



Chapter 12

Traveling With Your Leonberger

General Travel Tips

- Before you start your trip, check out a couple of the very informative pet friendly hotel websites to be sure the hotels, motels or camp grounds you plan on staying in welcome your Leonberger.
- Exercise your Leonberger before you travel and give regular potty breaks. Always clean up after it.
- Make sure your Leo is comfortable traveling in your vehicle. A few short trips around your neighborhood are good practice it.
- Bring water, food and any medication your dog needs along with an extra amount in case your return home is delayed.
- Carry a photograph of your Leonberger as well as its microchip or tattoo number in case he gets separated from you.
- Make sure you have a leash, collar and your dog's ID tags.
- Keep your Leo's vaccination record with you in case you need to unexpectedly board him in a kennel.



Most Leos try to beat their owners to the door whenever they hear the rattle of car keys. Because they love being with us. A great way to acclimate a new puppy to the joys of riding is to just take it with you, even on those short visits to the post office, the bank where the teller will give it a treat, and picking up the kids from school. You'll find rides will be a great treat. On the other hand if the only time your pup gets to ride in your vehicle is to the vets he may not be as thrilled!

If you are just starting out with your first Leo you've probably already bought your Leomobile – a van or an SUV and maybe even an RV. Remember, this breed takes up a lot of room!

Just as you do with your children, provide a safe environment in your vehicle for your Leo.

Traveling in a crate is the safest method of travel for your Leo. Your dog's chances of surviving an accident are much greater in a crate and a dog riding quietly in a crate is much less distracting to the driver than one loose in the car.

Another option is a safety harness which attaches to the seat belt in your back seat and allows your dog to sit or lie down comfortably but not to jump around. Both crates and harnesses are available at your local pet supply stores as well as online.

Never allow your dog to ride in the back of a pick-up truck.

Never allow your dog to hang its head out of the window any more than you would allow your children to do it. Stones and debris can be kicked up and your dog could be seriously injured or at the least end up with ear or eye infections.

Some dogs do get carsick. If your dog is one of those, start him on very short neighborhood trips to allow him to become used to the car. Start with very short trips around the neighborhood and build up time slowly over a couple of weeks. If carsickness persists, try ginger capsules or gingersnaps (which also help humans with seasickness!) or one of a number of herbal remedies for carsickness, or consult your veterinarian for medication to help relieve the symptoms. Also don't feed him less than two hours before you travel.

DON'T LEAVE YOUR DOG ALONE IN A PARKED CAR DURING WARM WEATHER. TEMPERATURES CAN RISE TO DEADLY LEVELS (120° INSIDE THE CAR) WITHIN FIVE MINUTES ON A WARM DAY AND BRAIN DAMAGE AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.

Traveling Responsibly

When you first go into your motel room, check the floors and under the bed for any medications, sugarless gum etc. that can be harmful to your dog. Sometimes the household staff misses things.

Although you love your dog, not everyone shares that same feeling. As a responsible dog owner you should never allow your dog to disturb others. Your Leo should be kept on a leash at all times when not crated. It's common courtesy.

Whether you are staying overnight or visiting just for the day, make sure that you know the pet policy at your destination and obey it. You and your Leo are leaving lasting impressions of our breed wherever you go.

Carry poop bags when you walk your dog and clean up after it.

Motels don't appreciate dog hair or damage in their rooms. Bring a sheet or mat to lay under your dog's crate and if you must leave your Leo in the room alone, crate it and make sure he does not become noisy and complaining while you're gone. Help keep the motels that are pet friendly stay that way by being responsible.

Many theme parks and other vacation destination don't allow pets but do provide boarding facilities to use while you are visiting. Make sure you take a copy of your Leo's vaccination records with you when you travel.

Recreational vehicle travel

It is inevitable that you will at some point need to leave your Leo in your RV. Be sure, however to check back regularly to be sure the generator is running and the RV continues to cool the air. Keep a leash and collar available at all times to evacuate your dog in case of accident or fire. However, if you plan to leave your Leo in your RV, check back regularly to be sure the generator is running and the RV continues to cool. Keep a leash and collar available at all times to evacuate your Leo in case of accident or fire.

