

Pet Travelers' Top Tips for Good Manners

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We know it's shocking, but not every friend, family member or hotel is prepared to welcome your dog with open arms. Gasp! But there are some easy ways to ensure you stay where your dog is welcome and that you will always be invited back.

If you are planning a getaway to stay with friends or family, it's good doggie etiquette to call in advance to check that your dog will be welcome to stay too. Never just show up and hope for the best! Your hosts, even if they are friends or family, may not want a four-legged guest in their home for a variety of valid reasons. For starters, if they have pets of their own, they may not want their own pets to be stressed by having a newcomer in their territory. Or they may be worried that your dog is not properly house-trained and want to avoid accidents and the bad blood they may cause. Whatever the reason, be responsible and respectful by finding out in advance.

However, if you do get the green light, it's good manners to take everything your dog needs with you. Do not rely on your hosts to provide anything beyond fresh water in the drinking bowl. It's also a good idea because it's better to feed your pet the food he knows and bring along his own toys and bedding. Travel is already stressful for your pup, so familiar belongings and a familiar diet will go a long way in providing comfort on the road.

The [HomeAway™ Travel Organizer Kit](#) is ideal to take along as it holds all of your dog's basic essentials. Fully loaded, the Travel Organizer is large enough to hold up to one week of dry food for a medium-sized dog, up to a full day's supply of water, a leash, cleaning towel, sleeping blanket, food mat, food and water bowl, chew toys, first aid supplies, fetch toy, medications,

poop bags, and a grooming tool. Holy cow!

The same phone call in advance applies if you are planning to stay in a hotel. Fortunately, these days there are plenty of pet friendly options so finding accommodations within your budget that will accept your dog is easy. Of course some hotels are more welcoming than others. A quick phone call will establish whether you need to bring your own pet bed and food bowls or whether the hotel has their own. These days many do. In fact, some even offer a doggie welcome package that includes things such as a toy, leash, and poop bags. Be sure to ask if they offer a dog sitting service too. Often staff members are happy to help out especially in smaller establishments.

And, on arrival, be sure to ask if there are any restrictions within the facility so that you can abide by the rules and ensure your pet will be welcome to visit again.

We all like to take our pup's along for the adventure; the key is doing it the right way so that doors are always open to you and your dog the next time you pass through town.