

Taking the annual vacation is an experience that many Americans look forward to. Everything is planned in advance, from the flight tickets to the hotel reservation, rental cars and activities. But one aspect that is often overlooked is making arrangements for pets that will be traveling with you. Most often, that includes plans to travel with dogs. Traveling with your dog is a breeze if you are aware of the procedures associated with dog travel.

The first step when planning travel with dogs is to consult your dog about the destinations he would like to visit. Show him maps and websites of tropical locations and allow him to pick his favorite. Scour websites and find hotels that are labeled "pet friendly." There are a number of hotel search sites that will specify whether pets are welcome. When you do find a pet friendly accommodation, check to see if your breed of dog is welcome there. Also, ask if there are additional fees required when booking your travel with dogs. Some hotels will welcome small breeds such as Maltese, Poodles and Chihuahua, but will be hesitant to welcome Great Danes, St. Bernards and Dobermans for example.

The next step is to contact the airline to find out their policy on dog travel. Ask if your dog will be able to secure an aisle seat or upgrade to business class where he can work comfortably. Some airlines offer special fares for people traveling with their pets, so it is important to check with the airline when you purchase your ticket. Remember that there may be extended check-in procedures at the airport when traveling with your dog, so leave enough extra time to get to your flight on time. Depending on the length of your flight, you may want to take extra precautions to provide for your dog's food, water and medical needs before, during and after the flight. Longer flights such as international voyages require that your pet receive an adequate amount of supplies to get him through the trip comfortably. Inquire with the airline about what will happen to your pet in the event of layovers and connecting flights.

When traveling with your dog, there are a few things to remember. Plan early and make sure to check with any hotels, campgrounds, cruise lines or accommodations before you book your travel. Make sure that your flight will go smoothly by checking with the airlines' policies on pet travel. Allow extra time at the airport and while checking into your hotel accommodations. Traveling with your dog is a great way to enjoy new destinations in the company of your companion. By planning in advance, you will have an enjoyable memory of your dog travel adventure.