



Cascadia Search Dogs

Resources

Traveling with your Working K9

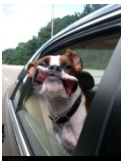
General considerations

- Consider possible health risks for your destination. Ticks, Heartworm, etc. Discuss with your vet.
- Check the weather for your destination, so you can pack appropriate gear, i.e. sunshade, front windscreen sun blocker, small travel fans, etc.
- If you have a lot of items to take, food, etc. Think about shipping, or buying items upon arrival.
- Before you travel (especially flights), make sure you have exposed your dog to as much as you can. Home Depot with lots of people, farmers markets, strange kids running up to pet them, elevators, lots of waiting... Make them lay down and wait while you shop, stand in line, etc. This will pay off big time while waiting in security.
- Teach several commands in advance, such as touch your hand, follow a hand target, back up, sit on a target, etc. These will be helpful for navigating the airport and getting your dog situated on the plane.
- Make sure your dog is comfortable being handled by strangers; TSA may do a pat down. You also need a strong wait/stay and recall. As your dog may need to go through the metal detector without you.
- Bring a leash you can wrap around your waist, in case you need your hands free.
- A sheet is helpful for covering hotel beds and rental car seats, to minimize hair.

Air Travel

- Confirm all airline rules and regulations related to flying with dogs. You must follow all travel guidelines of your deploying organization.
- Call the airline several weeks in advance and confirm their policy and procedures. Let them know you will be traveling with a SAR dog and ask what they will need.

- Paperwork requirements can vary by airline, some documents to have available: vaccine/health certificate, a travel letter from your deploying agency, copy of certification/s, copy of training flyer. It can also be helpful to have a printed copy of the airline policy, along with their contact phone number to call, if clarification is needed.
- Read the airline's pet policy and carriage rules to see what the rules are and what is permitted.
- For Alaska Airlines:
 - Pet policy link: <https://www.alaskaair.com/content/travel-info/policies/pets-traveling-with-pets>
 - Carriage rules link: <https://www.alaskaair.com/content/legal/contract-of-carriage/rule-14>
- Some airlines now require a Federal DOT Form that you fill out for your dog. You also need to have the dog approved for your specific flight. Make sure this is done several weeks prior to your flight.
- A window or bulkhead seat generally works best. Keep in mind, with a bulkhead you will not have the under seat space in front. Most airlines have what they call Premium and so you get more space between you and the seat in front of you. Not all planes/airlines are configured the same. After booking, you check the seat configuration on <https://www.seatguru.com>
- TSA Pre-Check is helpful, to speed up security screening time.
- Plan enough time for any layovers. Some dogs will not use the indoor potty areas (if there is one), so plan time to get back through security if needed.
- Plan your dog's meals around access to potty areas. i.e. some people do not feed the morning of a flight.
- Cleanup kit in case of accidents.
- Small blanket for dog to lay on, especially if they shed a lot.
- Bowl and empty water bottle, fill up after you go through security.
- Small treats (be aware of how much you are feeding and potty area access).
- Groom prior to leaving and take brush with your to groom prior to returning.
- Activities for flight if dog gets anxious. Bones/chews that will not leave a mess, snuffle mat, etc.
- If you need correction collar, use command collar (plastic), to reduce metal.
- Travel in uniform and dog in SAR vest.



Rental Car

- Call the rental company in advance and find out their dog policy.
- Bring a lint roller to cleanup hair before returning the car.
- Bring soft crate or blanket, to reduce hair.