

On the Road Again... with Your Dog!

By Stephanie Brown

Now that people are starting to travel again – especially by car – here are some tips to make the journey enjoyable for you, your dog(s) and hotel proprietors.

Before starting out double check with your hotel that they will accept your breed of dog as well as its size and / or weight. If there is a change in ownership of the hotel between the time you made your reservations and when you actually embark on your trip, the hotel rules may have changed.



ALWAYS look under the beds in the hotel room as soon as you arrive. There may be any sort of rodent or insect trap or poison. While you're at it, check the closet.

Your dog should be kept from drinking from the toilet. Who knows what kind of chemicals are used by the hotel to keep the toilet clean? Best just to keep the door to the bathroom shut.

Some dog owners always bring a supply of drinking water from their house to mix with the hotel water. Some believe this prevents upset

stomachs in their dogs. I've never had a dog with a delicate constitution so although I do bring some water from home, I really don't know if it is necessary.

If your dog normally sleeps on the bed, bring a sheet to cover the bedspread. Better yet, ask the hotel if they have a comforter that is past its usefulness in a regular room. They will be happy to swap with you.

Also, you should think about just spreading some sheets on the floor to catch any shedding that may occur. Again, if you forgot to bring extra sheets, ask the hotel for any sheets they may have that are past their shelf life.

Bring plenty of dog towels (bath, hand and washcloth size). You can put them under the water and food dishes to keep the carpeting cleaner and drier. Use them to clean off your dog's muzzle after eating, wipe paws after walks, etc.

NEVER use hotel towels for anything to do with your dog. Always use the dog towels you've brought.

Do not bathe your dog in the bathtub. All of that dog hair is not good for the plumbing or the person who cleans your bathtub.

If you feel the need to brush your dog, please do it outside.



Unless your dog is reliably crate trained, when going out please bring your dog with you even if you have to leave him or her in the car. This is only appropriate if the weather is your friend. Remember to leave the DO NOT DISTURB sign on your door if you leave your crated dog in the room.

When taking your dog out to relieve itself, please ALWAYS clean up after them. You remembered your poop bags, right? If possible, take your girl to an area with dirt to urinate. Female urine on grass is damaging. The grass will die after a few times of being urinated on. This sort of politeness will make the difference between the hotel continuing to accept dogs or deciding to not accept dogs.

Finally, leave a significant tip for the maid service. They will have to do more vacuuming and cleaning as compared to a room that had no dogs.

Happy t(r)ails!