Traveling With Your Dog: Everything You Need to Know

We can easily guess the situation: Fido is your best buddy and you want him to accompany you everywhere you go (well, maybe not to work)! Perhaps you're planning a vacation or trip of some kind, and want to share the fun with your favorite canine companion.

In this e-book, we will go over all the essential information you need to know before traveling with your dog. We will primarily focus on car travel, but will go over some vitally important information regarding air travel and hotels, as well.

Chapter 1: Is Traveling With Your Dog Always a Good Idea?

Images of dogs enjoying the open road are common in popular culture. Maybe you think that all you need to do is let your pooch jump into the car and then off you go! Unfortunately, the belief that it is safe for dogs to travel in cars unrestrained and even with their heads out the window has led to many unnecessary and dangerous accidents, including the deaths of beloved pets.

Try to restrict your dog's car travel to destinations that they will enjoy, making the effort to look at things from your pet's perspective. If you were a dog, would you have fun at the destination? Will you be including your dog in most or all of your activities, and would those activities be fun for a dog? If you determine that your dog is not likely to have a lot of fun and will probably be bored quite a bit of the time, find a trustworthy and professional pet-sitter or kennel and leave your pet safely behind.

Every car trip you take with your dog has an inherent level of risk, regardless of how careful you are with regard to safety. After all, this is the case with every car ride we take. All we can do is take steps to reduce the level of risk as much as possible.

Chapter 2: Is Your Dog Ready for Car Travel?

Is your dog already accustomed to car travel? If not, don't even consider making their first trip a long one!

Contrary to the popular belief that all dogs love and enjoy car travel, many dogs actually experience motion sickness and severe anxiety. Riding in a car is something that you have to give your dog time to get used to.

Experts recommend starting out with extremely short drives, such as to the end of your driveway. You will also need to get your furry friend used to how they will be restrained in the car. Utilize the materials you plan to use in the future from the beginning. These can include, for example, a hammock seat cover, a harness (with a seatbelt attachment), and/or a crate. You should do all of this training yourself, as this will help your dog to feel more comfortable with car travel more quickly and know what to expect.

If you want to use a crate, make sure that your dog has lots of time to get used to it. Create positive associations with the crate in your dog's mind. One way of doing this is to keep the crate in your house with the door open, and put delicious treats in there for your dog to find. Once your dog has found the treats a few times and you have praised them, consider closing the door for one moment, not leaving while it's closed, and then opening it again. Progress to leaving your dog in the crate longer and longer, with you always in the room so that your dog knows you have not left. This process will help your dog feel reassured of never feeling trapped or stranded.

If you are going to use a harness as part of the restraint, put it gently on your dog a few times a day to help them get used to it. At first, you might only be able to get their head through before they struggle. That's okay! Just be patient and cheerful. Try to reinforce the behavior you are looking for with treats. Once you have managed to get the full harness on, only leave it on for a very short period of time. You can graduate to longer periods later on.

Remember that some dogs will simply never love car travel. Such dogs tend to include those who continue to experience motion sickness, become emotionally distraught by change, or become quickly overstimulated (www.peta.org/living/companion-animals/tips-traveling-dogs). While it is perfectly fine to try to help your dog overcome these obstacles, you need to acknowledge you may find your dog is just not the car-loving type!

You might be wondering how to know if your dog experiences motion sickness. Vomiting is one clear sign, but there are others you should look for, including: licking or smacking of the lips; a larger amount of drooling than usual; yawning; and whining. If your dog has motion sickness, they will also probably be quite still and listless in demeanor, and might seem worried or anxious.

Dogs are more likely to experience motion sickness when they are puppies, but some adult dogs are plagued with this problem, too. If your adult dog had unpleasant experiences of motion sickness when they were a puppy, this memory might actually make them have motion sickness now. Dogs are also more likely to have motion sickness if they are under stress. Experts think that dogs will be less susceptible to motion sickness if they face forward in the car rather than sideways (http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/dogs-and-motion-sickness). Therefore, it's a good idea to stop your dog looking through side windows.

