

Is YOUR dog safe in your car?
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8 October 2021



[We sell first aid kits but we'd rather you didn't need to use them!](#)

Is YOUR dog safe in your car?

If not, you could also be breaking the law.



Travelling With Dogs In Cars

Did you know?

- 34% of drivers don't use a dog car seat or belt when out on the road with their furry friends. That's over a 3rd of dogs travelling in a dangerous manner.
- 1 in every 10 drivers let their dogs sit in the front passenger seat.
- Transporting your dog/pet without a car seat, seat belt & harness or a crate could leave you with 9 points on your licence.
- Transporting your dog/pet without a car seat, seat belt & harness or a crate could also lead to a fine of up to £2,500!
- 64% of drivers are unaware of the above!
- Driving with your pet that isn't in a car seat, harness, crate or seat belt can invalidate your car insurance!

Think Before You
Drive!



Under [The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006](#), and [The Welfare of](#)

[Animals \(Transport\) \(Wales\) Order 2007](#), it is illegal to transport an animal in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, **injury or unnecessary suffering** to that animal.

Some dogs are **terrified** in crates, which is one of the *three legal ways* you can safely travel with your dog in your car, so other, just as good ways luckily are also legal. We are a **no crate rescue** so would always advise alternative **safe and legal ways for your dogs to not only be safe but also enjoy going in the car!**

A better way perhaps is a combination of a car safe harness and seat belt or head rest clip. With such **safety laws** in mind, we have [sold both of these in our shop](#) since it opened, and what is really good about these is that they can be quickly adapted into an *emergency lead* too! Below is just one type we **sell**. The stretch of the bungee also absorbs shocks during sudden stops and going round corners.



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We also advise a good **hammock**, along with the clip and harness, although there are so many brands out there we don't really have a recommendation for that. Once the shop expands we hope to be able to stock our favourite/most trusted by our team hammock.

They have straps that go round the headrest of your front seats and back seats.



These can be big enough to cover the entire back seat, with or without zipped sides. Open sides



means it's easier to open and let the dogs in and out rather than zipping and clipping, but the ones with sides



do save your car upholstery! Here's one with just flaps and not zips that can be a good compromise between the two. There are also ones that are more like mini seats with sides



that take up just one seat in the back. These single seater tend to be in two sizes, to hold dogs up to 6kg and up to 10kg. These hammocks and single seats



are made to go in the back seat.

Just the same as a child under 12 or less than 135cm tall, which has been law since only 2006 dogs need to travel in the back too.

Think of your pup (legally) as like a baby up to three year old kid- not only do they have the vocabulary of one, they need to be kept safe in the back in the same way as you would your under three year old: in a car seat or

restraint.

Car grilles, that fit with screws



into the car behind the back seats



should your car be set up for one (like an estate car for example) is also a safe and legal way to have your dogs in the car. Head rest clips can also be used in the boot, and we wouldn't advise this for smaller dogs as they could roll all over the place if you're going round a corner or suddenly had to stop.

Of course when you're driving, there are hazards on the road all the time so is also important that a dog is suitably restrained in a vehicle so that it doesn't distract the driver or injure them if the vehicle stops quickly.

These are covered on rules 56 and 57 of the UK Highway Code.

Other animals (rules 56 to 58)

Hide 

Rule 56

Dogs. Do not let a dog out on the road on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the pavement, road or path shared with cyclists or horse riders.

Rule 57

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.

Just leaving the dog to wander on the back seat with their heads out of the window may be what they're used to, but it's been a no no since [at least 2017](#), and the last thing you or your dog wants is their last act in a car crash is be hurled by the force of the accident into the back of your seat, killing both of you.

But don't overdo it! Even in a crate they **MUST** have *enough room to sit and stand up at full height, turn around easily and lie down* in a natural position. You should also ensure that your dog is *able to see out* and that there is enough *ventilation* and airflow. Suitable *bedding* should be placed on the floor of a crate or a footwell in the car (if you use a footwell travel arrangement it's best to have a *floor anchored safety clip*) to prevent the dog from slipping around during the journey. Hammocks are non slip usually for the (preferred by us) non crate option, and you can get non slip back seat and boot mats and liners too.

And don't forget, you also need them to be **on a harness on public transport** as well with a visible and legal **ID tag**, [which we also sell](#) as we know how important it is to stick to this

law.

And which law is this? [The Control of Dog Act 1992](#) states that

a dog must have the **adopters' address** and a name on a pet tag or collar when out in a **public** place.

In fact, all dogs must have an **up to date microchip and visible and legal ID tag** on a collar or a harness when ever they are out of the house.

You can also be **fined** for not having this.

And unfortunately ignorance of the new laws won't be an excuse. Everybody please make sure your dogs are compliant with the new regs! Especially if the worse happened and your dog got *lost*, or even worse, *stolen or run over*... However with the *huge rise in dog thefts* we *no longer put the dog's name on tags* as we feel this makes a dog easier to entice away from an adopter and steal, and are campaigning to change the law on this and other vital dog related matters like [Tuk's Law](#), [Jasmine's Law](#) and [Lucy's Law](#).

For more useful hints and tips, and to apply to adopt, volunteer for us or sponsor, check out our [FB pinned post](#).

And if you need any stuff for your pup to stay safe in the car, we have a great range of safety (and cleaning!) products in our rescue shop

[safety clips and leads](#)

[safety and health on your travels](#)

and for once you [get on the walk](#) and [treats](#) too!

We are hoping as the rescue [shop](#) continues to get more and more popular, to be able to stock our team's top tried and tested harnesses too.

With proceeds going to our pups and our community hub, there are lots of reasons to shop from a rescue.

Always remember to make sure your dog's **microchip** and registry with someone like Petlog or Pettrac is **up to date**, as **having an out of date chip is also against the law!** With just a few precautions, your dog could love being in the car just as much as this Lora's Luck dog!



So please... keep your dogs safe!

Further reading

[DEFRA guide to dog welfare](#)

This Kennel Club page gives a brilliant [checklist](#) for getting your dog safely out and walking your dog, highly recommended! Many of the precautions and items they recommend are on sale in [our rescue shop](#).

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