Travelling Domestically with Your Dog
Placeholder for the "Links" field



Travelling Domestically with Your Dog

Photo by Katja Rooke on Unsplash

Travelling Domestically with Your Dog

Travelling around the country with your furry companion can be an exciting experience, but it requires careful planning and preparation. Whether you're taking a road trip, hopping on a train, or flying to your destination, you need to ensure your dog is as comfortable and safe as possible throughout the journey.

From familiarising yourself with transport rules, to crate training your pup for journeys, there are several things to think about before you start travelling with your dog.

Deciding the best way to travel Australia for you and your dog

Before you start planning all the fun adventures you're going to have with your pooch, you need to decide which mode of transportation will work best for you both. Rules about pets on public transport can vary around Australia, so it's important that you're familiar with the regulations of the state or territory you're travelling to. You also need to consider your pup's temperament when choosing your transport, as anxious dogs may be better suited to travelling by car than via public transport or plane.

Travelling by car

Travelling by car is by far the most comfortable way for your dog to travel, but taking long car rides can still be stressful. To keep your pup safe and secure on the road, you can use a pet carrier, travel harness, or boot gate. For their safety, it's also important that you don't allow them to sit in the front seat or hang out the window.

To help your pooch relax on your journey, get them used to the car by taking them on short car rides in the lead up to your trip, and bring along their favourite toys and blanket to provide them with a sense of familiarity. Always make sure your dog isn't getting too hot in the car, as this can be dangerous for them, and take frequent pit stops for toilet breaks and water.

Travelling by train

Rules about travelling with your dog on trains vary around Australia, so make sure you check your route and with your train operator. Dogs are not permitted on trains in some parts of the country, while other places allow them onboard, but may require them to be muzzled or kept in a pet carrier.

If you decide to travel via train, make sure your pooch has had some exercise and a toilet break before you board, and take plenty of water for them. It's also a good idea to travel at a quieter time of day, so there are less people and disturbances.

Travelling by plane

If you want to fly with your dog within Australia, you can arrange for them to travel in the hold of the plane, which involves checking them in as cargo and picking them up on the other side. To do this, you'll need a flight-approved pet carrier which is big enough for your pup to stand up, sit down, and move around in comfortably. You can fill this with their favourite blanket and toys to help comfort them, along with some water. You'll also need to

arrange a pre-flight vet check to make sure they’re in good health before jetting off.

As you won’t be able to travel in the company of your dog, keep your pup’s temperament in mind when planning your trip. For example, if your dog suffers from separation anxiety, this may cause them distress.

Your travel checklist

Once you've decided how you’re going to travel, it's time to get prepared for your trip with your furry friend. Your travel checklist should include things like health checks, packing all your dog’s essentials, and, if necessary, getting them used to being in a crate or pet carrier.

Health checks

Before travelling, book a vet appointment to make sure your pup is in good health, as well as up to date with their vaccinations and any necessary treatments. If they require medication, be sure to bring enough for the duration of your trip, as well as packing their dog food, of course!

Crate training your dog for travel

Whether you’re travelling by car, train, or plane, you might want to consider crate training your pup to keep them safe and comfortable. If you decide to do this, start training a few weeks before your trip, so they’re familiar with their crate when the trip comes around. You can use treats and toys to make the experience more appealing, and gradually increase the time they spend inside it to help them adjust.

Travelling with your furry friend can be a lot of fun for both of you but remember that their comfort and safety should always be the top priority. It's important to be properly prepared for your trip, so it can be as stress free and enjoyable as possible. For more tips on caring for your pooch, check out our blog.

© 2026 Mars or Affiliates.

Source URL: *https://www.mydog.com.au/article/travelling-domestically-your-dog*