As some adult pooches feel motion sickness simply as a result of conditioning, pleasant (and at the beginning, very short) car ride experiences might help them gain more positive associations with traveling in the car, and to reduce their susceptibility to motion sickness. If you do not think this will do the trick with your dog, take them to a vet for examination and advice. It is possible that something may be prescribed, if the vet feels it might be helpful. Ask your vet whether he or she would recommend ginger capsules, as these have been found helpful for many dogs.

As you progress into relatively longer journeys, your dog may find it reassuring (and you may find it very helpful) to have another adult there in the car who your dog knows. This person can specifically supervise your dog, and help keep the animal calm and happy.

Do not even consider taking your faithful friend out in the car without proper identification in place that would assist you in finding and bringing them home, should your dog be lost. This could include microchipping, which is a surprisingly economical and highly effective service. If your dog becomes lost, a vet or animal shelter will simply have to scan the chip to immediately see your name and contact information. Additionally, it is imperative that your dog has a collar with tags showing your name, address, and other contact information, and ideally also proof of rabies shots. If you are traveling a long distance (especially if you will be flying by plane), ensure that you include a temporary travel tag setting out your cell phone number and any other ways people can contact you at your destination (such as your hotel phone number). Your dog's collar should be on at absolutely all times. Another useful tip is to have a recent, clear photo of your dog in your possession. This would be invaluably helpful if your dog were to go missing (www.akc.org/dog-owners/responsible-dog-ownership/travel-tips).

Is your dog fully housetrained? If that answer is not an absolute yes, you need to work on this before thinking about traveling with your pet. Your dog should be able to wait for the frequent bathroom breaks you will allow them, and not constantly lose control of his bladder or bowls in the car. While accidents are almost certain to happen at some point or other with dogs, you want to minimize them as much as you can. If you think your dog might have a urinary problem causing abnormal frequency, be sure to consult with your vet before traveling.

Make sure that your dog is fully vaccinated long before undertaking any sort of travel. If you want to travel across state lines with your dog, you may need to provide proof of vaccination (http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/10_tips_for_safe_car_travel_with_your_pet). Ask your vet for a certificate (health certificate) verifying your dog's health.

Before you undertake a long car journey with your dog, have them thoroughly examined by the vet, to rule out any health problems that would make travel impracticable or even dangerous. Make sure to tell your vet what mode of travel you plan to use. Before beginning your car trip, make sure that you dog has had lots of exercise! This will help them more easily stay relaxed during the trip.

Chapter 3: What Kinds of Things Do You Need for Safe Car Travel With Your Dog?

Don't underestimate how dangerous it can be to leave your dog unrestrained in the car. In an accident, an unrestrained dog is in particularly great danger. They can even become a projectile, possibly injuring or killing someone in the car. Also keep in mind that in the vast majority of states, you will be charged if your unrestrained pet is deemed the cause of an accident (by, for example, distracting the driver).

Many experts feel that crates are often the safest option for traveling with your dog. However, if your dog is so big that using a crate would force you to put them in the furthest back part of the vehicle (for example, the "boot" of an SUV), this might be dangerous. This area of a car often acts as one of the vehicle's "crumple zones" (lovethatpet.com/dogs/travel/choosing-the-right-car-restraint-for-your-dog) in an accident!

If you choose to purchase a crate, make sure it is USDA-approved, certified crash-tested, and properly ventilated. One very well-known and respected brand is 4Pets ProLine box. It is known for being used by famous dog trainer, Cesar Millan (www.cesarsway.com/dog-care/travel/safe-ways-to-transport-your-dog-in-your-car). The crate you purchase should satisfy a number of requirements, and offer:

- Enough space so that your dog is able to easily and comfortably turn, stand, sit, and lie down.
- Unimpeded ventilation that ensures air flow through both sides. The crate should prevent blockages of airflow through the presence of exterior knobs or rims.
- Reliable strength of grips and handles
- Absence of interior protrusions of any kind (www.akc.org/dog-owners/responsible-dog-ownership/travel-tips

