



## TRAVELING WITH YOUR SERVICE DOG



### Preparation:

As with your own preparation in packing for any trip, you must prepare for your pet's needs. Our dog travels with his own luggage. Part of that is a carry-on that is a backpack on wheels for easy transport. In this backpack are the following items:



1. blanket (the type you put on the couch or car seat - can be purchased at Costco or any pet store),
2. roll of paper towels for emergencies
3. food dish and collapsible water bowl
4. package/can of food, can opener and fork for stirring
5. a lint brush
6. any medication your pet is taking
7. 2" flashlight
8. poop bags
9. flashing/blinking dog collar/leash for night walking
10. 16' extendable leash for walking breaks and exercise
11. brush or shedding blade for grooming (no one wants a shedding dog in their establishment)
12. raincoat/shoes (ditto for wet dogs)



### By car



We suggest that your dog wear a vest, have a copy of the Federal Law and our ID card is handy to have - a lot of people ask for the dog's "papers". It is not the law that a dog must have an identifying vest on, but people are getting used to seeing that and it does make public access easier. It is for this reason that we have put together a Service Dog Package which has everything that should make your travel easier and less confrontational. We find that when confronted - usually just showing the Federal Law Card does the trick. Of course, our dog always wears his vest too - but some people will stop you anyway. You do NOT have to pay a pet deposit at a hotel for a service dog - but you may have to prove he is a service dog - most hotels will not question you but there is always the exception. 🐾

Keep a bed in the back of the car for his comfort. Don't forget to make frequent stops so your pet can get water, air and relief breaks. 🐾

### By air



When we travel I make our reservations online (it is often less expensive), then I follow up immediately with a telephone call to the airline to alert them that we have a service dog and we reserve the bulkhead seats (Our dog is BIG - smaller dogs may use a carrier). The dog lies down at the bulkhead at our feet on his blanket. The blanket rolls up and fits in the backpack nicely and we lay it down on the floor so that a) it is more comfortable to lay on - the floor can get hard and hot, b) it has the dog's scent on it and he is more calm and familiar and c) it keeps dog hair off the cabin floor (always appreciated). As soon as we get into

the cabin we lay the blanket down and the dog backs into the space so that his head faces the aisle. He lies down and goes to sleep. We take off his vest while on the plane so that he is more comfortable. 🐾

No matter where you go, the dog is often required to have a health certificate within 10 days of travel from city of origin (not the return). You can get this certificate from your vet. It is usually \$25. Be sure to check with the airline - some are now waiving this requirement. Currently there is no charge, even if they have to put your dog into a seat. This happened to us only one time because of the configuration of the aircraft - the bulkhead was an exit row. 🐾

Sometimes this effort to get the bulkhead works, and sometimes it doesn't - in which event, there is a scramble at the gate to reassign seating to others. And sometimes, we sit with our feet against the wall because they have elected to seat someone in the third seat; however, most of the time it works. There is **NO CHARGE** for a service dog. 🐾

It is best to not feed your dog after 6 pm the night before, and any water he gets after he wakes up in the morning is used to wet his lips and not drink. On the way to the airport you should take him to the dog park to run, make sure he does his business and again at the airport before going through security. New law requires airports to have Service Dog Relief Areas as of May 13, 2009. 🐾

When traveling to other countries, you must find out the requirements of entering each country you travel to. You will need an International Health Certificate which you can now get from your Veterinarian.

### **By sea**



When booking your travel, be sure to tell the cruise line that you have a service dog traveling with you and they will tell you their requirements. They usually require an International Health Certificate. You must obtain an APHIS form which you can now obtain from your Veterinarian, a copy of which you send to the cruise line. There are also a couple of other papers to sign for the cruise line. (www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\_health) 🐾

The cruise line will provide a relief area on the ship. Carnival Cruise Line provided a 30" x 30" x 4" acrylic box filled with Doggie Litter. Since our Snow is a big boy, this was no simple matter. It actually took 36 hours before he would "go" - but he finally did with no bad after affects. We took him to his area at his usual times and he *knew*. After you have settled into your cabin, the Purser's office can tell you where the relief area is located. If you have a balcony, it might be there. We took baggies and picked up after him. Don't forget his food. 🐾



There may be ports of call where your dog is not allowed to leave the ship. It is your responsibility to know which ones and your State Veterinarian will have a list as well. For example, any country/island under British rule. We left Snow in our stateroom for 5 hours in Barbados - just like at home when he can't go somewhere. **Bon Voyage!!**

For more detailed travel information visit: [www.PetTravel.com](http://www.PetTravel.com)

