



## Act NOW! Buckle Up



RAC is committed to informing pet owners about the dangers of unrestrained pets in cars and is asking pet owners to 'Act Now! Buckle Up' and take a pledge to commit to making their car journey a safer place for pets over summer.

In a crash, an unrestrained pet could be seriously injured, or injure people in the car. At 30 mph, for example, a 50lb (22.5 kg) border collie would be thrown forward with a force equivalent to almost nine 12 stone men.

foot well. He was sad whilst it was bandaged up as he couldn't put any weight on it. Our vet told us we were lucky as he has seen much worse car safety accidents with pets. Just like we strap our 4 year old little boy into his car seat, we don't ever set off in the car now without Barney's travel safety harness or crate'

### RAC Advice <

RAC Head Of Retail Lynn Hayzelden said: "With a long heritage in the motoring world we realise how important it is that pets are both protected in the event of an unexpected event occurring as well as being restrained so they don't cause a distraction or interfere with the driver especially since more and more pet owners are choosing to take their dogs with them on days out and holidaying in the UK."

### Highway Code Advice:

Rule 57 of the Highway Code states:

When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars.

### Dogs Trust Veterinary Advice <

Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director at Dogs Trust says "It's important that when you are travelling with your dog, that they are travelling in a safe and comfortable way. There are many ways in which this can be done, so that the journey is a smooth experience for both dog owner and the dog themselves. Below are our top tips, whatever the time of year.

### > 12 Top Tips For Safer Pet Travel

#### Secure Your Pet:

Make sure your dog is secure and comfortable on a journey for their own safety and so they cannot distract you - they should be fitted with a correctly sized harness or within a travelling crate or container

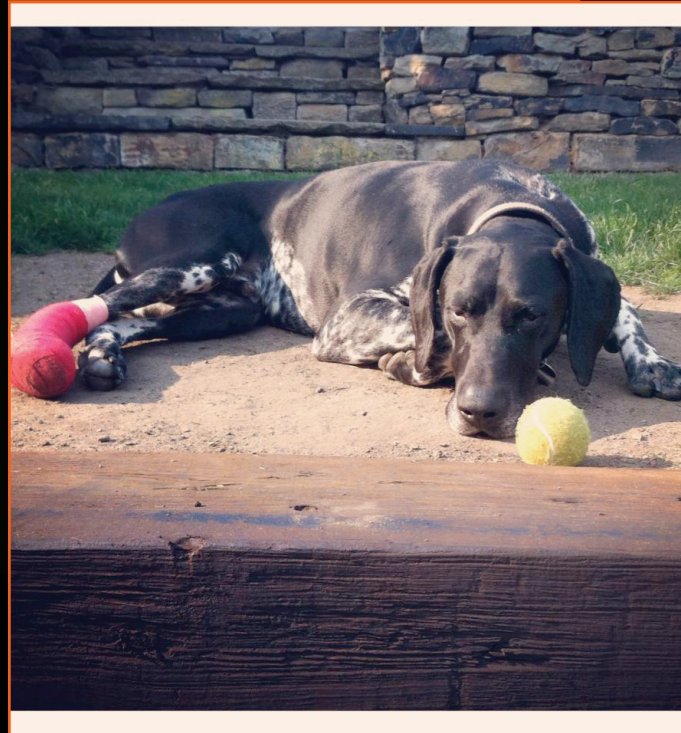
#### Never Leave Pets Alone In Cars :

Don't leave your dog alone in the car - even if it seems cool outside it can become very hot very quickly. Parking in the shade and/or keeping the windows down does not make it safe!

#### Keep Pets Cool :

Make sure you keep your dog as cool as possible when driving: avoid travelling during the heat of the day, use sun blinds on the windows and consider opening a window a little to allow a cooling breeze to circulate in the vehicle

### > Real Life Story



Pet owner Matthew Evans was involved in a multi-car accident on the motorway whilst travelling last summer on a camping holiday at the seaside with his 4 year old son and his dog. Matthew said 'Our dog Barney is a German Short Haired Pointer. He is our prince and we worship the ground he walks on. We never really understood the importance of pets being restrained in the car with a safety harness or crate until we were involved in a pile up on the motorway and Barney got hurt! Barney damaged his paw after falling forward from the back seat down into the

### Stop On Route To Give Pets A Drink

Make sure you have a supply of water and know where you can stop off on route for water breaks. Dogs are not able to cool down as effectively as humans so could suffer from heat stroke and dehydration very quickly.-

### Allow Pets To Adjust To Travelling

Allow your dog to become familiar with car journeys by ensuring they have positive experiences over a number of short trips before embarking on a long journey.

### Plan Journeys and Routes Carefully

Plan your journey time and route carefully as - you'll need to stop at regular intervals to exercise your pet.

### Consider Suitable Pet Destinations

Consider your pet with regards your destination. Busy environments, such as bustling city centres or loud carnivals and public events are not always suitable for dogs, as they can get distressed

### Feed Your Pet In Advance Of Travel

Feed your pet no sooner than two hours before a long journey, to ensure that your pet does not have a full stomach when travelling

### Always Have Harness / Lead At The Ready

Keep the dog's harness/lead close to hand in case you need to get out of the vehicle



### Do Not Let Dogs Hang Outside Cars

Dogs Trust advises that owners shouldn't allow their dog to hang their head out of the window while they are moving as this could be potentially dangerous for the dog, and distracting for the owner

### In An Emergency

If you see a distressed dog in a vehicle please call 999, or either the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 or the Scottish SPCA on 03000 999 999.

### Always Have Food At The Ready

Take a supply of your dogs usual food, in the event that you get stuck in traffic or have a breakdown.



### The New RAC Pet travel Safety Products <

After a successful 10 years in the market, Pet Brands felt it was time to improve, modernise and expand their popular RAC range of pet travel products to ensure dog and cat-loving motorists can always transport their pets safety. The range comprises of 33 additional new travel safety and outdoor accessories, extending the range to 57 items allowing a wider choice of standard and more advanced - more superior quality, long lasting, easy to fit, pet transport and outdoor products. Look out for our in-car products such as top-selling 2-in-1 travel safety/outdoor harnesses, travel crates, fabric carriers, cargo and mesh guards and car seat covers as well as outdoor items such as collars and leads, dog-walking bag packs, on the move feeding solutions and outdoor camp style pet beds.



### ACT NOW! Take A Pledge <



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RAC-PETS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RAC-PETS)

Join us on Facebook and pledge to make your car journey safer for your pet. Visit [www.actnowbuckleup.com](http://www.actnowbuckleup.com) for more pet travel safety advice.