You should make it more comfortable with bedding (examples include towels or shredded paper, as well as a mat made of an absorbent, leak-proof material your dog will find comfortable: these things will come in handy for absorbing urine if your dog has an accident). **You must ensure that your pet's crate is securely fastened and anchored, so that it will not move around during the drive and would not shift dangerously if the car had an abrupt stop or got into a crash.** However, if you have a very small dog and you want to use a crate, you could put the crate on the floor behind the driver's seat. Remember to put your dog's favorite toy in the crate, to help your pet feel comforted and reassured.

Never let dogs sit in the front of the car, no matter how much they want to be near you! If you were to get into an accident and the airbags deployed, they could suffocate your animal. Your dog should be in a properly restrained position somewhere other than the front seat, at all times.

If for whatever reason you do not want to use a crate, there are other ways to keep your pooch secure and stationary in the car. Find a good harness with a seatbelt attachment and use this to secure your dog in the backseat. Make sure to use a harness to attach to the seatbelt rather than a collar, as your dog's neck could be seriously injured or they could even be choked to death if an accident occurred with their collar attached to the seatbelt.

You should be aware that there are no regulations or laws monitoring the efficacy and safety of pet travel products, and so it is up to you to do your research and find a sound product. Some poorly-made safety harnesses have actually come undone as result of dogs' movements (such

as inadvertently stepping on the release button), and others are made of poor quality materials that can easily tear and break.

The Center for Pet Safety carried out a test of safety harnesses for dogs, and found that there was only one harness they felt was safe enough to endorse. This harness is the **Clickit by Sleepypod**. The Clickit is made to let you attach it at three different points. If your car has the hooks located at the base of the seat that are intended to secure car seats for kids, you can use these to help make your Clickit even more secure (lovethatpet.com/dogs/travel/choosing-the-right-car-restraint-for-your-dog).

If you are not using a crate, you will definitely need a sturdy, waterproof seat cover for the backseat. This will make messes your dog may make much more containable and easy to clean up. One really effective, multipurpose kind of seat cover is the one that also acts as a sort of "hammock." This kind of seat cover has three connected parts. The middle area lies flat on the backseat and over the backseat floor. Another area is secured to completely block the back of the front seats and the area between the seats, and the third area is secured so that it covers the entirely back rest area of the back seats. This hammock car seat cover not only gives your dog a comfortable and cozy area to sit and sleep that will make them feel safe, but also helps to restrain them. It will not allow them to deliberately or accidentally get into the front area of the car. Even though the hammock waterproof seat cover does provide protection to the floor, you might also want to invest in some rubberized floor liners too, just in case. Remember that you must also still have a harness on your dog, attached to a seatbelt. Some hammock car seat covers actually include a special pet seatbelt that you can use for this purpose.

When traveling by car with your fuzzy friend, you will need to bring water and food bowls. Special no-spill water bowls made especially for travel can be found online and in many pet supply stores. Remember to have an ample supply of water (and possibly ice, which will melt into extra water), and to replenish your dog's bowl at rest stops. This can be bottled water, or water from your home tap stored in bottles. It is important to avoid running out of water and having to use the water obtained from another place during the journey, as this might make your dog feel sick or anxious.

There are a few things to keep in mind regarding car windows. It is a good idea to use window shades, on both the side and back windows. This will help keep out sunlight that might make your dog feel overheated (even though the air conditioning will be on), and it will also help block your dog from seeing moving images which may provoke motion sickness. The window shades will also help your dog feel safer and more secure. Never open a window near your dog, and absolutely never let them hang their head out of the window! Always use proper temperature control (air conditioning and/or heating) to ensure that your canine companion is comfortable at all times.

If you have a pick-up truck, never even consider allowing your dog to ride in the bed. Perhaps you have seen a lot of people let their dog ride in the bed, but it is absolutely unacceptable. Many dogs have been seriously injured or killed as a result of this practice.

