



Taking your dog on holiday



Holidays can be a great opportunity for you and your dog to spend some quality time together - If you're thinking of taking your dog on holiday use our guide below to help ensure they have an enjoyable and safe time away. Remember that all dogs are individuals and whether your dog has as much fun as you will depend on things like their age and health, and what your holiday plans involve.

Things to consider before you book

Take some time to consider if your holiday plans are suitable for your canine companion.

- ✓ Check out the weather forecast for when/where you plan to be away. Dogs can suffer in the heat and are vulnerable to heat stroke. If you're considering taking your dog away during warm weather make sure you'll be able to keep them safe, cool and protected from the heat.
- ✓ Speak to your vet before you book to ensure your dog is suitability fit and healthy to travel. This is especially important if you are planning an active and adventurous holiday.
- ✓ As well as ensuring your dog is fit and healthy enough for the holiday it's also important to consider whether they'll be happy and relaxed. Many dogs are comfortable with visiting new places, meeting new people and experiencing some changes to their routine but equally some dogs can find this all a bit too much. If you think your dog might feel worried, stressed or scared on holiday it's best to leave them at home with a responsible person to care for them.

If after considering the above you decide it's in your dog's best interests to stay home - see our information on keeping pets safe when you're away.

Thinking of taking your pet abroad?

There are rules to be followed when taking a dog abroad which vary depending on the country you're going to or coming from. For more information read:

[Guide to taking your pet abroad](#)

[Taking your pets abroad](#)

Or call the Pet Travel Scheme helpline on 0370 241 1710

Preparation

Preparation and planning is key to a stress-free holiday with your dog.

Tip top health

- ✓ Make sure your dog is up-to-date with their vaccinations, flea and worm treatments.
- ✓ If your dog is on any medication, ensure you have enough supplies for the whole time you will be away.
- ✓ In case of an emergency, it's a good idea to get hold of the contact details of a veterinary practice in the area(s) you will be visiting including details of their 'out of hours' service.

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Dog-friendly

Make sure anywhere you plan to stay has a dog-friendly policy - let them know in advance that you'll be bringing your dog along. Find out about what facilities they offer for pets, for example do they provide dog beds, are there suitable places close-by for doggy toilet breaks, are there local dog-friendly walks? Consider what other activities you and your family will want to do when you're away - will your dog be able to be involved? Look up local dog-friendly pubs, cafes, parks and beaches so you are well prepared.

What to bring

Leave some space in your suitcase for all the things your dog might need when you are away.

This includes:

- ✓ Lead
- ✓ Collar and ID tag
- ✓ Comfortable bed
- ✓ Favourite toys
- ✓ Chews and chew toys
- ✓ Poo bags
- ✓ Familiar smelling item, such as a blanket from home
- ✓ Food - enough for the whole holiday
- ✓ Treats - for rewarding all those good behaviours
- ✓ Towel - for muddy paws
- ✓ High-vis items for you and your dog if you will be walking in dark or dim light, for example an LED collar
- ✓ Any medication your dog is on
- ✓ Their microchip details and the contact details for the database



Travel

Help your pet have a safe, stress-free journey; see our [Transporting your pet factsheet \(PDF 91.7 KB\)](#)



Don't forget!

It's a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped and to keep their details up-to-date. Microchipping is the most reliable way to identify your pet and provides the best chance of being reunited with your pet should they become lost which is especially important if they go missing when you're away from home.

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Settling in

Going on holiday can mean quite a lot of change and new experiences for your dog so take time to help them settle in and feel secure.

- ✓ As far as possible try to keep to your dog's routine so that food, exercise, bed and toilet breaks are around the same time every day - keeping some consistency can help them feel more secure.
- ✓ Changing your dog's diet suddenly can cause them stomach upsets so keep them on the same diet they usually get at home.
- ✓ Place the familiar smelling item you brought in your dog's bed or somewhere they will spend a lot of time. Providing something which smells familiar can help them feel secure when they are experiencing changes and new experiences.
- ✓ Give your dog time and space to explore new places and people at their own pace.
- ✓ Never leave them alone for any period which might cause them distress.
- ✓ Holidays can be busy and exciting so it's important to give your dog lots of time to rest undisturbed in a quiet, comfortable and draught-free spot.

Staying safe

Take precautions to keep your dog safe on holiday.

- ✓ Walk your dog on their lead unless you are sure it is safe to let them off - in a new place you won't always know where roads or other potential hazards are located.
- ✓ If walking in dark or dim light make sure your dog has a LED collar or light attached so you and others can still see him. Keep yourself safe by wearing a high-vis jacket.
- ✓ Keep an eye on your dog's behaviour, any changes may mean they are feeling bored, stressed or ill.
- ✓ Never leave your dog in any situation which could put them at harm, for example, tied up outside a shop or anywhere they could become too hot.



For more information visit our web pages on:

- ✓ [Going on holiday](#)
- ✓ [Caring for dogs](#)
- ✓ [Find a vet](#)
- ✓ [Heatstroke](#)