



**ADVENTURE
INCLUDED**

TRAVELLING WITH A PET

Thinking of taking the family dog along on your next break? Be prepared and know what to pack will help prevent some difficulties.

Travelling with a dog is a bit like going on a trip with a young child. Is it fed, watered, comfortable, too hot, too cold? Do they need a toilet stop?

Make travelling with your dog a hassle-free experience by following these tips.

- **Get your pet used to travelling when it's still small.**
- **Only travel with pets that are toilet-trained, sociable, won't dig holes everywhere and won't fight with other animals – or eat them.**
- **Nervous pooch?** If your dog is a little nervous around strangers or unfamiliar environments, leaving home can be a stressful affair for them. Take note of how quickly they adjust to new surroundings as it will determine how much they will enjoy running on the beach or even how much stress they will be under if you leave them alone in your chalet while you're out for dinner.
- **Help your dog get used to changing environments.** Take them for regular walks around your neighbourhood for a couple of weeks before you go away on holiday.
- **Keep them occupied.** By keeping your dog occupied when there isn't much going on for them, you'll be helping them to settle down and accept new surroundings with ease, while giving them something constructive to do on their own.
- **Pack for your dog.** Pack chews and toys. Pack things that need your participation in play such as a tug rope. Also pack items that require skill to play with by themselves, such as treat dispensers and long-lasting dog chews.
- **Research dog-friendly restaurants along the way.** And at your destination so you can take them along for lunch if necessary. Remember to take something to keep them busy while you eat.
- **Before you hit the road.** Being on the road with dogs in the car can be tricky. If possible, create a designated spot for your dog to lie in and, if you have the space, take his favourite bed from home. It is also a good idea to secure your dog using seat belt clip. This will make your driving and safer. It will keep your dog from jumping on your lap whilst you try and negotiate a corner.

Ensure good ventilation in the car and stop every couple of hours to let them out on a leash to stretch legs, relieve himself, maybe drink some water and have a sniff around.

If your dog is nervous about travelling, ask your vet about using a natural relaxant to help

them cope with the trip. Not knowing what's going on, can be distressing for a dog or cat, so a relaxing aid can be helpful.

- **Consider your dog's age.** When your best friend gets on in years (about eight years and over in large breeds, and about 10 years plus for smaller breeds) it's probably a good idea to start letting your vet do an annual check before travelling. Painful joints can cause discomfort.
- **Introduce dogs to one another away from their territories.** It makes them less aggressive. Farmstays with dogs are delicate matters. Farmers can rightly be nervous. Even the sweetest dogs can form little killing packs. It is best to keep the dogs indoors at night.
- **Keep dogs a safe distance from livestock.** Unexpected barking or chasing can panic cows or horses.
- **Take along plenty of old towels and sheets.** Dogs love getting wet and dirty.
- **Speak to other dog owners before releasing your hound.** They usually know how their dogs will respond.
- **Make a safe place for your pet to which it can retreat and feel secure.**
- **Be prepared by knowing where to get hold of a vet if necessary.**
- **Taking your dog on trips can be a mission at times, but can be fun for the whole family.**
- **Take along your pet's own food, bowls, leashes and bedding.**
- **Don't try to sneak an animal into a place that is not pet-friendly.** It will only result in problems.
- **A tired dog is a good dog.**
- **Make sure your animal has a collar and identification.** Travel with a picture of your pet, just in case it goes missing.
- **Keep your dog on a leash and under control on busy streets.** If it causes an accident, you might be held liable for any damages.

Finally, look up Petfriendly.co.za and order the Petfriendly Directory. This book gives useful information on accommodation and restaurants that tolerate animals, as well as dog-friendly parks and vets.