fun!

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

Walnut Creek, CA • (925) 256-1273 • (800) 567-1273 • arflife.org/pet-care-and-behavior-library