Road Trip With Your Dog

The checklist that saves you from the 6 most common disasters

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- [ ] Vet check (older, young or unwell dogs)
- [ ] Ask about car sickness medicine
- [ ] Copy vaccination + rabies records
- [ ] Update microchip: your mobile number
- [ ] Crash-tested harness or crate ready
- [ ] Practise short, happy drives
- [ ] Phone hotels: dog rules in writing
- [ ] Check border rules if crossing
- [ ] Find 24-hour emergency vets on route

IN THE CAR

- [ ] Back seat, crash-tested harness or crate
- [ ] Short tether, head inside the window
- [ ] Cool air reaching the back seat
- [ ] Light or no meal, as your vet advises

THE NIGHT BEFORE

- [ ] Their usual food + a few extra days
- [ ] Water from home, bowls, treats
- [ ] Medicines + first-aid kit
- [ ] Leash, spare leash, harness, poop bags
- [ ] Their bed or blanket + a favourite toy
- [ ] Towels, seat cover, wipes
- [ ] ID tag shows your mobile number
- [ ] Take a clear, fresh photo of your dog

EVERY STOP (ABOUT EVERY 2 HOURS)

- [ ] Leash on BEFORE the door opens
- [ ] Water, toilet break, short walk
- [ ] Never leave your dog alone in the car

AT YOUR DESTINATION

- [ ] Slow, sniffy walk around the new place
- [ ] Their own bed somewhere quiet
- [ ] Go easy on exercise in heat. Carry water
- [ ] Keep usual mealtimes and routines

Emergency vets on my route:

General guidance only, not a substitute for advice from your own vet.