



# Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

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**ANNOUNCEMENT:** I just wanted to point out that you can read Dog Talk Weekly in PDF format online if you prefer at <http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/archives.htm> . The PDF version can contain images that are not included in the email version.

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**Feature Article: Traveling Safely With Your Dog**

Summer is fast approaching. Everyone, especially your dog, is anxious to get out and explore. You, your family and your dog(s) pile into your vehicle and off you go into the horizon.

But wait! Are you really prepared for this trip?

It's easy to overlook some things that can have an adverse effect on your dog. Some dog owners make mistakes or don't recognize potential dangers. That's just the way humans are... certain issues just never come to mind.

Let's take a look at some of them.

Problem 1. doggie car sickness.

Riding in a car is not natural for any dog. No where in their history have they had a similar experience. Because they like to feel the road under their feet, floating virtually on air can have a negative effect, namely car sickness.

Solution:

Before taking your dog out in the car for the first time in his life, make a few test runs first so he has a chance to become accustomed to this unusual sensation. Be sure to stay

calm from the start. Coax him gently into the vehicle. Putting down his own blanket and a few toys will help him to feel more comfortable.

Make that first trip enjoyable. Let him know that at the end, he will have fun! Try not to make that your dog's first trip to the vet, which can be unpleasant. Instead, go to your local park. Get out and let him explore. Repeat this for a few days until he is clearly comfortable riding in the vehicle. Gradually increase the distance you travel and repeat the exercise. Before long, he'll be more than happy to travel in the vehicle. Just be sure to give him some breaks every 30 minutes or so on long trips.

If he gets car sick, shorter trips can help ease him over them. If that does not work, talk to your vet about getting a motion sickness treatment for him. You normally give them to your dog around an hour before you leave. Keep them with you for the return trip.

#### Problem 2: frantic behavior inside the vehicle

This is extremely dangerous as a dog jumping inside the car can cause you to have an accident. Apart from that, if you stop quickly, your dog can get injured when he is thrown forward and slips off the seat when you brake suddenly. This can cause facial as well as leg injuries.

#### Solution:

There are several ways to prevent this. 1) put him into a crate while you travel, and 2) install a gate (see-through) barrier between the front and rear seats of the vehicle. The crate is the obvious best choice, but some people don't like using them. In that case, make the rear seat as "soft" as possible. Put something on the floor in front of the rear seat so that he doesn't lose his footing.

#### Problem 3: jumping out of windows

You can see the obvious problem here. Some dog owners underestimate their dog's capabilities. It doesn't take much for them to get through an open window, even if it's half open. There are several reasons why your dog might jump out. 1) he sees another dog or animal and decides to go after it, 2) if he is fearful inside the car, 3) he wants to go after someone he feels is a threat (a pedestrian, a cyclist, or a running child). Another concern with open windows is that if you are in an accident, he can get thrown out of the window and be seriously injured or killed.

#### Solution:

Never crank your windows down more than 1/3, and even less, depending on the size of your dog. Some small dogs can get onto the back seat and go through a slightly opened window. For best measure, use your dog's head as a guide. If he can put his head through and nothing else, there's a good chance he won't get the rest of his body through. But again, take into consideration your dog's overall size, strength and agility.

#### Problem 4: holding his head out of the window

This might not seem like a problem for many of you, but this puts the dog at risk. Dust particles and small flying objects can get into the eye which can cause eye damage and possibly blindness. If you have to stop suddenly, your dog can injure his face on the side of the window.

#### Solution:



Keep the window high enough that he cannot get his head out. If your dog really does love sniffing the wind and having it blow across his face, you have two options. 1) close the window when you come to dusty, unpaved roads and on windy days, and 2) buy your dog a set of dog goggles. If he will tolerate them, this is the best alternative to denying him the thrill of hanging his head out of the window.

#### Problem 5: overheated dog

Dogs can overheat very quickly in the summer. Even though you are driving with the window down a crack, you really need to have the air conditioner on. And never leave your dog in the car, even for a minute or two, while you run into the store or the house "for a second". On a hot day with the sun pouring down, the inside of a car can quickly shoot up to over 40 degrees Celsius (104 F). It's not unusual for the interior of a car to reach 50 Celsius (120 F) in a matter of minutes.

#### Solution:

Have someone stay with the dog outside the car while you go inside. Or better yet, leave your dog at home. If necessary, make an extra trip to pick up those few items from the grocery store while your dog rests comfortably at home. Make sure you always have water available for your dog. Take frequent breaks to let him get out and have a drink, especially on long trips or extremely hot days. Crank up your car's air conditioner.

Finally, make sure you do what you can to keep your dog calm while traveling. Teach him or her to sit or lie quietly in the vehicle while you are moving. This will help prevent any unexpected lunges, squirms or barks as you try to focus on driving.

Don't forget about the air bags! If your dog is sitting next to you or in your lap and you have a front-end collision, your dog can be injured or worse when the bags deploy.

You can never be too cautious when traveling with your dog.

#### **Personal Story: Nearly Fatal**

The above tips might sound easy for you to follow, but don't overestimate yourself. I used to think I could always drive safely with my dog in the car. Until I got a couple of dogs who seemed to have some odd behaviors that I couldn't quite understand.

