Road Trip With a Dog Checklist: Printable

A checklist for a car trip with a dog: restraint, ID, paperwork, packing, and stops.

Last checked November 19, 2026. Source: VCA: road trips and car travel with your dog; AKC: keeping your dog comfortable during car rides; Humane World: travel safely with your pet.

Road trip with a dog checklist

When	Item	Source
Before you go	☐ Decide how the dog is restrained: a seat belt or a secured crate	VCA Animal Hospitals
Before you go	☐ Plan for the dog to ride in the back seat	American Kennel Club
Before you go	☐ ID tag on the collar or harness; consider a microchip	VCA Animal Hospitals
Before you go	☐ Vaccination certificates and any medications	VCA Animal Hospitals
Before you go	☐ Ask your vet about anti-nausea medication if your dog gets car sick; do not guess a dose	American Kennel Club
Before you go	☐ Feed several hours before departure	American Kennel Club
Pack	☐ Water from home, plus a portable or unbreakable bowl	VCA Animal Hospitals
Pack	☐ Food, comfort items, first-aid kit and waste bags	American Kennel Club
On the road	☐ Put the leash or harness on before you open a door	VCA Animal Hospitals
On the road	☐ Stop every few hours for water and a walk	American Kennel Club
On the road	☐ Never leave the dog alone in the car: at 85 F outside it can reach 102 F inside within 10 minutes	Humane World for Animals

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