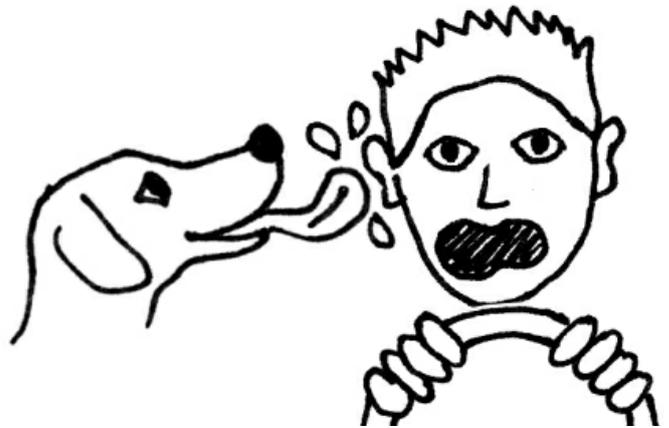




# Travelling with your dog...

Dogs love to be included in whatever their family is doing and the soon learn that a car journey often leads to a walk or something else exciting.

Unfortunately a few dogs do not enjoy travelling as they either find it very stressful or they suffer travel sickness. When taking any dog on longer journeys it is important that you are properly prepared and that puppies become acclimatised to travelling in a car as early as possible.



## Preparing for a car journey...

If you take sensible precautions the chances are that all will be well but prepare for any eventuality. Make sure that your dog is fitted with a collar and tag with your address and telephone number. A microchip implant is even more useful because it is a permanent form of identification. Make sure you have everything you need for the journey and that the area in the car where your dog will travel is safe and secure.

## The journey...

Take plenty of fresh water, particularly when travelling in hot weather and make frequent stops to allow your dog to drink and exercise. If your journey is broken for any reason, make sure there is no risk of your dog overheating if left inside the car. Try not to leave your dog alone in the car, but if this is unavoidable leave the car out of direct sunlight and with all windows open. Never leave your dog unattended in the car for any length of time - remember a car on a hot day quickly becomes an oven. Some dogs are a little anxious when first travelling, but eventually the noise and motion of the car will calm them and most usually fall asleep. If your dog suffers from motion sickness do not feed it within about an hour of the start of the journey. Various travel aids are now available and Adaptil Spray available from leading Vets and Pet Stores has proved to be very successful at settling dogs during car journeys.

## Where in the car...

Dogs may travel in the back seat of the car, the footwell on the passenger side in the front or most commonly, in the rear of a hatchback or estate car. Ideally travelling cages should be fixed in the rear of the car so that the rear door can be left open for ventilation when parked - without risk of your dog escaping. Be very careful when opening the car door during the journey in case your dog jumps out in excitement. Small dogs and puppies should be transported in pet carriers. Wire or plastic crates are the best transporting devices - these can be strapped to a seat or carried in the footwells. If your dog travels on the seat they should wear a safety harness which fixes to the car seat belts. This is not only for their protection but, in the event of an accident, reduces the risk of passengers being injured by the dog.

## Travel sickness...

For many people travelling is a major source of enjoyment, but for dog owners whose pets suffer from travel sickness, the freedom to travel can be substantially limited. Travel Sickness is a common occurrence often affecting 1 in 6 dogs of all ages. The typical signs of travel sickness include vomiting, nausea, drooling, restlessness, anxiety and trembling. However, travel sickness no longer needs to be a reason to leave your dog at home - the vomiting caused by this condition can now be easily prevented by medication provided by your vet. Ask your vet if this medication is suitable for your dog.