

## Travelling with your Siberian Husky

Whether Siberian Huskies or any other breed, pet dogs travel with their masters by road, sea and air. Innumerable times, we've seen pets travel by road, haven't we? So far so good. But what's unsafe for them is when they hang out of the car window. This is as unsafe for kids as it is for pets.

❖ **On the road with your Siberian Husky:** As a Siberian Husky owner, you should take special care to see that even if your Siberian Husky is excited to be in the great outdoors, yet it should not lean out of the window. To prevent such an occurrence, you could do the following:

- Before setting out, give your Siberian Husky a small snack, roughly 1/3 of his normal diet. When you reach your destination, you can give him the rest
- Use a seat belt or a harness made specially for dogs so that they remain firmly in one place
- Of course, there are those pet carriers that double up as safety harnesses which you could safely use. But these days, you could also opt for safety sitters that join up with the shoulder seat belt of your car so that it keeps your Siberian Husky from being thrown, in case the car lurches forward rudely. This, as you perhaps know, can easily connect with any front or rear seatbelt. It comes with a handy buckle that can be fixed to your Siberian Husky's leash.
- If not this, perhaps your Siberian Husky would be more comfortable with a back seat mesh that could also be useful as a car barrier which will prevent your excited Siberian Husky from leaping into the front seat. The market today has many types of car barriers, but this soft cloth mesh car barrier is perfect for your pet if you have its safety and convenience in mind. Besides, this is more humane for your Siberian Husky since it will not indulge in either scratching or rattling. In addition, it is also simpler to install.
- Give him a pair of goggles. Your Siberian Husky too needs to be protected from the harsh sun. So, get him a pair of sunglasses that will protect his eyes both from the elements and from harmful ultraviolet rays, while also giving him a cute look.
- And just in case, you have a misadventure while driving, and your Siberian Husky is under stress, make him inhale a mixture of flower essences. This will calm his nerves if he has undergone shock, fear or stress. You could also make him inhale this just before you set out on your journey with your Siberian Husky.
- You could also fit a car booster seat that comes with a safety collar strap for dogs as small as your Siberian Husky. Since it has a cushioned and adjustable height, it proves advantageous for pets up to 20lbs. It can easily be attached to almost all passenger seats

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of cars. Besides, if your Siberian Husky is attracted to all that's happening outside the car, it can easily look out of the car window while you drive.

- Don't leave your pet unattended in the car at all. If you do this in summer, your car will soon become overheated, making your Siberian Husky very uncomfortable. He could also be stolen from the car
- Have your pet vaccinated

❖ **Flying with your Siberian Husky:** Dog owners usually like to fly with their pets for three main reasons. First, they want to holiday with their pets. Second, dog owners may want to show their dogs in large nationwide dog shows or events. Third, if you are moving house, naturally, your dog goes with you.

If you do choose to fly with your Siberian Husky, it could be either that your new home is too far away to drive to. Or that you don't have the energy or time to do a car drive, and certainly not with your pet. Plus, if you have children, taking along a pet becomes an additional responsibility. Having said that, flying with your Siberian Husky isn't easy either.

If you've already flown with your pet, you would know that on a commercial airline, you are faced with just two options to seat your pet—cabin or cargo. Your small Siberian Husky would be allowed in the cabin with you, as only small dogs are.

But if you do bring in a small pet, say your Siberian Husky, you must be able to fit in an appropriate sized carrier. Of course, carrier measurements vary from airline to airline, just as the charges also do.

Your dog carrier should be such that he should be able to stand and turn in it without any difficulty. Apart from a small size, your pet is fit to travel by air if he is also not under 8 weeks old. In addition, most airlines do not exceed the number of dogs per flight to more than seven.

Further, the size of your Siberian Husky and its weight are also parameters on which airlines decide whether they will let you and your Siberian Husky fly with them or not. During the flight, your pet will not be allowed to get out of its carrier or kennel.

If yours is a medium to large dog or even a dog that won't fit in the airline's carrier, then, opt for cargo. This is an entirely different experience for your pet. As you know, this is that section of the plane that is located just below the cabin, and is inaccessible to passengers during the flight.

