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Dogs and Cars

Posted on [March 1, 2011](#) by [Maquis](#)

Note: This is a guest post from pet lifestyle expert Sandy Robins. Car safety is such a no-brainer... for us! But do you take your dog's safety into consideration? I know that I don't do as good of a job as I should, but these tips inspired me to implement some additional safety measures!

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We all remember the "hoo-hah" when the paparazzi photographed Britney Spears driving around with her baby on her lap. Yet how often do you see people driving around with dogs sitting on laps and no one bats an eyelid?

The danger is actually one and the same.



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It's interesting too that we are conscientious about strapping down luggage for a road trip but are happy to let out pets bounce around on the back seat.

According to statistics published by Toyota, a 60 lb dog travelling in a vehicle at 35 mph turns into a 2 700 lb projectile if that vehicle suddenly has to break. And the chances of a pet distracting the driver are very real because unrestrained pets are the third biggest distraction in car after cell phones and dash dining.

Well, hopefully things are about to change as the automaker has made pet safety in vehicles its new pet project. To make pet lovers aware that they are taking this commitment seriously, they have publically acknowledged that there are extending their definition of customer to include the family dog and cat and are now designing cars with special features to make their vehicles more pet friendly.

Pet friendly features comprise the careful positioning of air-conditioning vents to ensure that the entire vehicle especially the cargo sections in crossovers and SUVs remain cool. It includes plenty of D-rings all over the vehicle so that pets wearing harnesses and leashes can be safely restrained and lots of extra storage space for pet paraphernalia from food and water to toys for road trips. And rear view cameras to ensure there are no pets in the driveway when you are backing out.

When it comes to crossover vehicles like the Venza and SUVs like the Highlander, the Sienna, the Sequoia, the cargo sections are being specially designed to hold at least two large crates that in turn can be strapped into place.

Further, special pet-friendly accessories, are now being sold at Toyota dealerships so that pet parents can purchase them at the time of the purchase of the car.

Here's the bottom line; for every excuse for an unrestrained pet, then is now a practical answer.

Excuse: I have a small dog and he loves to look out window so I put him on my lap so that he can see out.

Answer: A special doggie booster seat, designed along the lines of a baby car seat will give a small pet a great view of the passing parade while being safely strapped in at the same time.