For any type of travel, you will need to bring the following:

- Health certificate issued within 10 days of the day you travel.
- Crate, rated for air travel. Cups for food and water should be attached to the inside of the crate and a small bag of food and a bottle of water should be taped to the top of your Leo's crate. You should also attach your travel itinerary, including phone numbers in case your Leo does not arrive at his destination. Your crate should also be well labeled with name, address and phone number, as well as the call name of your Leo in large letters so the airline personal can talk to him by name.
- Rabies certificate if the Leo is old enough and some airlines may ask you for a certificate of acclimation.

Note: An acclimation certificate is used to allow airlines to ship dogs and cats when the airline cannot guarantee compliance with animal welfare regulations, specifically the minimum temperature allowed by the regulations. Veterinarians may advise clients not to ship animals with transporters or airlines that cannot guarantee compliance with animal welfare regulations.

Airline requirements vary from company to company. Make sure you check for current requirements. Also note that many airplanes cannot physically accommodate a crate of the size to hold your adult Leonberger. You need to personally verify the size of the cargo hatch on the airplane on each and every leg of your trip, or you're liable to find out that your dog is stuck in the last city where you changed planes because his crate was too big for the connecting flight.

Travel outside the United States usually requires additional paperwork.

Flight Tips

If possible, schedule direct flights.

If a direct flight is not possible, make sure the connection time is at least one to two hours long so that the baggage handlers have time to move your Leo from one plane to another.

Always be sure any airplane your Leo will be flying on has a large enough cargo hatch to accommodate his crate.

When you check in for your flight, as well as when you are boarding each connecting flight, notify the airline attendants that you are traveling with your dog and ask them to inform you when it is loaded.

Your Leo should travel without a collar while it is crated to eliminate the risk of strangulation. This is one of the reasons microchip identification of your dog will help you get him back should he become lost.

Make sure you carry an extra leash and collar with you.

Do not feed your Leo within two hours of shipping.

If your trip is longer than 10 days, make sure your paperwork is in order for the return trip.

Boarding Your Leonberger or Using a Pet Sitter

Should you be unable to travel with your Leo, your veterinarian or friends, may be able to recommend a good boarding kennel. You can also google “accredited boarding kennels” in your area for more options. Prior to your vacation, tour the facility. Ask about their requirements for boarding. Do they require proof of vaccinations and clear fecals within an allotted time? Good thing. Do they accept aggressive dogs? Bad thing. Nuisance barkers? Bad thing. Allow monitored play sessions with other same size, friendly dogs? Good thing. Are they insured and do they require you to sign a contract? Good thing. Make sure that the indoor runs are climate controlled and ask to see both the outdoor and indoor areas. Both areas should be very secure, clean and odor free. Ask about potty breaks and play times and supervision with other boarders. Don’t be afraid to ask for references.

If you don’t wish to board your pet, consider a pet sitter for your home. Your veterinarian and friends may be able to recommend one. You can also do an internet search for “accredited pet sitters” in your area. Ask for references. Make sure your pet sitter can drive in the event of an emergency.

Remember that professional boarding kennels and professional pet sitters are trained and equipped to deal with emergencies. Those belonging to one of the accredited organizations have a Code of Ethics they agree to follow. That may not be true of your next door neighbor or relative.

Notify the kennel or pet sitter of your Leo's special needs and provide its health history and your veterinarian's name and number as well.

Provide the food and medication your pet requires during your absence with written instructions. Supply extra food and medication in case your return home is delayed. If you are a raw feeder, be sure the kennel or pet sitter is comfortable with feeding raw.

Leave a detailed itinerary, including phone numbers, where you may be reached in case of an emergency. Also leave a local backup number for a friend or relative in case you are not able to be reached. Veterinarians will not treat a dog without having permission from its owner or a person with power of attorney so advise your vet before you leave or leave a written statement with your kennel or pet sitter.

For a pet sitter, leave the address and phone number of the nearest emergency clinic for after hours emergencies. Depending on your vet's office policy, consider authorizing treatment charges for your veterinarian for emergency care.

Lastly if you have left your Leo in good hands, have fun and don't worry about him. He is probably having as much fun on his "vacation" as you are!

