

Tips for Summer Travel With Dogs

Here are some tips to ensure a smoother trip:

- Acclimate your dog to the vehicle prior to the trip to determine if he has problems with motion sickness or exhibits excessive excitability that may require treatment.
- Secure your dog in a carrier or a pet seatbelt harness to keep both him and the driver safe.
- Keep your dog on his normal feeding schedule as much as possible.
- Pack a leash and make sure your dog is wearing a properly fitted collar and ID tags.
- Bring your dog's identification, medication and a current photo in case you are separated. Consider microchipping him for added security.
- Never ever leave your dog alone in a car. Extreme temperatures (even if a window is left partially open) can be fatal in just a matter of minutes.
- If you're staying in a hotel, take your dog's crate or carrier and consider putting out the "Do Not Disturb" sign when you leave the room to keep out unexpected hotel staff. Leaving the TV or radio on to drown out unfamiliar voices and noises may also put your dog more at ease.
- Most hotels will require you to provide proof of vaccinations or a health certificate, so call ahead to find out which vaccines are required.
- Avoid hotel food and treats – always bring your dog's regular food on the trip.

Dogs Traveling by Airplane

1. Make sure you are using an airline-approved crate or carrier. Although most airlines will sell you a carrier at the airport, don't wait until the last minute to make your purchase. Look for a crate with enough room to allow your dog to stand and move around.
2. Get your pet used to its crate before you fly. Place a padded mat and favorite toy inside and, if your dog isn't already crate trained, encourage your pup to enter and exit freely.
3. Place bright decals that can be seen from a distance on the outside of your dog's crate. Your dog's name and identification should be clearly displayed.
4. A health certificate is required at check-in. Be sure to have your veterinarian do a thorough check up for health problems that may be aggravated in flight.
5. Most veterinarians caution against tranquilizing. It may take two to three days for your pet to recover. Instead, distract your dog (i.e. placing a plastic toy filled with spray cheese or peanut butter in your pet's crate). Trying to get at the yummy bits will occupy your dog for hours.
6. Remove any choke collars, muzzles, or leashes that might catch in the crate.
7. Don't fill the crate dishes with water. Instead, freeze water in the dishes the night before. This prevents spillage during loading, while still providing your pet some hydration.
8. Place soft cotton in your pet's ears or ask your veterinarian to recommend earplugs to help reduce engine noise.
9. Make sure your dog is exercised and relieved right before you place it in the crate.
10. Stay with your pet until boarding and, if possible, wait at the gate until you see your pet safely on the plane.