



7 Steps that Can Keep Your Dog Safe and Content When Traveling

By Nick Burton ~ Ourbestdoggo.com

Are you planning an epic trip and thinking of bringing your best friend along? Dogs can make for some pretty amazing travel companions, but there are a few things you need to think about before you hit the road with your pet. You have to make sure your furry family members are just as safe and comfortable as you are. Here are a few ways you can do so.

Plan Your Trip Around Dog-Friendly Destinations

Since traveling together can be a great bonding experience, you will want to keep your furry family member nearby as much as possible. So, think about visiting dog-friendly spots across the country to make the most of your time together. Wherever you go, try to avoid [flying with your dog](#), especially if you have a breed that is considered to be brachycephalic. Those snub noses on boxers and bulldogs can be cute, but they can also present deadly health risks in airplanes.

Make Sure Your Accommodations are Pet-Friendly

If you can plot out a destination and some stopping points for your trip, you're ready to book your accommodations. Before you do, though, know that not all hotels or rentals are pet-friendly. You don't want to show up with your dog just to be turned away with no place to stay,

so make sure you research dog-friendly accommodations before you book. There are some boutique hotels and AirBnBs that allow pets, but if you plan on traveling frequently, know that [these chain hotels](#) will be your best bet. La Quinta, Courtyard Marriott, and Hyatt all mention pet-friendly policies for their hotels. Different locations may have different pet policies, however, or they may not allow dogs at all. Call to confirm policies ahead of time so you can make sure your best friend will be welcome.

Arrange for Care When You Must Leave Him During Your Trip

Even if your dog travels with you, there might be times when he has to stay in your hotel room or rental alone. This can be problematic for a dog who is already anxious. Before you head out, [look online](#) for pet sitters that live in your vacation destination. A small sitting fee may save you from a huge bill for damage [caused by a nervous dog](#).

Take Time to Practice Travel Basics with Your Pup

If you want your dog to learn to love taking adventure with you, you need to take steps to calm his travel anxiety. As with any training, taking things slow is always best for your pup. Begin by getting your dog to voluntarily get into your car, and then offer incentives to make the car more exciting. You may need to hang out in the driveway at first, but eventually, your pup will be ready to actually hit the road. In addition to anxiety training, it's also crucial for your dog to know [basic obedience commands](#). Proper obedience training will make it easier to take your dog to public spaces and will make the experience safer for everyone. You can work on training yourself or enroll in a training class to get your pup ready for travel.

Include a Few Park and Potty Stops on Your Route

If you do decide to go over some training points with your dog, make sure meeting other dogs and people is one of them. That's because you will want to provide your dog an opportunity to run and play, if for no other reason than to burn off excess energy. [Local dog parks](#) can be great for that. If you are planning a long road trip, make sure you keep your eye out for rest stops so you can pull over and give your dog a bathroom break as well as fresh water.

Try to Pack Your Dog's Leash, Bowls and Food Last

This is a tiny tip that will save you a lot of headache on your travels with your dog. Whether you are driving or flying, you are likely going to be exhausted when you get to your final destination. You also may have some stops you need to make along the way, so the last thing you want is to

have to dig for your dog's essentials or lug a huge food container around. To make things easier, consider rationing out food for each day and packing smaller containers in a separate bag or backpack. Include any [canine travel gear](#), like bowls and pet waste bags, in that same bag so you can easily grab it all when you need it. You're going to be so thankful you did when those late nights and delays pop up on your trip.

Check In with Your Vet for Vaccinations and Medications

You have one last step to take before your departure, but it's one of the most important ones. Depending on where your travels will take you, your dog may need different vaccinations and medications to prevent disease and parasites. Your vet should be able to advise you about these requirements, and can also give your dog a physical before you begin your travels together. If you have not already, this is also a good time to have your dog microchipped. Why is [microchipping so important](#)? If your dog has a microchip coded with your current information, you are much more likely to be reunited if you get separated during your travels.

Experiencing new places, sites, and of course, smells with your dog can be an amazing way to strengthen your bond. Plus, you won't have to worry about leaving your furry friend behind the next time you're planning a trip. Just be sure to use the tips above to keep your journey safe and enjoyable for everyone involved. Most of all, cherish the memories you make and all of the fun you have traveling with your canine best friend!