

International Travel With Dogs Checklist

Use this checklist to help your international travels with dogs go more smoothly.

Sally Deneen

7 Months Ahead

- Research your destination's restrictions about dogs.
- Check airlines' pet policies.
- Call your veterinarian to discuss whether your dog is suited for international flights. If all is well, ask for tips on how to ensure safe passage.
- Schedule a vet exam; if you're Britain-bound, your dog must be microchipped, be vaccinated against rabies, and pass a rabies blood test at least six months before arrival.
- Make an airline reservation for you and your dog ASAP; space for pets is limited.
- Research dog-friendly accommodations, travel tips and logistics.

6 Months Ahead

- Contact your nearest Veterinary Services Area office to make sure you're up-to-speed on the veterinary requirements of traveling internationally with your dog.
- If you're heading to the United Kingdom, Ireland or Malta, your dog by now must have passed a blood test proving he's protected against rabies.

5 Months Ahead

- Begin to envision your day-to-day life with your dog in your planned destination and any obstacles you may need to surmount. Are dogs permitted on trains? On ferries? Can dogs go inside cafés or restaurants? Pose questions to the embassy or consulate of your destination country.

4 Months Ahead

- Start acclimating your dog to his airline crate or travel bag. Try keeping it open and leaving a favorite treat inside.

3 Months Ahead

- Do all of the above, if you haven't already!

2 Months Ahead

- Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian for 10 days before your trip.

1 Month Ahead

- Order pet medications, if needed.

10 Days Before

- If you're flying, a veterinarian must issue a health certificate and proof of rabies vaccination for your dog.
- Pack your dog's suitcase, including medications, a recent photo (in case he gets lost), and a favorite toy. Find out what else to pack in your dog's suitcase.

1 Day Before

- Treat your dog for tapeworms and ticks, especially if you're Britain-bound.

6 Hours Before

- Place ice cubes (not water) in his water tray, which should be attached to the inside of his crate.

DEPARTURE

- Have a fun and safe trip abroad!

Use the Printer Friendly option to print this checklist and prepare for your next big trip!

Check out the September 2007 issue of DOG FANCY for more tips for traveling abroad with your dog.