

Traveling With Your Pet

It's that time of year again. People are starting to go on long weekend trips and vacations. If you are taking your pet with you, make sure you have a pet travel checklist.

Make sure you have the following:

Medications: Make sure you have all the medications you will need for the trip.

Food: Take a supply of food with you. It's not always easy to find food when you're on the road. Some dogs experience an upset tummy when their food is changed. The last thing you want on a trip is a dog with stomach problems. Be sure to take a **can opener** if you use canned food. Note: If you are going across the border to Canada, be sure to check with Customs as to the rules since dog food is often confiscated.

Food Bowl

Treats and/or Chewies

Water and Water Bowl: Many dogs will react to a switch to a different water source. You will want to bring plenty of your own or possibly bottled water for the dog.

Cooler: For canned food and water

Grooming Supplies

Old Towels

Crate or Carrier

Dogs Bedding

Toys

Cleaning Supplies: Just in case!

Doggie Bags: so that you can clean up after your dog.

Identification on the Pet: Identification tag--Boomerang tags fit right on the dog's collar and they cannot catch and pull off. See www.boomerangtags.com for more information. You should have the following items on the dog's collar as well: dog license and proof of rabies shot. If you will be in one place for a length of time, you may want to put that phone number on the ID tag (e.g., hotel phone or relative's home phone). It is always good to have your vet provide a health certificate (crucial if you are going to Canada) which lists all vaccinations with a future expiration date. This will also list the last negative fecal test. You probably have this from your vet for boarding purposes but if not, they should be able to issue one upon request.

Emergency Identification: Make sure you take your pet's microchip id and any other id information that you have for you dog. Take a **current picture** just in case the pet is lost, a picture will help the police find your dog. A printed draft of a "lost dog" poster is a good idea; you will be upset and not thinking clearly if your dog goes missing. With a prepared poster, you can fill in the details and have them printed much more quickly. And you will be able to think of more identifying marks, habits, etc. while you are calm. Examples: You might note if the dog has dewclaws, any scars or other identifying marks, whether the dog is fearful of certain things; if the dog needs meds etc. And you might provide multiple phone contacts in case you are out searching when the finder calls. Note: Many feel it is a good idea to not give the dog's name on either the collar or the lost poster since this may make it easier for a thief to look like the owner and one less thing available to help you demonstrate ownership.

Local Vet Information: Make sure you locate a veterinarian in the area you will be staying ahead of time. In case of an emergency you will have the information at your fingertips. In addition, it's a good idea to take your vet's number with you.

First Aid Kit

Plan ahead and find out in advance what hotels and motels allow dogs. ALWAYS have an emergency escape plan and do a trial run just in case you need to evacuate your room in a hurry. Remember to research the dog laws of the state or area that you will be staying.

Do your homework.....be an educated dog owner.....
Traveling With Your Dog Web Sites

These are just a few good sites. You can do a search and pull up more that may be specific to your needs.

<http://www.dogfriendly.com>

<http://www.thepetcenter.com/gen/travdog.html>

<http://www.petswelcome.com>

<http://www.traveldog.com>

WESTIES ON THE MOVE

(Article on our web site)

http://westie3.fatcow.com/article_travel.htm

SAFETY ID

http://westie3.fatcow.com/safety_id.htm

PLEASE: FILL THIS OUT AND PUT IT ON YOUR DOG'S CRATE AND, IF POSSIBLE, ON IT'S COLLAR. KEEP ONE IN YOUR GLOVE COMPARTMENT AND YOUR WALLET.

I suggest that you laminate it to protect it.

<p>IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT, please notify (_____) at _____ or _____. In the event that I, (_____), am incapacitated and unable to make my wishes known re: my Westie dog, (_____), please honor the following requests: (_____) is to be contacted ASAP at _____. If she/he cannot be reached, contact (_____) @ _____ or (_____) @ _____.</p> <p>All expenses for the dog's care will be guaranteed by them.</p> <p>If the dog is not injured, she/he is to be cared for by one of the above parties or by the nearest reputable boarding kennel and be kept in the best possible manner until arrangements can be made to get her/him home.</p> <p>If the dog is injured, she/he is to be cared for by the nearest reputable veterinarian. I prefer my vet, (_____), to be contacted at _____ re: decisions on the dog's care and treatment. If the dog is injured beyond all hope of recovery, she is to be humanely euthanized. In every case, the welfare of my dog is my primary consideration.</p>
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THINGS THAT GO HONK IN THE NIGHT!

While my dogs and I were guests at a hotel, we experienced an “alarming” event which illustrated clearly the value of some pre-planning. At 2:30 a.m. we were rudely awakened by a fire alarm that issued loud honks within our room. This was accompanied by a very bright flashing light! The hotel had experienced an automatic report of a fire in one of the rooms.

Upon awakening, it wasn't clear just what was happening. Coming out of a deep sleep to all of this noise isn't conducive to clear thinking. Add to that the panic of three little dogs!! My first thought was that the problem was in my room. I didn't realize that the same thing was happening in every room in the hotel. I grabbed my jeans and tried calling the desk. Of course, everyone was trying to call the desk and I didn't get an answer. I immediately realized that I needed to get the dogs out of there but WHERE did I leave the Room Key and WHERE did I leave the car key? WHERE are their harnesses and leashes? And, of course, WHERE is my purse? Finally I got the youngest in his harness and leashes on the other two, located the keys and rushed them all out safely to the car.

When I got back, others were outside wondering what was happening. A quick trip to the office allowed us to overhear the lady there telling someone on the phone that there was a fire alarm but no confirmed report of a fire and that the fire department was on the way. Nothing could be done about the horrendous noise until the fire department arrived and turned the alarms off. So out we went to wait. Soon two fire trucks and various police vehicles showed up. It turned out to be an incident in another building in the complex and after about 45 minutes, the alarms were turned off and we were able to go back into our rooms to try to get back to sleep!

Things I learned that night:

- A motel where the car is right outside the room was a great advantage when you have dogs to stash away; the car not only kept them out of danger but it got them away from the noise and confusion so they were able to calm down.
- In the future, I will always designate a spot where, before bed, I will leave
 - o My purse
 - o My car keys
 - o My room key
 - o Dog leashes/harnesses
 - o A pair of jeans and shoes

Nothing else was important to me but those items being easily found can be crucial. From now on I won't go to sleep in a hotel/motel room without knowing that I am prepared to get up and get my dogs to safety without a struggle. In a hotel, I will know exactly where the exits are and will check to be sure the door to the exit is unlocked.

No one ever thinks it will happen to them, but this was my second experience with an all-out fire alarm and evacuation from a hotel room in the middle of the night. This one, because of the dogs, was a real wake up call (pun intended) to me!

Visit the Westie Education Center often
www.WestieEduMi.com
Be an educated owner!