A plane's cargo is indeed a very dark place where pets are kept just the same way as baggage is. Though the cargo area is well-ventilated, pressurized, and has heating and cooling facilities required for animal safety, yet there are times when things can go wrong.

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For the safety of the pets, airlines usually do not allow them to travel in extremes of temperature or during particular seasons. But if the weather is so changeable that we cannot determine or estimate weather conditions, it can be most stressful for both animals and airline staff.

As an extra precaution, airlines usually ask to see a health certificate issued by your vet, stating that your Siberian Husky is fit to travel. In fact, some airlines suggest you buy insurance for your pets—particularly if they are flying cargo class.

Vets usually disallow owners from doping their pets before a flight because of the effects of the tranquilizers on them when at an altitude. Besides, service or guide dogs are disallowed from travelling with their owners in the cabin, regardless of the former's size or breed. If pets are being transported from place to place because they are part of a search and rescue team, they are not allowed in the cabin.

So, with so many restrictions, what does the ordinary traveller, like you and me, do? One option is to charter a flight that may allow your dog, regardless of its size or breed, to accompany you in the cabin. All they ask is that your dog be brought in and kept on a leash or car seat during take off and while landing.

During the flight, however, the dog can move around freely and, in fact, even sit right next to you. Other than that, dogs are allowed to ride in the cabin with you, right next to you! However, this is an idea better left in air as it is frightfully expensive and can cost thousands of dollars.

Another alternative involves putting your Siberian Husky in a kennel or crate at the rear of the plane. While on flight, you can see your dog a couple of times.

A third alternative is to let your dog be driven to your new destination while you fly there. If your new destination is too far to drive, let shuttle services for dogs do a professional job of transporting your pet to his new home. Since dog owners are not allowed on this service, you can very easily fly and wait for your Siberian Husky to arrive by road.

Needless to say, this service will also take care of your Siberian Husky's potty and exercise breaks all along the way, apart from feeding it, giving it water from time to time and even treats and toys! While on the road, each pet is in his or her own carrier or cage. The bus has two or three drivers who each do an eight-hour schedule, which means that the shuttle is on the road for 24 hours non-stop!

However you choose to take your pet across the miles, there are certain tips that you would do well to follow. They are:

- Ensure that distractions on the road or in a different environment don't make your Siberian Husky fidgety and nervous to the extent of them moving around in the vehicle.

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- Keep your Siberian Husky in the cargo areas of station wagons and sports-utility vehicles that are fitted with barriers. Or else, you could keep your pet confined in a harness or in a portable kennel.
- A kennel is good enough, if your Siberian Husky is used to staying in one even while at home.
- Travelling supplies for your pet should include food, water, medicine, can opener, toys, leash and a collar
- Send your dog on the trip accompanied by his identification papers. These papers should be complete with an address, phone number and your vehicle license number.
- When travelling by air, find out in advance about the airline's rules concerning pets.
- If you decide to fly your Siberian Husky, buy a specialized carrier just for this flight. While on the aircraft, freeze some water in a plastic container and put it in the carrier next to him. As the ice melts, your Siberian Husky will be able to lick off the moisture.
- Be sure to provide adequate ventilation if you are travelling over long periods by car.
- A long international flight can be very hard on your Siberian Husky. If you have a stopover, see if you can bring your pet out there and pick it up. Airports in Europe allow you to walk your pet on a leash—something that they will enjoy after being cooped up for so long.

### **❖ Etiquette for the Travelling Dog**

#### **❖ Wherever you may be:**

- Before you set out of home on your journey, ring and find out if your hosts allow dogs in or not.
- If your dog is hostile to people, particularly strangers, don't travel with him. If he is good with children, for instance, that's a good sign. In case he's moody or not comfortable with others, you should initiate him into an obedience training class or hire a trainer to socialize him.
- Keep your Siberian Husky on a leash. Not only do most hoteliers, restaurant managers and festival coordinators require your dog to be on a leash, but those who are afraid of dogs will appreciate the gesture.

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- Always clean up after your dog. Pet stores sell pooper scooper bags. You can also buy sandwich bags from your local grocery store. They work quite well and are cheap!

