



Travel tips for dogs.

Wherever you are traveling with your dog, you can have a safe, relaxing, enjoyable trip.

For dogs that get queasy or nervous at the sight of a travel crate or vehicle, the best remedy is making the trip as comfortable, safe and familiar as possible.

- Take short trips to allow your dog time to get used to vehicle movements and noises.
- Help your dog associate travel with fun activities, such as going to the park.
- Find out whether your dog travels better with an empty or full tummy.
- Remember that house-training may not travel well, especially with puppies.
- Bring towels and other clean-up stuff (just in case).
- Purchase a travel crate so your dog can spend time both around it and in it. Place familiar items inside, and keep the door open so the dog can freely come and go. Gradually close the door and increase the dog's time spent inside.
- Consider a harness, seatbelt or travel seat as some dogs travel better when facing forward.
- Provide fresh air to increase ventilation and keep things cool.
- Bring familiar items, such as blankets (that smell like you or another favorite scent), bandanas, toys, food, treats and water from home to help your dog feel secure.
- Natural remedies have shown great results for calming restlessness and tummy upsets. For example, ginger has been used to relieve nausea or vomiting, and essential oils such as lavender and bergamot can reduce restlessness, vocalizing, and other signs of stress.

Taking care of your dog's travel comfort can help relieve your stress as well. A few logistical and organizational considerations can make the trip progress even more smoothly.

- Check on hotel or community services, such as dog parks and kennel services.
- Bring proof of vaccination, age and good health.
- Get a sturdy leash and collar for identification tags.
- When boating, check for slippery areas: use carpeting or rubber mats to help secure footing, and consider a Pet Flotation Device just in case the dog goes overboard.
- When flying, try to fly nonstop; avoid midday flights during the hotter months; give your dog food and water several hours before the flight, and make sure the dog's tummy and bladder are empty before boarding; check out airline services, such as cabin privileges and water provisions.

