

Fido's Road Trip

Many of you are busy planning road trips for the summer; sometimes it is easy to overlook the special needs that our furry friends have for this kind of trip.

- First things first: Call ahead and make sure you have a list of places to stay along the way that will accept dogs. This way you won't be stuck looking for a place late at night!
- Be sure to restrain Fido in the car, either with a chest harness or a secured crate.
 - Seatbelts save lives!
 - Reduce driver distraction
 - Unsecured pets can become projectiles
- During the course of the drive make sure you stop periodically to give Fido some water, a chance to stretch his legs and do his business.
- Be courteous of the other hotel guests and make sure that your dog is not left barking and crying in your room.
- Keeping your dog in his/her den or kennel will not only keep him out of trouble and safe, but also help the hotel staff do their job.
- Stick to your dog's regular eating schedule and diet, don't overindulge him/her with treats!
- Here is a checklist of items that you might want to have with you on your trip.
 - A first Aid kit
 - Poop bags
 - Favorite toys
 - Collar with updated tags and a leash
 - Kennel and bedding
 - Vaccination records
 - Cleaning supplies in case of any accidents
 - Dog food and water (don't forget the bowls!)
- Be aware of any wildlife in the area...your city dog may be extremely curious when he sees a porcupine.
- Some dogs will feel a lot of stress when they are in a new place, it is up to you (their pack leader) to provide them with food, safety, shelter and entertainment and above all LEADERSHIP!
- Don't feel guilty if you choose to leave your pet at home with a sitter or at a boarding kennel. Many dogs would prefer relaxing at home than a long hot road trip.

Alana & Marco are owners of a Bark Busters franchise. They are dog behaviour therapists and trainers that specialize in behaviour issues such as: barking, jumping, pulling on lead, separation anxiety and all types of aggression.

Check out their website at www.barkbusters.ca or contact them at 1-866-418-4584
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