- Ask your vet if your pet needs to be vaccinated before going on your journey. If he needs to be sedated before the journey, give an appropriate dosage under your vet's instructions

### ❖ **Festivals and outdoor events:**

- Before you enter a festival or event celebrations, let your Siberian Husky relieve itself. Usually, festival managers don't allow pets in because they sometimes use the washrooms meant for people.

### ❖ **Hotel lobby:**

- Ask the receptionist at the hotel desk if you can bring in your pet dog

### ❖ **Hotel rooms:**

- Since all hotels have their own set of rules regarding allowing in pets, you need to obey them. In fact, you could practice good etiquette by carrying along with you an extra sheet, if your Siberian Husky is in the habit of sleeping on a bed.

- When you reach a rest stop, keep your Siberian Husky on a leash for the safety's sake. In the presence of other people, your Siberian Husky can easily turn unpredictable.

- Does the hotel you live in allow you to leave your pet unattended? Check it out. If they do, leave your Siberian Husky with toys to amuse himself with.

- Don't leave your Siberian Husky in your hotel room all by himself. He can damage hotel property, bark continuously or scare the hotel staff.

- When you are in your hotel room with your Siberian Husky, hang up a Do Not Disturb sign on the door or keep it locked. By doing this, housekeeping staff will not be scared to see a pet when they enter your room.

- Don't allow your Siberian Husky to use your bathroom. Instead, take him to the bushes near the parking lot, usually designated for pet walks.

- Lay his food and water out in the bathroom or on a tiled floor. Pets usually eat messily, as you know, so you have to be careful.

- ❖ **Stores:** Before you enter a store, find out if your pet can enter it with you. If your Siberian Husky can go in with you, see that he doesn't head for the bathroom. If your dog uses the bathroom here, offer to clean up after him.

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### ❖ **Pet requirements:**

- Your Siberian Husky must be at least 8 weeks old and be weaned before flying out.
- His kennel must meet the standards in terms of size, strength, sanitation and ventilation.
- Your Siberian Husky's kennel must be enclosed, allowing sufficient room for it to stand, sit and lie down in a natural position. It must be easy to open, strong enough to withstand transportation problems, and be free of harmful objects.
- Your Siberian Husky needs to have a solid, leak proof floor with a covering of absorbent lining. Though sub-floors of wire are allowed, pegboard flooring is not. This allows for cleanliness while travelling.
- Give your Siberian Husky an airy kennel whose openings are about 14 percent of the total wall space. About five of these openings must be located on the top half of the kennel. In addition, it must have rims that will prevent the openings for air from being blocked by other cargo.
- Your Siberian Husky's kennel must have either grips or handles to lift it without cargo personnel putting their hands inside the kennel. If they do this, they run the risk of having their hands bitten by your Siberian Husky.
- Mark your kennel with the words "live animal" on the top and on one side, with lettering size being one inch high.

❖ **Feeding your Siberian Husky on your journey:** Before you send your pet into its kennel, you need to attach a list of feeding and watering instructions, valid for a 24-hour period. If you are travelling by air, the airline staff can carry out your instructions. Since you are the owner, you will have to provide a document that states that your Siberian Husky was last fed four hours before you began your journey.

You will have to attach food and water dishes too and must be easy to remove without the airhostesses having to open the kennel. You will have to ensure that food and water is given to your Siberian Husky every 12 hours if they are 8-16 weeks old. If you are travelling with an adult dog, allow him to be fed once every 24 hours and given water every 12 hours.

❖ **What to do if your pet gets lost:** You've got your luggage off the plane, but your pet hasn't arrived. What do you do? First, speak to the airline staff. With efficient computer tracking systems, your Siberian Husky can easily be located. Despite this, if you cannot find your Siberian Husky, do the following:

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- Get in touch with animal control agencies and humane societies in your areas, ask if they know of your Siberian Husky.
- Give the airline staff a description and photos of your Siberian Husky.
- Be in daily touch with all animal and pet organizations

We hope you always enjoy yourself with your Siberian Husky—whether at home or on holiday. If you've done so much to travel with your pet, you deserve a holiday. Now, go out and have fun. What else are pets and holidays for, anyway?