



## Beach Time with Dogs



We are lucky enough to live in Jacksonville Florida with beaches within driving distance all year! Some of us take advantage of the great scenery and include our dogs in the fun. Below are tips to make a trip to the beach enjoyable for your dog too!

- Be sure the beach is dog friendly. Some beaches have specific hours that dogs can spend time on the beach. Here is a link that includes dog friendly beaches: [http://petfriendlytravel.com/dog\\_beaches#Florida](http://petfriendlytravel.com/dog_beaches#Florida)
- Always clean up after your dog, bring extra poop bags. Nothing could be worse than spending a day at the beach and stepping on something a dog left behind
- Don't let your dog drink salt water, it can make their stomachs upset, which can result in loose stool and or vomiting
- Comply with leash laws. Just because your dog is social and friendly does not give him the right to invade other people or animal's space.
- Hot sand can burn paw pads. Take your dog to the beach on a day and time that will not cause discomfort. Some people even invest in dog booties to protect paw pads
- Remember that dogs can suffer from heat exhaustion and do not sweat the way that humans do. This means that their body cannot regulate temperatures the way that ours will. Bring an umbrella for shade and fresh water. If it is too hot for you, it is definitely too hot for your dog
- Watch that your dog does not eat things off of the ground. Trash on the beach could make your dog ill
- If you notice jellyfish, steer clear of the water

- If you aren't sure if your dog is a great swimmer, invest in a doggie life vest. Never force your dog into the water. Some dogs may prefer to stay on land
- Thin coated dogs (especially those with a light colored coat) should have sunscreen applied. Just like humans, dogs can suffer from sunburn
- If your dog does go for a swim, wipe ears after to prevent infections
- Bring lots of rewards, and when your dog is polite around other people and dogs, give him a treat or let him play with a toy. A trip to the beach is a great training opportunity!

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