

LizzyTalk TOP TEN TRAVEL TIPS FOR DOGS

(By Ted Slupik As told by Lizzy, the long haired Chihuahua)



When I turned nine years old and my Collie sister Sophie turned one, we were given a special dog vacation from our family to celebrate my recovery from a severe orthopedic issue and Sophie's recovery from an illness. We did not know what to think about going on a vacation. Usually, when our family went on vacation, we were left behind in the care of a pet sitter to wait for our family's return. However, during our illnesses, it looked like I might not survive but through alternative medicine, I recovered and was able to lead a healthy, active life for 7-1/2 more years! Our family was so happy that they decided to plan a trip

that us dogs could enjoy.

When Sophie came into our family, my family purchased a large SUV so we all had enough room to ride comfortably and look out the windows. I sat on the front console in a cat bed (because I was so small) and Sophie rode in the back with all the seats down and folded flat so she could enjoy the view from all the windows. By arranging our seating in this manner, we both had a 360 degree view of our travels.

Now we were ready to go on our first dog friendly vacation! Our family planned our trip around places and events that allowed dogs. They found a house for rent in Sheboygan Wisconsin that allowed dogs to stay with their owners. What a treat! The house was on the beach on Lake Michigan so we could take long walks each day. It also had a hammock in the shade for me to relax on. We also did many other activities and almost everyone was concentrated on being able to include dogs.

Our family was special to us; maybe even a little crazy for doing this. Sophie and I explored, sniffed, and observed something new each day. We had fun together as a family. Although I was an excellent car rider and traveler before Sophie joined our family, Sophie needed some practice before our big excursion. Here are my top ten tips for making travel and a dog vacation enjoyable for the whole family!

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

1. Making car riding enjoyable for me requires practice. Start with short trips and build up to several hours at a time.
2. Give rewards for good behavior. When Sophie and I behaved in the car, we got a nice treat when we got out. It didn't take me long to get Sophie to go along with *this* program! Also, my humans would practice leaving us in the car for a brief period when the weather was cool and walk away out of our sight and watch us. If we behaved in the car, did not bark at each other or people outside our car, they would come back and praise us and reward us with a treat.
3. In cooler weather, it's okay to leave us in the car with the windows slightly open for a few minutes while you shop. This builds our confidence.

4. Beware of motion alarms in newer cars that set off blaring sirens. I could not set it off but Sophie sure could!
5. If your family has two or more dogs, take them on trips together. This makes the trip less stressful for each of them.
6. If one of us had a vet appointment, we both went. This not only gave us car riding experience, but we became better buddies and were a support system for each other. We no longer feared the vet.
7. With a little internet research on your part, you can probably find a lot of pet friendly places to go and take your dogs.
8. When you are driving, stop every 2 to 3 hours for a break. Don't travel more than 8 hours in a day as that is probably too tough on your humans!
9. You might be surprised at some of the places that you and your pets would enjoy visiting. A few of the best things that Sophie and I did and enjoyed seeing were:

- A visit to a small zoo that allowed pets.
- A ferry ride to an island in northern Wisconsin. The ferry was fun as we had the wind in our faces. Once we landed, we walked all over the island and saw lots of fun things.
- We had breakfast with some goats. Our humans found a Swedish restaurant in Sister Bay Wisconsin that had goats that we watched eating on the grass roof of the restaurant. We got to visit the goats when they were off the roof.



- Spending time with each other and our humans; relaxing, napping, and chilling out.
10. Relax and enjoy your travels with us! We enjoy the special attention that we get from you while on a vacation. Remember, every day is a gift!



WE HAVE ARRIVED...EVERYONE IN THE POOL!!

Lizzy was a long haired Chihuahua that lived a rich 16-1/2 years after getting a second chance at age 9. Lizzy's Fund provides all vet, lab, grooming, dental and even the adoption fees for seniors, aged 7 and older. Find out more or make a donation at lizzysfund.org. You can also follow or like her on Facebook or Instagram.