

Dog Travel Checklist

A dog travel checklist for owners covering restraint, supplies, breaks, documents and safety.

Before you go

- ☐ Confirm your dog is healthy enough for the trip.
- ☐ Update ID tags and microchip contact details.
- ☐ Research pet-friendly stops and accommodations.
- ☐ Check destination rules and any health requirements.
- ☐ Pack a recent photo of your dog in case of separation.
- ☐ Plan the route with rest stops in mind.

Car safety and restraint

- ☐ Use a crash-tested harness, secured crate or barrier.
- ☐ Keep your dog in the back seat, away from airbags.
- ☐ Never let your dog ride in your lap while driving.
- ☐ Crack windows safely but avoid heads far outside.
- ☐ Keep the cabin cool and well-ventilated.
- ☐ Never leave your dog alone in a parked car.

Cars heat dangerously fast, even on mild days.

Supplies to pack

- ☐ Bring enough food for the trip plus a little extra.
- ☐ Pack water and a travel bowl for the road.
- ☐ Bring a leash, collar or harness, and waste bags.
- ☐ Add a familiar bed, blanket or toy for comfort.
- ☐ Carry any medications with clear dosing instructions.
- ☐ Include a basic pet first-aid kit and towels.

Rest and potty breaks

- ☐ Plan breaks roughly every 2 to 4 hours.
- ☐ Keep your dog leashed at rest areas and stops.
- ☐ Offer water and a potty break at each stop.
- ☐ Let your dog stretch and walk to release energy.
- ☐ Adjust break frequency for puppies and seniors.
- ☐ Clean up after your dog at every stop.

Documents and contacts

- ☐ Carry vaccination records, especially rabies.
- ☐ Bring any required health certificate for travel.
- ☐ Save your veterinarian's contact information.
- ☐ Look up a vet or emergency clinic near your destination.
- ☐ Keep microchip registration details accessible.
- ☐ Note the address and contacts for your accommodation.

Comfort and safety on the road

- ☐ Feed lighter before travel to reduce carsickness.
- ☐ Help your dog settle with a familiar item.
- ☐ Watch for signs of stress, panting or nausea.
- ☐ Keep routines for meals and walks where possible.
- ☐ Avoid feeding large meals right before driving.
- ☐ Stay calm to help your dog feel secure.
- ☐ Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Consult your veterinarian about travel safety, motion sickness, medications and any health needs before your trip.