

4paws ON THE ROAD

Traveling and Camping with Companion Animals

by Jenn Gehr



Jenn, This is now the second time my dog, Bits, a 25 pound Mini Aussie has been stung by a bee and has had a significant reaction. Her sweet face swells up sooo much and she gets welts all over her belly and her legs. With each sting, I have carefully used either my fingers to flick off the stinger and poison sack to be certain not to break off the stinger or squeeze any more of the poison into Bits' body. Per the vets rx, I have used Benadryl – 25 mg every 4-6 hours to help reduce the facial swelling and it works but it takes at least ½ hour to see results. My friends dear dog just died from a bee sting and now I'm a little more worried that if this were to happen again, there could be a chance that my over the counter med would not "bee" enough to help Bits distress. We are out traveling this summer and will not return to our hometown and regular vet for another three months. Both of these bee stings happened when I walking Bits in my horse's pasture where the clover is thick. Needless to say, that is now an off limit area for the dog! Thanks for your thoughts in advance.

*Heather Parks
Dallas, TX*

JENN Heather and Bits, Warding off an anaphylactic reaction is critical to your pet's safety. I highly suggest that you call your vet today and see if they might order Bits several dosages of an injection of intramuscular Epinephrine to go along with your suggested histamine

blocker. Just like an Epi-Pen used for a human with such allergies, the dose needs to be specific to your sized animal and in this case, would be a pediatric human dose. Your vet will help you get Bits all set up and I appreciate you sharing this common, life-threatening situation with our readers. The vet knows best! My dog, Ginger, is allergic to bee stings as well and had been stung on two separate occasions where the Benadryl just barely helped keep her from not being able to breathe. I was so concerned the last time that after she recovered, I took her to the vet to get a Epi-Pen as I know it just might save her little life one day. I'm hoping that Murphy's Law will kick in and now that I went to the trouble of acquiring the pen, I will never need it! I have found that when I'm hiking with a preloaded Epi-Pen, they travel well in a dark colored toothbrush case, secured with duct tape. Epinephrine needs to be kept out of direct light and the toothbrush case accomplishes this while keeping the syringe safe from becoming crushed or the plunger depressed. Remember to always carry more than one of your recommended Benadryl dosages along with you as well! Thanks again and "bee" safe!

Hi! I was wondering if you might suggest anything to help keep my dog, Sky, a 2 year old Aussie Mix, from vomiting in the car when we travel. We usually leave early in the morning for weekend trips and several hours into the trip (or less) she hurls her entire breakfast. Other than seeming to enjoy her car rides, she is calm and sleeps when we are in motion.

Thank you,

*Ruby and Tyler Grand
Corvallis, OR*

JENN I understand first hand the frustration and concern watching a dog routinely become car sick. Thank you for letting me know that this is a common occurrence and that Sky's seems to be calm when she's in the car despite getting excited to go along with you. It doesn't sound like she's nervous – any heavy panting, drooling, weaving, pawing or barking would be a strong indicator of such concern. I suggest simply not feeding Sky the morning that you plan to travel. This includes omitting any food treats. An empty stomach will be less likely to become upset and you can always give her a meal once you reach your destination. By then, she will be ready to eat, go for a walk and enjoy your new camping location. Please let me know how this plays out the next time you trip plan with Sky.

*Email Jenn your questions
and share your pics at
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