

# Taking a Doggy Road Trip?

Some helpful tips for car travel with your dog.

## Doggy Road Trip Advice!

Most dogs love a trip in a car, but even those who are not so keen will cope, if you prepare well and have the right equipment. By planning well, you and your dog can have a fun and safe road trip.

### Before the trip

Make sure that you have everything you need to keep your dog happy and safe. Please use our checklist to see if you have everything. Make sure your details are up to date and put a copy of your microchip number in your papers in case it is needed.

### During the Trip

Do not let your dog hang their head out of the window. While many dogs love to feel the breeze and enjoy being blown around, the risk is they could easily be hurt by passing vehicles, flying insects or stationary objects.

Just as with a child it is not advisable to allow your dog to roam around your vehicle. In the case of an accident, which is more likely with a dog suddenly wanting to jump on your lap, an unrestrained animal can cause even more damage to both the animal and other passengers in the car. Ideally you should use a dog crate or an approved dog car restraint. These will allow an animal limited but safe movement.

### Regular Stops

While you may be happy driving non-stop for hours just to get the trip over, your animal will need regular stops. Ideally you could plan these breaks before you leave to ensure each stop has space for a quick run around in a safe location.

Never leave your dog in a car with the windows up and in the hot sun. The temperatures can become dangerous very quickly.

### Check with your Vet

If this is your first trip, it may pay to check with your vet to see what is available to help with motion sickness and anxiety.

Finally, we all know our dog is our best and most loyal friend. So with a little preparation, there is no reason to leave your best friend at home when you are doing your next road trip.

**Just remember to be careful, be safe and have fun!**

## Update your NZCAR details

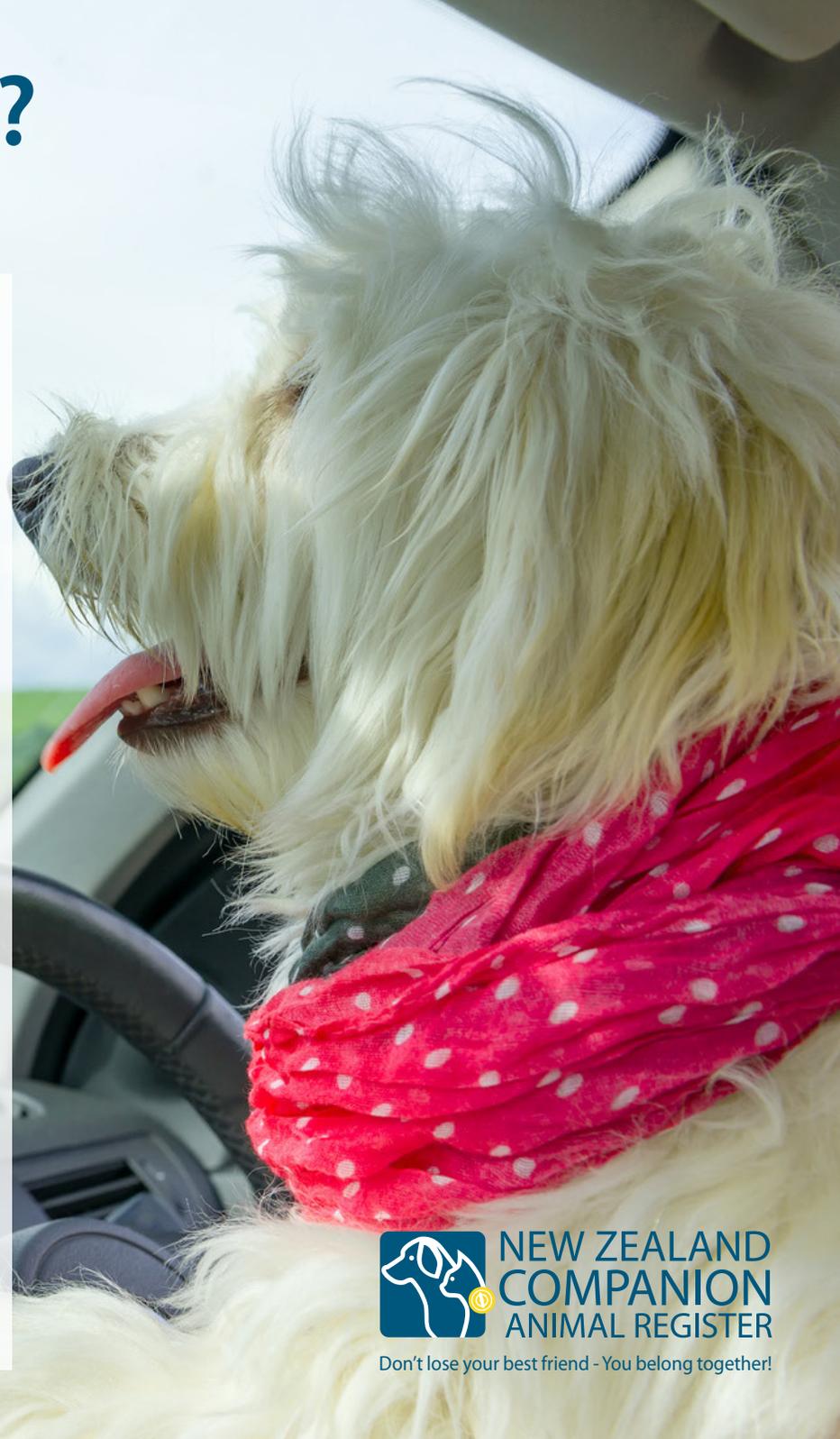
If you are going to be in a strange area where your dog is not familiar with the surroundings, and where people will not recognise them, make sure you update your NZCAR details **BEFORE** you head away.

## Doggy Road Trip Checklist!

If heading away, consider packing items from the following checklist:

- 01 Dog Food - (1.5-2x normal amount depending on activities)
- 02 Collapsible Food & Water Bowls
- 03 Water & Water Cooler
- 04 Collar & ID Tags
- 05 Leash
- 06 Doggy Seat Belt Restraint, Crate or Booster Seat
- 07 Vaccination Records and Microchip Number
- 08 Dog First Aid Kit
- 09 Training Treats /Snacks
- 10 Extra Towels
- 11 Poop Bags
- 12 Pet Bed/Blanket
- 13 Entertainment - Toys/Balls
- 14 Paper Towels (just in case!)

*Thanks to Debbie at [lifewithmutts.com](http://lifewithmutts.com) for permission to use this useful checklist, and to the SPCA for all the great support and advice they provide to the NZCAR.*



Don't lose your best friend - You belong together!