One dog, Kobe (my American Eskimo) always wanted to crawl down around my feet while I was driving. You can see how dangerous this can be. The only reason I could see for it was that he was nervous in the car and felt more comfortable "hiding" in this small space.

What did he know? He had no idea that by lying on my feet he could put extra pressure on the gas pedal and cause a burst in speed. Or prevent me from hitting the brake if needed. While attempting to get him out of there, I was a little stressed myself. "Get out of there!", I called frantically, but he just crawled in deeper. I did get him out, but while doing so, I became severely distracted. My vehicle wandered around in my lane, crossing the line now and then.

Fortunately, we didn't have an accident. But such a potential outcome became much more real when I got Tyler. He was bounding around inside the van, trying to get onto my lap, and just being unruly. We were driving down the highway, much the same as I was with Kobe. Tyler showed extreme nervousness whenever a tractor trailer or other

large vehicle passed us, which made him more frantic and erratic. I tried to get him to relax, but he was having none of it.

And then we came to the off-ramp. While trying to manoeuver the curve, I became unaware of my speed as I held the dog with my right hand to keep him off of me. I touched the brake and headed to the shoulder. As soon as the wheels hit the gravel, it started to skid and the back end fishtailed. I knew not to slam on the brake, but focused on steering. The van careened to one side and almost rolled over.

It was a scary few seconds when I realized how close I was to getting badly injured or worse. Again, fortunately we did not roll. But I learned my lesson.

I had never experienced this problem with my other dogs, so it came as a surprise. He's fine now, but he sure was a different dog when I first got him.

### **Regular Sections:**

- Dog Trivia

The Welsh Corgi is one of the oldest breeds of herding dogs, bred to herd cattle. Odd, considering his small size. He would nip at their heels to keep them under control. This breed is known to have lived in Wales in 1107 AD. In 1933, the Corgi arrived at Buckingham Palace and has been the favorite of Queen Elizabeth ever since.



The Vizsla is an Hungarian dog bred from the Weimaraner and the Pointer that has virtually no dog odor. What's more, they tend to act more like cats, causing people to refer to them as catlike, with their quiet walk and catlike paws. This breed comes in a solid cinnamon color which helps him to blend in with the background. It's easy to mistake a resting Vizsla as a garden sculpture.



The German Shepherd is one of several dogs with the strongest jaws and bites, second only to the Rottweiler. The German Shepherd can apply 238 pounds of pressure, which makes them excellent apprehension dogs. Their bite is so strong they can cut right through the thick protective suits that police dog trainers use. That same material can stop a bullet, but not a German Shepherd's bite.



The Jack Russell can jump 5 times its height, compared to a German Shepherd which can jump 4 times its height. The Jack Russell has sensitive skin and needs sunscreen. Despite their small size, they need lots of exercise or they will use their excessive energy for destructive work and mischief.



The Golden Retriever, the second most popular dog, was bred in 1860 England to retrieve fowl. They can run all day without tiring. Their soft mouths enable them to pick up an egg without breaking it. Golden Retriever puppies are generally lighter in color than what they will be when they grow up. You can see what color to expect by looking inside the puppy's ears.



- Member Submissions

Do you have a dog story of your own to share? Send it along!

- Dog Talk Weekly News

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Publication date change:

I've been rethinking the publication date of Dog Talk Weekly. It came to me that people are generally busy during the week, especially Mondays. Therefore, I have decided to focus on getting the newsletter out to you sooner, on Friday or Saturday. So look for it arriving a little earlier from now on. I want to be sure you have time to relax, read and enjoy each issue.

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Classified Ads:

Dogs are susceptible to many illnesses, some breeds more than others. Many can run thousands of dollars in treatment costs: hip dysplasia, epilepsy, cysts & tumours, joint problems, diabetes, to name a few. That's where Pet Insurance can save the day. Find out more: <http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/dog-product-recommendations>

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- Competitions

**Send Your Photos!** Throughout the rest of April and all of May, I invite you to send me your dog photos – the cuter, the better. At the end of May, the members will have a chance to vote on which one they like the best. The winning photo will become the "Dog of the Month". The photo will be displayed on a special "Dog of the Month" page at [http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog\\_photo\\_of\\_month.htm](http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog_photo_of_month.htm)

Be sure to include a small caption (about as long as that paragraph) giving a few fun details about your dog / photo.

This "Dog of the Month" contest will continue every month throughout the year. At the end of the year, members will have a chance to vote and name the "Dog of the Year" (More details to come)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

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By submitting material to Dog Talk Weekly, you understand that you are giving me the rights to use them as I see fit, including on my web site, in ebooks and in videos. If you do not want to make these rights available to me, please do not send them in.

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To protect yourself and me, please only send in your own work. That way we will be absolutely sure.

I appreciate your adhering to this law.

That's it for this issue. I hope you enjoyed it.

Until next week...

Get out there and have fun with your dog. Take some great photos. Collect wonderful memories.

Sylvia

P.S.: Don't forget to send me your stories and ideas for upcoming issues of Dog Talk Weekly. Just send them to me through my contact form here:  
<http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

**Dog Nutrition** is vital to your dog's life expectancy and quality of life. I've written a book on how to make sure your dog gets a healthy, nutritious diet and avoids many of the dangers that come with certain foods. Find out more at  
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