



Rebecca Creek Retrievers

Pro Traveler Tips

1. **Never leave your dog inside an unattended vehicle!** This seems like a no-brainer. “I’ll just run inside real quick for a snack—the car will only be off for a minute! I’ll crack a window!” A dog inside a hot vehicle can die in a matter of 15 minutes. What if your one minute snack run turns into a 15 minute ordeal? Please don’t ever leave your dog inside a vehicle unattended.
2. **Dogs are safest in your vehicle when they are restrained.** The safest place for your dog in your vehicle is inside a crash tested kennel that is properly tied down. Dog seat belts will not protect your dog in a serious car accident.
3. **Pack more dog food than you think you will need!** If you’re feeding an ultra premium kibble (like you should be), you’re not going to be able to get more from the grocery store if you run out. Measure out your dog’s meals for each day so that you know that you have enough. Bring an extra day’s worth of food just in case. Bring a gallon of fresh water, too, for the road.
4. **Monitor your dog’s water intake.** We suggest feeding smaller meals throughout the day during travel to prevent digestive upset and bloat. Dogs need more water when they travel so keep your Water Boy full! Dogs can go weeks without food but only days without water. Dehydration kills quickly.
5. **Don’t feed your dog anything on vacation that you wouldn’t feed him at home!** The normal stress of travel is enough stress for your dog’s body to handle. We do the same thing—we snack more often and eat more junk food when we travel. Please don’t let your dog do the same! Stick to their normal diet and routine as closely as possible.
6. **Don’t expect your dog to exercise more on vacation than he normally does at home.** Understand your dog’s fitness level and be respectful of what he is reasonably capable of doing on vacation. We do this to ourselves sometimes—overwork our bodies on vacation because we are excited! Dogs can do the same thing. Be sure to monitor their activity level and recognize when they’re

tired and need a break.

7. **Be considerate of your dog.** Is it hot outside? Watch out for hot pavement (remember, you are wearing shoes, they are not!). Are they wearing a fur coat? Shave them down, or keep them inside!! Cold outside? If you're wearing a jacket, maybe they need one, too. Remember to think about your dog, because only YOU are in control of their comfort and care!
8. **Know where the closest animal hospital is.** If your dog gets hurt or sick, you need to know where he can be treated, how far away it is, and how you are going to get him there. A good first aid kit is useful, but without proper emergency care knowledge a first aid kit won't save your dog's life. Have emergency phone numbers close by such as pet poison control.
9. **Learn to read your dog and understand when he is happy and when he is not.** New things that are fun for you might NOT be fun at all for your dog. If your dog isn't having a good time, it's usually pretty obvious. It is OK if your dog doesn't enjoy an activity, just like it is OK if you don't enjoy an activity. Make sure they have a safe space to get away from things that they don't enjoy. ***OR consider leaving them at home.***