Remember to bring along your dog's favorite toy, and anything else you think they may find comforting (such as a blanket). If you will be driving in cold weather, warm blankets are a necessity. Also bring grooming supplies, a first-aid and medication kit, a sturdy, strong leash, food, bowls, plastic bags, and a waste scoop (aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/travel-safety-tips). It is extremely advisable that you bring a food your dog is already used to. Doing otherwise could lead to problems that are distressing for your dog and messy for you! Also remember to bring some old washcloths that you can use to wipe mud off your dog's paws after breaks (www.lovethatpet.com/dogs/travel/cars).

When you bring your dog for their health check with the vet before traveling (as you always should), ask the vet if there are any medications or other special things he or she would recommend bringing along. If your dog is on a regular medication of any kind, make sure to bring it on the trip.

Chapter 4: How to Make Sure Your Dog Stays Safe and Comfortable Throughout the Journey

While on a car trip with your dog, you must remember to give your dog lots of opportunities for bathroom breaks. You should usually plan to take a rest stop around every two to three hours, at the very least (www.ceasarsway.com/dog-care/travel/safe-ways-to-transport-your-dog-in-your-car). The animal will become panicky and distressed if they feel they are trapped. Have your dog on the leash at all times when outside of the car. Forgetting this rule for even one moment could result in your dog bolting away and becoming lost in a strange place.

During these breaks, take your dog for little walks on their leash, to help them use up some energy. This will make your dog enjoy the remainder of the trip much more than otherwise (lovethatpet.com/dogs/travel/cars). Always remember to clean up the messes your dog makes on their bathroom breaks.

Never, ever leave your dog alone in the car for any amount of time! There are hundreds of stories of dog owners who thought they would just be "five minutes" and that the dog would be okay as long as the window was cracked open, who returned to find an extremely ill or dead pet. Keep in mind that if it is 78 degrees Fahrenheit outside, your car will probably reach around 160 degrees Fahrenheit within an extremely short period of time (minutes) (peta.org/living/companion-animals/tips-traveling-dogs). And leaving your dog in the vehicle on a cold day is just as dangerous, as the inside of the car will become progressively colder.

Feed your dog about three or four hours before beginning the journey. You should try to keep that meal on the lighter side, and make sure to use your dog's regular food. On the journey, feed your dog during your frequent rest stops. You should never leave food with your dog while the car is moving, as this can lead to choking and other kinds of injury.

One important safety consideration that many people tend to overlook is the danger presented by power windows. If your vehicle has power windows, you should consider turning them off. If your dog inadvertently opens one of the windows by stepping on the mechanism, they might stick their head out of the window and then have the window close down on their neck. Also, there have been reported cases of dogs jumping out of windows when vehicles were in motion (www.cesarsway.com/dog-care/travel/safe-ways-to-transport-your-dog-in-your-car).

Always remember to keep your vehicle properly ventilated and at a comfortable and safe temperature, using air conditioning or heating (depending on the season). If for some reason you need to have a window open at any point, ensure that you use a BreezeGuard. The BreezeGuard, which is made by MuttManagers LLC, is comprised of welded steel mesh that will stop your dog sticking their head through the window. It will also prevent wind and debris from the road getting into your dog's eyes (peta.org/living/companion-animals/tips-traveling-dogs).

If kids will be in the car, make sure to have a conversation with them beforehand about the importance of not in any way teasing or deliberately annoying the dog. Even children who are generally well-meaning and love their pet may begin to tease an animal when they are bored. Let your kids know that the dog will be feeling stressed and anxious, and needs to be able to trust the humans around him to keep him calm and happy.

