

Packing Checklists for Dog-Friendly Vacations

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If you're planning a vacation with your dog, you know to bring food and treats. But what about a first-aid kit and dog life jacket? Take a look at these checklists before you leave so you have everything you need to ensure your dog's health and safety.

And don't forget to read these seven tips for planning a safe and stress-free vacation with your dog.

What To Pack When Traveling With Dogs

- Food and water bowls
- Food, measured out in advance
- Bottled water to prevent stomach upset
- Treats
- Chew toys or puzzle toys to distract your dog
- An extra collar and leash
- Vet-approved medications for motion sickness, allergies and diarrhea, as well as any other meds and the veterinarian's original prescriptions
- A health certificate signed by your veterinarian and dated within 10 days of departure that says your pup is healthy and has been immunized against rabies (only required if you're crossing state lines)
- Your dog's microchip number and the phone number of the monitoring company
- A recent photo of your dog, in case she gets lost
- A basic pet first aid kit. You can start with a human first aid kit and add dog-specific items, such as styptic powder (to stop bleeding) and pet bandages.¹
- Blankets, sheets or old towels to protect car upholstery and furniture
- Wipes for muddy paws and fur
- Cleaning supplies and paper towels for pet messes
- Dog waste pickup bags
- Travel bed
- Travel crate, if your dog uses one
- Seatbelt harness

What To Pack If You're Camping With Your Dog

- A child-sized, lightweight sleeping bag or a two-person bag to keep your dog warm if temperatures drop
- A rain jacket, coat or vest for short-haired breeds when the weather's severe
- Dog boots for rocky or treacherous terrain
- A dog backpack so your dog can carry her own food and water. A good rule of thumb is that a young and healthy dog can carry up to 25 percent of her weight, but it takes time to get a dog accustomed to bearing the load.²
- Folding or collapsible dog dishes
- A dog life jacket (PFD) if boating, canoeing or swimming
- An LED light for your dog's collar for better visibility at night

What To Pack If You're Flying With A Dog

- An approved travel crate. If your dog will be traveling with you in the cabin, the carrier must be soft-sided so it will fit under the seat. Check DogJaunt's list of airplane under-seat measurements first. If he'll be traveling in the cargo hold, the crate should be hard-sided plastic with ventilation holes. Wire crates aren't allowed, because parts of your dog's body can protrude.³
- A label affixed to the crate with your name, contact information and address
- A towel or other absorbent bedding
- Potty pads for small or young dogs on long flights
- Comfort items such as a favorite toy or bone (Note that if you're flying with your dog, the airline may prohibit placing these items in the travel crate.)
- Calming sprays, such as Rescue Remedy
- Empty food and water dishes. The airline will probably request you leave these in the crate, along with feeding instructions and a signed note saying you offered your dog food and water within four hours of departure.