

Suggestions On How To Travel With A Dog

New York (NAPS)--When you're planning your next trip, everyone is likely to be happier and have more fun if you take the family dog along.

Whether you travel by car, train, plane or ship--in cold weather or hot--traveling with your dog needn't give him or you any real difficulties if you follow these ten tips compiled by the Gaines Dog Research Center, New York.

1. Traveling outside your home state or to another country? Be sure to get up-to-date canine travel information from the places you plan to visit. Most states and foreign countries require a health certificate from your veterinarian including a statement that your dog has been immunized against rabies. If you are going out of the country, you'll also need these credentials from a veterinarian to get him back into the United States.

2. Advance training in car etiquette will keep your dog safer--and mean more pleasant traveling for you and other passengers--on any auto trip you take. It's best to start him out on short drives, if possible when he's still a puppy. Hold him on your lap or on the seat beside you to give him confidence. Right from the start, don't permit leaping in the car or any chance of jostling the driver. Helping your dog to get accustomed to the sensation of motion in short stages will aid greatly in preventing car sickness.

3. Your dog should have on his collar a license tag and identification plate which gives the full name, address and telephone number of someone to contact in case he is lost. However, you should take precautions against him straying. Keep him on a leash in strange surroundings. Don't let him run loose without supervision. Don't leave him alone in a hotel or motel room: It's so easy for a maid to open a door and accidentally let him out.

4. Your dog will feel more at home in strange places if you take along some familiar items like his own grooming aids and feeding pans. A small kit or suitcase for carrying these supplies is an excellent idea. A large plastic container is useful for carrying drinking water. And he'll appreciate his own blanket or dog bed when you stay in a hotel or motel. The proprietor will be grateful, too.

5. Feeding en route needn't be a problem these days. Gaines Prime and Gaines burgers, the new soft-moist dog foods, are ideal for the traveling dog, since they require no refrigeration and are so

easy to take along and serve. With his favorite food along, it will be easier for your dog to become used to the routine of travel.

6. With experience, most dogs get over a tendency to car sickness. Some always get a little queasy when riding however. In such cases, Gaines Dog Research Center recommends seeing your veterinarian who can prescribe a motion sickness pill or a sedative.

7. Don't try to "sneak" your pet into a hotel or motel; if you're caught, you'll just make it difficult for people with dogs who come along after you. There are many top-notch hostleries that welcome well-behaved and looked-after dogs. An extensive directory of hotels and motels that accommodate guests with dogs may be obtained by sending 25¢ (to cover postage and handling) and your name and address to Gaines, "Touring With Towser," P. O. Box 1007, Kankakee, Illinois, 60901.

8. On trains, dogs are usually permitted in private room space or Pullman sleepers or parlor cars if they are kept either in a carrier or leashed (and muzzled in some cases). Otherwise, on most trains, dogs have to ride in the baggage car, where owners are permitted to look after them.

9. Major airlines carry dogs to foreign countries or across the country. Traveling by ship? Many ocean liners provide private "cabins" for canine sailors. For an added touch of luxury afloat, there may also be trained attendants on hand to feed and groom him.

10. When shipping a dog, it will be necessary to make arrangements with the steamship line, airline or Railway Express. Some airlines use their own crates while others offer them for rent. The crate must be large enough to permit the dog to stand up, turn around and lie down. Your name and address and the dog's destination and his "call" name should be clearly printed on the crate and on a tag attached to the dog's collar. Any instructions for attendants should also be clearly printed on the crate.

Finally, remember that no matter which method you choose to go by, your fellow travelers will accept Fido's company if he behaves like a "gentleman." More than likely, a well-trained dog who doesn't cause serious problems at home--as the result of good training and loving care--will be a pleasure to travel with as well.



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