Chapter 5: What You Need to Know About Staying in a Hotel with Your Dog

If you want to take your canine companion on a trip that will involve staying in a hotel, you will need to do your research. Give yourself plenty of time in advance to find out which hotels accept dogs, and on what sorts of terms they accept them. There are search tools available online that will allow you to find hotels that allow dogs. One example is found at www.PetsWelcome.com. Make sure to do careful independent research on each hotel option you find, and look for reviews from people who have stayed at the hotel with their dogs. Find out if the hotel charges extra fees for having your furry friend staying there with you, or if additional charges might arise under certain circumstances.

There are certain hotels that technically accept dogs, but are not what many people would really call "dog friendly." In order for your dog to have a good time and feel comfortable, you need to find a hotel that will accept your dog with enthusiastic and open arms! Always remember to mention that your dog will be staying with you when you make your reservation. It is always advisable to book your reservation as early as possible.

Dog expert Cesar Millan recommends taking your dog on a nice, long walk as soon as you get to the hotel (www.cesarsway.com/dog-care-travel-cesars-travel-tips). This will make your dog much more relaxed and open to the new situation at hand. Model calmness and assurance with your own behavior. When your dog sees that you are not worried about the new sights and sounds that surround you, they will feel safe.

Cesar Milan recommends making sure that you enter the hotel room before your dog does. This will help ensure that the dog knows you are still in charge, making it much easier for you to manage their behavior and ultimately exerting a calming influence on your pet. When you are both in the hotel room, tell the dog to stay so that they will sit or lie down on the floor calmly. They should not be running around the hotel room. Your furry friend should be quite calm until you indicate you want them to be active.

In "8 Rules for Staying in Hotels with Your Dog," Sally Silverman strongly suggests asking for a room on the ground floor of the hotel, or at least as close to the ground as you can secure. Being in such a room will make it much easier for you to take your dog out on walks when they need a bathroom break. She also points out that if your dog has never been in an elevator before, the experience of constantly having to ride one will likely be very stressful.

If your dog tends to bark at the slightest noise outside the door, try to obtain a room a good distance from the elevator. Remember to ask for a room that has a fridge if your dog's food may need refrigeration. As soon as you enter your hotel room, check around for anything hazardous for canines that may have been accidentally left behind or forgotten by housekeeping or the guest that was there before you. An example of such an object might be a prescription pill.

Make sure to bring as many dog toys as you can on your trip. Giving your dog things they love to chew will make it less likely that they will chew or damage the hotel furniture and other objects in the room (including possibly dangerous ones). Having their favorite toys around will help make your dog feel safer and more secure in their new environment.

Always clean up after your dog, both inside and outside the hotel room. This includes excessive mud and other dirt that your dog might bring into the room. It's a good idea to bring old blankets or sheets of your own that you can use to cover the bed and furniture during the day, to help prevent your dog soiling or damaging it. It is imperative that you bring a large supply of baggies for cleaning up after your dog's bathroom breaks outside. Ensure that you are using the correct outdoor receptacle for throwing out the baggies with waste inside.

If you will be leaving your dog in the hotel room by themselves for a short period of time (remember, you should not bring them on the trip if they are going to be by themselves very frequently and for extended periods), give your cell phone number to the staff at the hotel's front desk. This is important, as if your dog becomes noisy or seems extremely anxious, the staff will be able to readily contact you.

It is imperative that you keep your dog's collar with identification and contact information on them at all times! Never take this off while you are away from home. Don't risk your dog being lost in a strange place and no one knowing who to contact. It is also extremely advisable to have your dog microchipped before venturing on any kind of travel. Microchipping is surprisingly inexpensive and easy to have done. Ask your vet about the procedure.

