



Travelling with Your New Puppy

Unless you live very close to your breeder, it is likely that your puppy will start his life with you with a trip. Hopefully your breeder has been proactive in doing habituation work with your puppy to prepare him well for travel by taking him on car trips and doing other activities to prepare him for airline travel. If you are flying home with your pup, you can ask your breeder to do 'flight simulation training' to get him used to vibration, heat and sound (contact me for information if you need help with this). No matter how much work has been done with your puppy, travel will be a new experience in some ways for him and planning ahead will help make the trip stress free and safe.

What to have:

1. **A crate** – preferably a hard side crate for vehicle travel. (Wire crates are dangerous in accidents as pups can become impaled on dislodged wires). For airline travel a soft side Sherpa type bag is best.
2. **Several changes of bedding.** Old towels you don't mind discarding in the event of soiling work great so you don't end up travelling with dirty bedding. You can add a couple of puppy pads on top of other bedding but be prepared for these to be recreationally shredded.
3. **A 'no ground-touch' potty system:** a big risk for young puppies is exposure to pathogens in fecal matter of other dogs. If your trip is long enough that your puppy will need to potty en route, you need to be very cautious about where you let him potty. Roadside stops are often littered with feces and even if you cannot see feces there may be risk of disease transmission. A bit of planning will help you avoid the risk of your puppy picking up infection from pottying in areas where other dogs have pottied. You will need to find out what your breeder has been using for the puppies so that you can replicate it as close as possible:
 - a. **Disposable litter tray and litter** – find out what kind of litter your breeder is using so you can get the same. If you are flying you may not be able to take a litter tray. You can spread a puppy pad on the floor and sprinkle litter on it instead.
 - b. **Puppy pads** – Cloth? Paper? Newspaper?
 - c. **Fake grass** – if your puppy is used to using 'potty patches' or going outside on grass, you can take a section of fake grass and some sanitizing spray.
4. **Doggie waste bags**
5. **A package of baby wipes. Paper towels. No rinse cleaning spray (puppy safe)**

6. **A small tug toy or stuffie, a bully stick, stuffed Kong** - to keep the puppy entertained in airports or hotels
7. **A food / water bowl** – collapsible bowls work great if your packing space is limited.
8. **A leash** – at this age and weight a very light leash is best. Cat leashes are about the right weight for small and medium puppies.
9. **A collar** –
10. **A small spray bottle of pet cleanser for floors** (Nature’s Miracle, EZ Clean etc) is a good idea if you are spending time in hotels en route.
11. **A package of small soft treats or string cheese**
12. **Lavender essential oil** – a drop or two on the puppies bedding in the crate, Sherpa bag etc. helps calm the puppy.
13. **This sound track** or a similar one with classical music on your ipod / smart phone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olMiZA1PGKE&t=33296s>

Tips for vehicle travel

1. A well-secured solid crate is safest for everyone so that the puppy does not become a projectile in the event of a sudden stop or accident.
2. Plan on stops for potty breaks approximately every three hours – more frequently if your puppy seems to need it (fussing, soiling his bedding).
3. **Avoid using vehicle rest stops to potty the puppy** – these are often heavily used and heavily contaminated by dog feces as many people do not pick up after their dog. These locations are HIGH RISK for acquisition of parasites and bacteria. Avoid letting the puppy potty in long grass as this poses a risk for tick acquisition and the puppies are too young for tick medicine. If at all possible set up your ‘no ground touch’ potty area in a safe place, preferably on tarmac where the attraction of vegetation and smells will be minimized and see if you can get him to use it. If he won’t go, try again in an hour.
4. If staying in hotels, set up the potty area in a corner of the room near the pups crate and show him where it is. Keep a close eye for accidents as potty training often takes a step back in unfamiliar settings. Be ready to quickly pick the puppy up and transfer him to the potty area if he looks like he needs to go. At night, be sure to put him in his crate. He will likely need a potty break in the middle of the night – if you hear some fussing, get him out of the crate, set him in the potty box and then back in the crate when done.
5. Use the calming sound track and a few drops of lavender at night when you close up the crate.

Tips for plane travel

1. Again, it is best to **avoid using airport pet rest areas** as these are more heavily contaminated. Before boarding the plane take the puppy to a washroom. Lay down your ‘no ground touch’ potty system and encourage the puppy to go. Try to

give him a chance to go as close as possible to boarding time without making it a rush.

2. Line the bottom of the Sherpa bag with a puppy pad or some type of disposable bedding. Be sure to have replacement bedding with you in case of need.
3. Once you are settled in your seat, give the puppy a stuffed Kong or bully stick to get him occupied during take off.
4. Playing the calming sound-track at take off and throughout the flight can help your puppy settle and feel like he is in familiar surroundings.
5. If your puppy is fussy, make sure you have done steps 3 and 4. Try some Lavender essential oil. Try to ignore the puppy and give him a chance to settle on his own unless he is becoming agitated and is truly distressed (differentiating 'I want' (out, attention etc.) from 'I am panicked', or 'I am in serious trouble here' can be tough but if the puppy has been fed, pottied and is not too hot or too cold you can usually try to wait things out.