



# Tips for Safe Travel with Your Dog



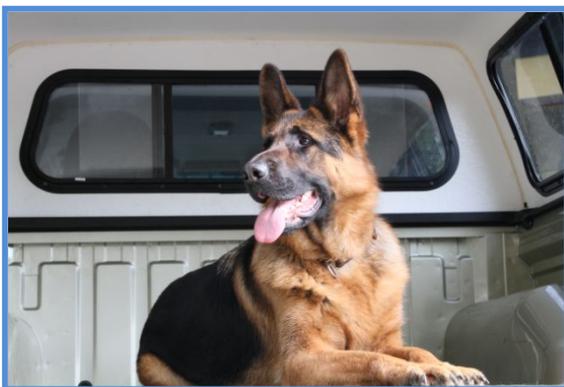
Whether you travel by car, truck, plane or train, **help ensure a safe and pleasant journey with your pet by taking these safety precautions.**

## General Travel Tips

- ◆ No matter what your mode of travel, the single best safe practice you can employ to keep your dog safe during the journey is to keep them restrained.
- ◆ Affix a highly visible and durable pet ID tag to your dog and have them microchipped. A tag is the first thing anyone looks for when they stop to help a pet and a microchip is a permanent form of ID to help ensure they are returned to you if they become lost.
- ◆ Carry a recent photograph of your dog to make it easier for others to help you look for them if they get lost during the trip.
- ◆ If your dog is prone to anxiety or motion sickness, consult with your veterinarian about using pet tranquilisers for your dog appropriate for the particular type of travel you will take.
- ◆ Feed your pet their usual meal one to two hours before travel. (If your dog is prone to motion sickness, feed them two to four hours before travel.) Do not give them food or water during travel as it may spill, forcing them to lie in a mess during the trip. Dogs can go 8 to 12 hours without food or water.

## Cars and Trucks

- ◆ No matter how long or short the journey, your dog should be restrained. An unrestrained dog is dangerous to themselves and others. They can become a flying projectile that can injure you, your passengers or themselves.



- ◆ Secure your dog in the back seat (dogs riding in the front seat can be seriously hurt if the airbags deploy) with a pet travel safety harness or car seat, or in a pet carrier fastened to a seatbelt. If you drive an SUV, install a pet barrier to keep the dog in the back area of the vehicle as well as securing them in their harness and attaching it to the hooks in the floor.
- ◆ If you must transport your dog in the bed of a pickup, use a crate or carrier secured to the truck bed to prevent them from being thrown into traffic at a sudden stop.

- ◆ Do not allow your dog to ride with his head out the window. Road debris and other flying objects can injure their eyes.

- ◆ Before you set out on your journey and after arriving at your destination, give your dog plenty of exercise. This will help them be more relaxed and able to acclimate to their new surroundings.
- ◆ When stopping for a break and before you open the car door, attach a lead to your dog's collar so they can't escape. Even the most obedient pet can become disoriented when traveling. Always use a lead to walk your dog.
- ◆ On a long car ride, stop every four hours or so to allow your dog to relieve themselves (be sure to clean up after them), stretch their legs, refresh themselves with a small drink of water, and help them understand that they are going to another environment.
- ◆ Watch for temperature extremes. Your car is like an oven under the blazing sun and a freezer in the bitter cold.

## Airline or Train Travel-----

- ◆ Whether they will go in the cabin with you or in the cargo hold, your dog will need to travel in an airline- or train-approved carrier. Check the airline or train line website for requirements.
- ◆ If your pet will travel as cargo, check for requirements on any health/immunisation records and other restrictions.
- ◆ Use direct flights to avoid mix-ups during transfers or the possibility of delays in getting your pet off the plane. Ask the airline if you can watch your pet being loaded and unloaded into the cargo hold.
- ◆ Upon arrival at your destination, open the carrier as soon as you are in a safe place, and then clip a lead on your dog so you can safely examine them. If anything seems wrong, get them to a veterinarian right away.



A happy, well-socialised dog that knows you will always be there to keep them safe and secure will enjoy traveling to new places with you.

