

MEDIA RELEASE

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Promoting
Responsible
Dog
Ownership



Dog friendly Christmas holidays save money and stress

Dog owners will be pleased to know that getting out of town over Christmas with their dog is not as difficult or expensive as it may sound. Pet friendly accommodation is available throughout Australia. Owners must prepare luggage for their dog, including food, bedding, and first aid, to ensure their dog enjoys their trip as much as they do. Dogs NSW urges owners to take their dogs on holiday this Christmas break for the benefit of the dogs and the owner.

There are several advantages of taking dogs on holidays rather than leaving them in boarding accommodation. Boarding kennels can be an expensive option, and can easily add hundreds of dollars to your holiday bill. Dogs can also experience separation anxiety being away from their owners for long periods, and can even become physically ill as a result.”, says veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesman **Dr Peter Higgins**.

“You’re actually much better off taking your dog up somewhere in the back of the car rather than leaving them at a boarding kennel. Though whatever you do, you should never leave dogs at home by themselves while you’re on holiday.”, advises **Dr Higgins**.

While there are many motels out of the main centres that are allowing dogs to stay with their owners, but now some hotels in large towns and cities that are starting to follow suit. Some will provide a dog bed on request for a limited number of guests. Dogs NSW advise to confirm by phone and in writing that pet dog are allowed at the accommodation.

It is essential to pack the correct luggage for dogs, just as you would your own. Dogs require enough food for their stay, as well as water while in transit. They need leads for walks, toys to keep the occupied, and some soft bedding to make them feel at home. A first aid kit is also a good idea.

“It is important to make sure that your dog is ready to be away from home. They need to be properly trained so they don’t get overwhelmed going to new places. Make sure they are micro-chipped and have an ID tag on their collar.”, urges **Dr Higgins**.

“Dogs will also benefit if efforts are made to keep them in routine. Continue to exercise them, and feed them at the same times throughout the day. This will ensure they enjoy their time away as much as you do. Taking the family dog on holiday can add extra fun and relaxation to a memorable festive break.”, states **Dr Higgins**.

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