

On the road with your dog- travel advice for pet owners

With thousands of people expected to take to the roads this summer, the National Animal Welfare Trust (NAWT) is reminding people of their responsibilities when it comes to dog travel.

Following a survey completed by 700 pet owners, NAWT has produced a helpful infographic on the potential pitfalls of car travel with pets and associated advice.

One of the biggest reminders is about leaving dogs in hot cars. At **22 degrees** outside, a car interior can reach **47 degrees** within an hour. An open window or parking in shade are not reliable ways to keeping your dog cool and comfortable.

Under the Animal Welfare Act owners have a duty of care towards their animals to protect them and prevent suffering which includes not exposing them to extremes of temperature. If a dog is left in a car on a warm day and suffers harm, owners could be at risk of prosecution.

The second reminder is around keeping dogs safe while travelling. NAWT found that **1 in 5** dogs would be unprotected in the event of a car accident because the animal is not restrained.

The Highway Code asks drivers to ensure a dog is kept secure with a crate, guard or harness so as not to cause a distraction to the driver and to protect them and their animal if there is an emergency stop. Since around 40% of respondents take one or more dogs in the car with them every day, that's a high number of people at risk of flouting regulations.

Many car insurance policies require owners to follow Highway Code guidance on restraining their dogs but with only 7% of those surveyed stating they know what their insurance says, it would be worthwhile reading your insurance documentation before you travel.

Owners should also check how emergency breakdown cover affects travel with dogs too. While **88%** of respondents have such cover, in the event of a breakdown most emergency recovery companies leave it up to the discretion of their employees to decide how your dog can travel in the event of a recovery. This means your dog may have to remain in your vehicle on the recovery truck or if being towed, or worse still, your dog could be refused outright.

NAWT has prepared the following infographic with information and advice on pet car travel.

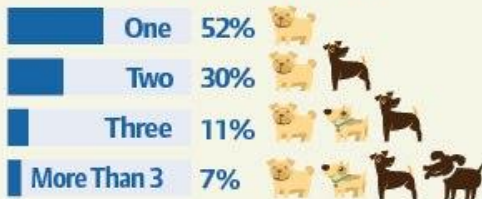


National Animal Welfare Trust

On the road with your dog

While summer is traditionally the time for travel, if you're bringing your pets along for the ride, don't forget to keep them safe.

How many dogs typically travel?



How often do the dogs go out in the car?



Hot cars

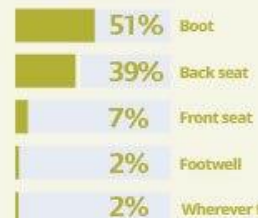
In hot weather don't leave your dog in your car even for a few minutes. At 22 degrees outside, a car interior can reach 47 degrees within an hour. An open window or the shade are not good enough precautions for keeping your dog cool and comfortable.



Type of car used



Where do dogs travel in the car?



Are they restrained?

81% owners secure their dogs but 19% do not.



Types of car journey



Highway Code and pet travel in cars

Do you know what it says?



Highway Code: rule 57

Rule 57 of the code says: ensure your dog or other animals are suitably restrained so that they cannot distract you or injure you or themselves if you have to stop quickly. A harness, carrier or dog guard is recommended.



ONLY 7%

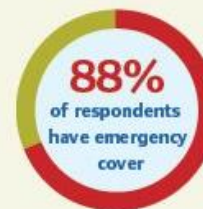
know their insurance policy requirements for travelling with their dog in a car.



Emergency cover

Even though 88% of respondents have emergency cover, only two out of three people know whether there are any restrictions regarding their dogs

Emergency recovery companies often leave decision up to employee responding to the emergency.



2 in 3

respondents know there are restrictions regarding their dogs



Car travel tips from the National Animal Welfare Trust



Practise car travel if your dog is unused to it – start with short trips and gradually build up.

Keep your dog secure – a harness or crate are advised.



Check your insurance documents – there may be specific guidance on how to restrain your pet while travelling.