Chapter 6: What You Need to Know About Air Travel for Dogs

The most important thing you need to know on this subject is that air travel should be only a last resort. No matter how good the airline is or seems to be, having your animal fly in the cargo hold of a plane is always incredibly stressful for the animal and involves inherent dangers. An alarming number of things can go wrong. Animals have been lost, and beloved pets have even died. The Humane Society warns that pets traveling in the cargo hold may be exposed to rough handling, inadequate ventilation, and/or excessive cold or heat (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/traveling_tips_pets_ships_planes_trains.html). Every year, a number of companion animals are lost, injured, or killed as a result of flying in the cargo holds of commercial planes

This is the reality you must always keep in mind when deciding on whether you should have your animal fly on a plane. Air travel for dogs should really be restricted to situations in which you are re-locating to a far-off destination (that cannot be reached by car), and there is no other option available. Please be aware that there are certain kinds of animals that should never travel by air: the "brachycephalic" dog breeds with "pushed in" faces. A few examples of such breeds include pugs, bulldogs, and Pekingese dogs. These breeds have extremely short nasal passages, and this means that they are in danger of not getting enough oxygen and suffocating. They are also especially prone to heat stroke (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/traveling_tips_pets_ships_planes_trains.html). Check with your vet if you are uncertain whether your dog will have this problem.

If you have no alternative but to fly with your pet and you have a small animal, you might be able to find an airline that will allow your dog to travel with you in the cabin. This is usually something that needs to be planned and booked with the airline a very long time in advance. You will be responsible for ensuring that your dog is small enough to satisfy the airline's size requirements for travel in the cabin. Make sure to find out whether the airline has any requirements with regard to pet carriers (whether they are hard-sided or soft-sided, and if they require certain brands). Also remember to ask the airline for all of their pet immunization and health requirements. Ask for detail, and do not be afraid to ask questions. Make sure to have your pet microchipped before even considering flying, and that your dog wears a collar with full ID and contact information.

You should be aware that your pet will have to go through airport security. Ensure that there is no danger of your pet escaping and getting lost by having a secure harness on your pet so that you can prevent them from running off when they are taken out of the carrier, or ask the airline (well in advance) for a type of special secondary screening that will not entail your pet being removed from the carrier.

Take whatever time you need to research potential airlines. Be aware that there are public records available that provide information on the number of animals that have been injured or

lost on all of the different airlines. The majority of airlines in the United States are obligated to report all incidents involving companion animals traveling in the cargo hold.

If you find you have no other option but to have your dog fly in the cargo hold of a plane, there are numerous things you can do in an attempt to secure a better outcome for your animal. The Humane Society sets out a number of useful tips at (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/traveling_tips_pets_ships_planes_trains.html). We have paraphrased them here, for your convenience:

Only use direct flights: Do everything you can to ensure you use only direct flights. Having transfers can be risky for your animal, as this is a point at which they could become lost or put on an incorrect connecting flight.

Make sure you are on the same plane as your dog: If at all possible, ensure that you are on the same plane as your dog. Request that you be allowed to see your pet being loaded onto, and unloaded from, the plane.

Speak with the captain: Once you are on the plane, tell at least one flight attendant and the captain about the fact that your pet is in the cargo hold. It is possible that the captain will keep this information in mind when making various decisions that could affect your animal.

Never make brachycephalic animals travel by plane: As we mentioned earlier, it is extremely dangerous and often fatal to have brachycephalic animals with “pushed in” faces travel by plane in the cargo hold.

Have a recently taken photo of your pet at hand: This will become a critically important tool if your pet is lost.

Avoid traditionally busy travel times: Traveling during very hectic periods such as the summer and the holidays will make it more probable that your pet will encounter unnecessary stress and rough handling, and that mistakes will be made.

Avoid extreme temperatures: it is better to avoid traveling during extremely hot or cold times of the year. If you find this cannot be avoided, however, you should at least choose flight times that will avoid the worst times of the day. If you are traveling during the summer, choose flights in the early morning or the late evening, when it is relatively cooler. If you are traveling in winter, afternoon flights are probably a safer choice.

Ensure your dog’s collar and ID cannot get entangled with the doors of the carrier: Make sure that your dog’s collar is unable to become caught in the doors of the carrier.

Make sure all I.D. and contact information is on your dog’s collar: ensure that your dog’s collar has both a temporary travel ID containing the phone number and address at which you (or someone you trust) can be contacted) and a permanent ID setting out your name and permanent home address and phone number.

