

Transporting Your Dog

Even if your dog is a happy traveler, it shouldn't be allowed to roam free within the confines of your car. That could be very bad for your dog in the case of an accident and an unrestrained dog could even be the cause of an accident.

- Dog carriers and crates are great for car travel.
- The carrier or crate should be large enough to permit your dog to stand up completely inside and turn around, but there shouldn't be so much room that he or she can slide around inside during turns or braking.
- It should be well-ventilated.
- It should be structurally sound: strong, with handles and grips, and free of interior protrusions.
- It's important that the crate be securely fastened in place; a loose crate isn't much of an improvement over a loose dog. To learn more about carrier safety, visit the [Center for Pet Safety's Carrier Study Results here](#).



Sleepypod and Sleepypod Atom for smaller dogs

- Staff Favorites!
- Make the carrier a favorite place for your dog. When dogs see their carriers as safe, enjoyable places, they're happy to go into them and feel safe even in unfamiliar environments. Try these tips to help you help your dog love his or her carrier:
 1. Leave the carrier out in your house so your dog can access it at any time.
 2. Make the carrier inviting by putting your dog's favorite bed, favorite blanket or toy in it.
 3. Every now and then, lay a few treats inside the carrier.

If a crate won't work for your dog, there are other options.

- A harness that is fastened to a seat safety belt is a great alternative. It provides the dog some freedom, but restrains the dog in an accident. Be sure to buy a harness that's specifically designed to be used with safety belts. To learn more about seatbelt harnesses, check out the [Center for Pet Safety's website here](#).



Sleepypod Click-it and Sleepypod Terrain

- *Staff favorite, seat belt harnesses!*
- *Barriers can also be effective restraints, and are great for securing a dog in an open area, such as in a van or in the back of a wagon or SUV.*
- *The barrier needs to be rated to restrain the weight of your dog in an accident and must be securely attached to the interior framework of your vehicle.*

Getting ready to go.

- *Accustom your dog to spending time in the car. First, allow your dog to explore the car with the engine off. Then practice driving short distances to help him or her become comfortable in the car.*
- *Spray the inside of the carrier and car with Adaptil 20 minutes before you're ready to go. Adaptil mimics the pheromones released by the mother dog 2-3 days after giving birth.*
- *Secure the carrier or harness to the seatbelt.*

On the road.

- *Save the errands for later. Never leave your dog alone in the car. The interior of a car will become too hot, very quickly; even when it doesn't seem hot outside.*

Consider pre-medication or other calming techniques.

- *Many dogs become anxious in the car or while at the vet. To help us provide your dog with the best care, keeping them as calm as possible is key.*
- *Anti-anxiety medications given 2 hours prior to transport can make a big difference.*
- *Alternatives such as applying essential oil of lavender to a bandana or bedding, or calming pheromone collars such as NuturCalm or Adaptil, can also help decrease anxiety and can be useful for anxiety during car rides and vet visits.*
- *If your dog is prone to motion sickness, ask your vet to prescribe medication. The signs of a dog with motion sickness include:*
 1. *Crying or vocalizing that doesn't quit after a few minutes into the car ride.*
 2. *Excessive drooling and/or immobility.*

3. Acting afraid to move or excess activity.
4. Vomiting, urinating or defecating in the car.

Medicating your dog.

- If you have never given your dog medication for car travel or a vet visit before, give a test dose prior. Pick a day when you will be home with your pet for most of the day so you can best evaluate the effects.
- With some medications, your dog may be a bit wobbly and slow but should not be overtly sedate. The sedative effect will slowly dissipate over 4-12 hours. After returning home, it might be best to confine your dog to a single room until fully recovered.

Once Home

When you arrive home, your dog will be tired and happy to be home. Let him or her relax in a favorite spot and regroup.