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Introduction

In the pet industry, they're calling it a revolution. We are more and more likely to consider our pets as precious family members and these days when we go on holidays, our dogs come with us. No longer content to confine themselves to doggy environments like backyards and boarding kennels, pooches are hitting the skies, riding the waves and seeing the world as they vacation with their human companions.

And it's getting easier to take your pooch with you, wherever you go. Despite horror stories like the US Airways flight grounded after a terrier-on-the-loose bit a flight attendant, all the major US airlines allow pets on board. Pet-friendly accommodation is also booming, with hotel chains throwing in designer bedding, organic treats and in-house pet services from sitting to psychics in a bid for the growing doggy dollar.

If you prefer more down-to-earth vacations like road trips and camping, you'll find loads of state-of-the-art dog gear from sleeping bags to hiking boots, and online directories to help you choose your route and book your pet-friendly digs. And along the way you'll discover that many places – shops, tourist spots, even restaurants – will welcome your pooch with open arms and overflowing water bowls.

This book will tell you all you need to know about planning your doggy trip – from choosing your destination and finding places to stay, to canine health and travel documentation and, most importantly: how to make sure both you and your pooch have a great vacation. Let us go hand-in-paw to discover the brave new world of travel with dogs.

by Janine Eberle

Ready, set... Woof!

READY, SET... WOOF!

So you can't bear the thought of leaving your pooch at home when you set off on your next vacation. Good! He'll be as happy as a dog with two tails to be with you, and his companionship is sure to bring plenty of doggy joy to your trip.

Whether you want to take an all-out adventure hiking holiday or a culture vulture's city break, in the next state over or on the other side of the world, you can do it with your best furry friend trotting along at your side. He'll help you explore, he'll help you meet people, and you'll never suggest anything that he doesn't want to do!

But when you travel with Rover you can't leave things to chance, and there's a whole new set of things to think about and organize before you go. There's some work to do, but trust us – it's worth it!

Read on for an introduction to dog travel – all the way from cold wet snout to wagging tail.

What kind of trip?

What kind of traveler are you? Sophisticated big-city visitor? Adventurous outdoor explorer? Resort moocher? Rover can fit happily into any type of trip, but once you've decided to take him along, be prepared to adapt your trip to his doggy needs.

This book will give you some inspiration about different types of trips you can do, tell you what you need to consider, and help you to make your trip dog-friendly. The first things you should think about are:

- **How are you getting there? If you're planning a road trip, long drives may need to be tackled more slowly than usual. If you're flying, there's lots of pre-planning needed to get Rover airborne. If he needs to travel in the hold of the plane, you should think about whether you're comfortable with that.**

- **Domestic or international? If you're traveling abroad, be prepared to spend some time researching and preparing your dog's travel documentation.**

- **Where will you stay? There are increasing numbers of dog-friendly accommodations out there, but you'll need to do your research before you go and you may have to make some compromises to find somewhere that will welcome your pooch.**

Your dog will be happiest when he's out having adventures with you, not cooped up for long periods of time. If you want to take a road trip that involves long hours in the car, or a city break with lots of time in museums where he won't be welcome, think about what small adjustments you can make to turn it into a more dog-friendly trip. A road trip can be the perfect doggy vacation when it's broken



Training your dog to like the car

If your dog is very scared or anxious about being a passenger, all is not lost. It's possible to train him to like riding in the car, but as with all dog training it's all about consistency and persistence. It might take weeks or even longer, but you can help reduce your dog's anxiety by following these steps. Take it slowly, and don't move onto the next step until you've both mastered the previous one.

1. Let him explore the car from the outside.

Let him walk around and sniff it, and reward him with treats or his favorite toy. Praise him and keep your voice upbeat.

2. Sit in the car with the engine off. Get him to play or just sit quietly and reward him with treats.

3. Sit in the car with the engine running but don't go anywhere. Sit at the wheel and have your dog sit where he'll be sitting when you drive. It's OK to distract him with treats or toys.

4. Take short drives around your neighborhood. Visit a park or a pet store – make sure your destination is one that he'll be happy about (or at least, not one he hates, like the groomer or the vet!).

5. Steadily make longer trips and remember that the more frequently you do these steps, the quicker your dog will become conditioned to like – or at least tolerate – traveling in the car.



RVing and Camping

What could be more dog-friendly than a big kennel on wheels? Many dog owners swear by the RV (or caravan) for their doggy vacations. In fact, according to the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association, 61 percent of RVers travel with pets, and 90 percent of those pets are dogs (because why would you bother traveling with a cat? Woof!).

Campground life can be paradise for pooches and their human traveling companions, as long as you plan ahead and make sure your homes away from home (and kennels away from kennel) are welcoming to dogs. You're sure to find little friends for your pooch in your new temporary neighborhoods, and he'll help you sniff out new friends for you, too.

If you want to strike out and hit some hiking trails, taking Rover along will only enhance the experience. He should do his bit and carry his own gear, of course – and what could be more adorable than a dog wearing a backpack?

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Janine Eberle splits her time between Melbourne and Paris and writes about the things she likes – travel, food and dogs.

Her Irish terrier, Molly, regards any open car door as an invitation to jump straight in, sit up in the passenger seat and look impatient.



Jess Golden spends most of her days in her quiet studio with Martha, her trusty terrier-mix.

Jess has illustrated several books for children including *Snow Dog*, *Sand Dog* by Linda Joy Singleton and *The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk* by Kabir and Surishtha Sehgal.

When she's not busy drawing and painting, Jess is hiking trails or taking mini road trips with Martha and her husband.

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