

# Top Five Training Commands for Road Trips

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There's no question that dogs that know basic training commands are much easier (and safer) to travel with and take on regular road trips than those that don't. And, as a result, they have more active and enjoyable social lives - which is what we want for all our dogs.

Here are six basic commands every dog should understand and follow to ensure he is a great co-pilot:

**SIT:** Your dog must know to sit on command. This will allow you to get ready for your trip, load other paraphernalia into the vehicle without him getting under foot, and strap him in without too much wiggling. This also means he also won't jump up on other passengers as they access the vehicle.

**COME:** This is by far the most important command your dog will ever know. A strong recall can save his life, particularly in parking lots and close to other vehicles on the move. Your dog should be trained to accept it as a one-word command and respond accordingly, so be sure to always keep it positive, reward heavily when he comes and practice this one consistently to keep it fresh in his mind.

**STAY:** On hearing this word, your dog should know to stay put until you release him with another command instruction. This will minimize the chances of him wandering off and getting into any trouble while you aren't looking. Although, even with a very well-trained dog, be sure to keep one eye on him to be safe.

**LEAVE IT:** When you travel to new places your pup is bound to explore the surrounding area and come up with some exciting item of interest that in no

way do you want in his mouth. "Leave it" let's him know that any unsuitable item should be left alone without further investigation. It is a real life saver, sometimes literally, so make sure this one is well learned.

LET'S GO: Whether your dog jumps into the car easily or needs the assist of a [ramp](#), "let's go" is an exciting command that means the adventure is underway and it's time to load up. Knowing this will allow quick entry and exit from the vehicle and it should be practiced before the trip.

Lastly, your pup really needs to understand the word "NO."

Even if your dog knows these commands well and cooperates the first time, it's a good idea to practice in the days leading up to your trip and to have treats on hand for a small reward, especially if it's a long road trip.

And now that your dog is doing his part, it's time to do yours - be sure to kit out your vehicle with the various dog-friendly accessories best suited to your dog and your vehicle such as a [doggie booster seat](#) for small dogs, or a [zip line restraint system](#) in the rear passenger section complete with [car seat cover](#) in place to protect the upholstery. This way your car will be geared for his comfort and safety and all you have to do is say LET'S GO when you are ready to hit the road!