



Keep Fido a Happy Camper!

Few things say “summer” like a camping trip. If you’re looking to bring your dog, there are some guidelines to make it a “pawsitive” adventure for everyone – starting from what to pack to prepping the campsite. Whether or not you were ever a scout, the key is to be prepared.

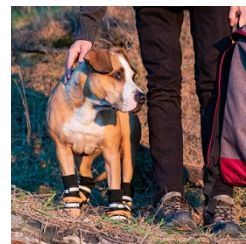
Before you leave – for health, safety and comfort



- Bring current vaccinations and prescriptions. Include paper copies, too, in case cell service is sketchy.
- Consider filling a prescription for anti-anxiety medicine ahead of time if your dog does not deal well with strange sounds.
- Find the address and phone number for a local veterinarian in case you need one.
- Bring a first-aid kit for your dog, and you! Don't forget pup-safe sunscreen. And lots of poop bags!
- Don't trust the website — call to confirm pets are still currently welcome.



Accessories for fun and function



- Plan on hiking? Dog booties can protect against rough terrain and extreme heat.
- Bring a cooling bandana for comfort and a glow-in-the-dark dog collar for safety. A harness will have more security than a collar.

- If you use a “doggy backpack” for treats or water, don't pack more than 10% of your dog's weight. Consider getting your dog used to this ahead of the camping trip.
- Get a “doggy zipline” that can be attached to two trees/posts/cars so your dog can move more freely while still on a leash.



With your dog in mind



- Basics include collapsible food and water bowls, and the food to put in them. Don't forget any medications.
 - Bring some healthy snacks so your dog gets a treat while you're making s'mores.
 - A crate is a good idea for downtime. It gives your dog a safe space to retreat but still be part of things. Add a blanket and a couple toys from home for some familiar items/smells.
- Your dog will likely sleep in the tent or RV with you, but give him some bedding options for daytime. Consider a bed with a canopy so your dog can stay cool.
- Don't dramatically increase your dog's activity level when you're camping. She may be very eager to go on every new adventure, but she may really need some downtime. Consider a backpack for when she's dog-tired.



Campsite 'petiquette'

- Don't assume fellow campers are dog friendly; keep your dog leashed and nearby. And even the most well-trained dog may get scared and bolt.
- Don't assume your dog will enjoy the fire's heat or crackle the same way you do. Make sure your dog is far from the flames, smoke, and ashes.
- Don't assume your dog is the only animal in the vicinity. Another reason for leashing is meeting potential critters – especially those with powerful smells or quills.
- Don't let your dog drink any standing water; the bacteria can cause leptospirosis, which is currently on the rise.

