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Our Traveling Tips for Pugs: Safety and Heat Protection While in the Car

Safety

Crates Provide Safer Traveling

We always secure our pugs in crates at all times when traveling. Each pug has his or her own crate. We secure the crates by passing the seatbelt around the crate or through the crate handle to protect us and the pug from possible accidents. *Rhino Ratchet Straps Heavy Duty Tie Downs* are also a great way to secure the crate directly to the car's seat bolts or child safety car seat bolts. This also helps lessen the chance that our pug will become injured or be able to run away should we ever be involved in an auto accident.

The safest crate on the market is *Gunner G1 Kennel Series*. <https://gunnerkennels.com> *Gunner G1 Kennel Series* "is the *first* and *only* pet travel product to receive a dual 5 Star Crash Test rating from the Center For Pet Safety" (Gunner website, 2019).

Heat Protection

Pugs will die in hot temperatures. Carefully monitor your dog during hot weather to avoid over-heating. Here are some tips to keep your pug comfortable in warm weather:

Turn the Air Conditioning On First

When traveling in warm weather, we turn on the air conditioning in the car BEFORE we put our pug in the car because the hot air inside the car may cause the dog to suffer from heat exhaustion.

Crate Fans Help Circulate the Air

We highly recommend that you purchase a portable, battery-operated fan that attaches to your dog's crate. The one we absolutely adore is the *Metro Vacuum Cage/Crate Cooling Fan, CCF-1*. (NOTE: Purchase the Gunner crate fan if you purchase a Gunner G1 Series Kennel). We don't know what we ever did without it. It runs off 2 DD batteries that can last for about 100 hours on the low speed setting. We also recommend that you purchase an AC Adapter for the fan, which will allow you to save the batteries when you have access to electricity. Unless otherwise stated, the most economical place to purchase many of the products mentioned in this handout is Amazon.

Cool Down Mats Help Keep the Cool

The Green Pet Shop Dog Cooling Mat can be a literal life-saver. We always take ours with us when traveling. Each pug has their own in his or her crate.

Tote Along a Warm Weather Kit

When the forecast predicts the temperature will be above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, we take along a warm weather kit. This consists of packing the following items into an *Expandable Lunch Pack Ultra Arctic Zone*:

- Ice packs and/or frozen bottle of water (with the label removed)

- Spray bottle of distilled water
- *Mkono Male Dog Belly Band Wraps Washable Diapers (Small and Medium Dogs)* and/or *Hurtta Cooling Dog Vest (medium)*

Always have a spray bottle of cool water with you during warm weather. You should also get into the habit of taking an ice pack or frozen bottles of water with you in case of emergencies. We chill the spray bottle, belly band and/or cool down jacket in the refrigerator overnight before packing it into the Ultra Arctic Zone original.

We spray our pugs down with the spray bottle and can also offer them a drink of water from it.

The frozen water bottle can go directly into the crate for the pug to lie upon. It's much better to let the pug feel cold than to become too hot.

Taking along a frozen *Rubbermaid Blue Ice Weekender Model* is a good habit to get into when traveling with your pug. This can be found in the camping section of most Wal-Mart and K-Mart stores. You can also use frozen bottles of water.

Also when traveling, it is advisable to have your pug only drink bottled water since many cities use different chemicals in their water which can promote diarrhea in your dog.

Types of Panting

Regular panting is steady but almost silent, and the pug's tongue is pink and barely visible. Over-panting is fast and noisy, and the dog's tongue is red and very visible or protruding from the mouth. If the dog begins to pant quickly and heavily and sounds like a freight train, spray it down with cool water on its feet and around its belly and anus. AVOID submerging an overheated dog in cold water all at once or it can have a heart attack! Instead, start by wetting the paws and belly region and work up. Get the dog to a cool area.

Quick First Aid for Overheating

Overheating is serious and deadly for a pug. In the event your pug seems disoriented, lethargic, or passes out insert several ice cubes into the dog's anus and rush him to a veterinarian immediately.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about our process.

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