

# TRAVELING WITH A GDB PUPPY

Before setting off on a journey with a GDB puppy, there are several things that need to be considered. Each puppy and each trip require individual consideration.

Please keep in mind that some restrictions apply to puppies under 4 months of age. Until fully vaccinated, puppies should not be exposed to places that unknown dogs frequent. Most puppies in this age range are not ready to meet many of the challenges that travel may present. Before traveling with a young puppy, please consider if the experiences the puppy may encounter are age appropriate.

*Puppies under 5 months of age are not permitted to be transported in the cabin of an airplane.*

## **AIRPLANE TRAVEL**

There are several things that should be considered before traveling with a puppy in the cabin of an airplane.

How long is the flight?

How long can the puppy go between relieving breaks during his regular routine?

Does the puppy have a good understanding of his basic commands and leash control?

Can the puppy maintain a down stay without requiring constant attention for the length of time of the planned trip?

Has the puppy practiced fitting into a tight area and maintaining a down stay?

Does the puppy have a history of relieving in public?

Traveling with a puppy in the cabin of an airplane is not a good time to practice these things for the first time. If you experience a problem, there is no way to remove the puppy from the situation.

## **Other travel situations to consider:**

Is your destination a place that may expose the puppy to ticks? We do not routinely treat puppies with a tick preventative and raisers taking a puppy to an area that may encounter ticks on their travels should ask their leader for a GDB provided tick prevention product.

If you plan to sight-see on your journey, are all of your scheduled destinations appropriate to take a puppy in training? Marathon shopping or sight seeing tours, Zoos or loud concerts are just some of the events that may not be appropriate for a puppy in training.

If you plan to stay with friends or relatives, are they prepared to accommodate the puppy for the duration of the stay?

Do not feed or water a puppy directly before long car ride or airplane travel.

A skipped meal will not hurt the puppy, but a full tummy might make him uncomfortable or increase the chance of a relieving accident.

Remember that puppies go through stages of development that may include a change in behavior. It is not uncommon at certain ages for a normally calm puppy to become fearful or over active or challenging. Do not assume that a puppy that was prepared at 6 months for a difficult journey suddenly refuses commands or does not want to walk on a familiar surface. Evaluate the preparedness of the puppy before each trip, not just based on past performance.

The public's perception of working dogs is sometimes solely influenced by their encounter with you and your GDB puppy. Poor experiences can influence the acceptance of working guides. Control problems, relieving accidents and barking can create a vivid negative impression on the public that witnesses such events. It is our responsibility to leave a favorable impression in the mind of everyone we meet with our Guide Dog puppy. It is also our responsibility to create positive experiences for the puppy.

### **Travel Checklist:**

ID Card

Puppy Coat

Health Certificate (required for flight)

Clean up kits (for solid and wet clean up)

Bowls

Food

Portable water

Training equipment (head collar, slip collar, training collar, tie down, etc. as needed)

Approval of your Leader

*With careful planning and consideration, both you and the GDB puppy can have a good travel experience. We ask that you check with your Puppy Club Leader before each long distance trip. Considering the fore mentioned information will help us decide if the puppy is prepared for such an adventure. The purpose of the discussion is not just so we know where the puppy is, but that you, the public and the puppy all have a safe and positive journey.*