

4paws ON THE ROAD

Traveling and Camping with Companion Animals
by Jenn Gehr



Hello, Jenn, Ginger and Brie. Love your fun to read column, btw! My beloved Husband- wink wink- insists on feeding our 3 dogs and 1 cat table scraps and junk food and I'm totally irate about it. Can you please give us your honest opinion about this topic? And can you please put in writing that "I AM RIGHT?!!!" lol

*Thank you for all your tips and help,
Ashton and Cameron Banks
Billings, MT*

JENN Mr. and Mrs. Banks, To help you avoid marriage counseling of any kind, I will not direct my answer to you, Ashton, but rather to all of our readers. However, I'm on your side of the boat and believe that too many folks feed their pets naughty people food, especially when they are camping possibly with the mind set that it's ok to slack off their pet's regular diet from time to time and chalk it up to a good spoil. It can't really hurt my four-legged friend... but can it? YES, yes it can. Not only can table scraps and human food cause serious organ damage but some foods alone can cause death. I don't think any of us would wish the slightest harm on our pets so steering clear of dishing out the people food of all kinds really is

best for Felix and Fido. Thanks for your very important question and I believe that the veterinarians of the world would back your concern and validate your stand that table scraps and junk food do NOT make up any part of your animal's diet- EVER.

*Hello, Fellow Campers! I stopped by your campsite last summer at the beautiful Seaside TT in Oregon. We just loved your set up, how well mannered your Bostons are and remembered that you have a big, wire fence around your immediate patio area. We have finally reached a point where we wish to buy a fence like you use but couldn't recall where you got yours- we loved the height and the segmented lengths. Do you recall the approximate cost to build about the same size pen you use for your dogs? You and Bill gave us sooooo many ideas that have helped us on the road. We really hope to catch up with you again in the future so we can learn more and let your dogs meet our new Corgi puppy! Two dogs ARE more fun!!
Much Obligated, Sadie and Tanner Craig
And "Daisy" the Corgi, plus the new little addition, "Delilah"*

JENN OHHhhh Myyyy Goodness! Daisy and Delilah! Congratulations on your family of FOUR! Those two dogs must be a hoot together and fill your days with lots of laughter. Having two small dogs is a blast as they enjoy each others company through exercise and grooming.

Having a pen set up for the dogs is far more safe and convenient than regularly untangling a birds nest of leashes. The pen allows the dogs to frolic off leash while being able to go in and out of the RV if they choose. I love that the dog pen protects my dogs from the hazards of passing cars and other passersby. Be sure to purchase a pen that is tall enough that your dogs cannot jump over it- something I failed at doing on the first round. I like having a pen with a gate built in as to avoid the need to step over the pen each time we wish to go out. We purchased three, 12' long panels (I would love to have four total...) and attached them all together with the supplied clips to form an area that meets our specific campsite needs and configurations. Each panel cost about \$35 and we ordered the set online from Walmart for an in-store pick up to avoid shipping fees. The Walmart price beat out anything we could find on line. They offer a variety of heights to choose from and I suggest going one size up just to be safe that the dogs cannot jump the fence and for that matter, an outside dog cannot jump in! We have chosen to make our pen large enough that we can set up several (people) chairs, ottomans, dog beds and a 15 gallon galvanized "water hole" for the dogs to wade in when it's hot. We regularly have fellow campers comment that we, the people, are in the dog house! And truth be told, we wouldn't have it any other way. Cheers, happy trails, and puppy dog tails!

Happy Trails, Y'all

*Email Jenn your questions
and share your pics at
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