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.