You should give your dog food four to six hours before the flight: Make sure that your dog has not eaten food for four to six hours before the time of the flight. You should provide them with small amounts of water, however. Put some ice cubes in the water tray that is inside of your dog's crate or kennel, so that when they melt they will have more water. Make sure that all arrangements are made to ensure that your dog has all the water and anything else they need for the trip (what this will entail depends on the duration of the journey). If you unsure, find information both online and from a variety of airlines, to get the best breadth of advice and information.

Never use tranquilizers: Never give your dog tranquilizers unless specifically prescribed and told to do so by your vet. Make absolutely certain that your vet knows that you intend to use the tranquilizers specifically for air travel, and that your dog will be in the cargo hold.

Make sure your pet is used to the travel carrier: Allow one month at the very least for your dog to become accustomed to the carrier in which they will be traveling. This is very important, as your dog will be extremely stressed and anxious otherwise.

Ensure you stick a travel label directly on the carrier: The travel label should clearly display your name, telephone number, permanent address, and destination, as well as information on how and where you (or a trusted contact person) can be contacted when the flight lands.

Groom your dog's nails: Clip your dog's nails before the flight. This will help prevent the nails somehow becoming hooked in the door of the carrier.

Examine your pet: When you are reunited with your pet at your destination, get to a safe place as soon as possible. Once there, carefully examine your pet. If there seems to be injury or another cause of distress, visit a vet right away and have the vet put the examination results in writing (noting the date and time).

Never be afraid to speak up!: This is one of the most important rules to remember. Always speak up if you see or hear something that makes you in any way concerned for the safety of your pet.

Ensure that the carrier/shipping crate you select is approved by the USDA, and is big enough for your dog to be able to comfortably and easily sit, stand, turn around and lie down within it. **Ensure that a large label with the words "Live Animal", together with your name, destination phone number, a photo of your dog, and your cell phone number is on the carrier.** You should safely secure a little pouch of dried food with tape to the crate/carrier, so that this can be fed to your dog if there is a layover and they get hungry. It is vitally important **to freeze some water in a small tray or dish. Put this in the crate.** The ice will melt and there will be fresh water there for your dog to drink. Try to find a no-spill water dish made especially for travel. Also make sure to inform every airline employee you find that you you're your companion animal traveling in the plane's cargo hold (www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care-travel-safety-tips).

Additional Tips for Air Travel with Your Pet

The American Kennel club provides numerous tips for air travel at www.akc.org/dog-owners/responsible-dog-ownership/travel-tips. Some of them include the following:

- Make sure to obtain all health certifications required by the airline, in the time frame set out in their rules and regulations.
- Ensure that you have made provisions and plans both yourself and with the airline with regard to all the necessities of life for your pet during the trip.
- Remember to line the bottom of the carrier with a leak-proof, absorbent material.
- Ensure the carrier is big enough for your dog to be able to easily and comfortably sit, stand, turn, and lie down.
- Ensure that the carrier has strong grips and handles, and does not have protrusions within
- Find out from the airline what you can put in the crate to help make your dog feel more comfortable and reassured (such as a mat or blanket, and so on).
- Become aware of every aspect of your airline's regulations for pet air travel. Every airline is different.
- Ensure that the carrier you use is approved by your airline, and has been properly safety-tested.
- Make sure to take into consideration the question of any medication your pet takes. Discuss this with your vet and airline.

As The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals makes clear, you should never be shy about making your concerns known! For instance, if you have concerns of any kind about the well-being of your pet in the cargo hold, or if there is a flight delay, politely but firmly insist that your pet be checked on if at all possible. You should keep in mind that in very rare situations, your pet's removal from the cargo hold and subsequent deplaning may be necessary (www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/travel-safety-tips).

Conclusion: Safe Traveling for Your Canine Companion

You now have all of the most fundamental information you need about traveling safely with your dog. We hope you always have a wonderful time with your beloved pooch, whether on an adventure or just cuddling at home!

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