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# PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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## CANINE BOAT SAFETY

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### **Dog On Board**

Boating has taken a surge in popularity in the past few years and coupled with the fact that many dog owners consider their pets as family members, and want to include them in many of their activities, boat safety for dogs is now commonplace.

Keep your pup well supervised while out on the boat.

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Make sure he has a shady area to rest in, and lots of cool water. A collapsible water dish is ideal.

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Dogs should wear life jackets when in the boat. It has little to do with the fact that your dog may or may not swim, but more to do with the fact that if your dog becomes injured during a boating accident, this may save his life.

Getting your dog used to a boat might take some work. While many dogs relish the thought of the open water, some are more apprehensive. Introduce the boat slowly. Make sure your dog is comfortable sitting in the boat before starting the motor. Take along a favorite toy and make the initial few outings slow.

Never tie your dog into the boat. If the boat is involved in an accident, he will want to be able to swim to shore. One idea is to tether your dog to your waist. This may help if your dog does decide to go overboard and explore the lake. You can use the line to guide him back to the boat.

If you have a powerboat, keep your dog at a safe distance from the motor. A great place for us to sit and catch a few sun rays is on the deck of a boat, but your dog does not have the benefit of rubber soled deck shoes and may find this footing a bit too slippery.

Just as in any trip, make sure appropriate identification is attached to your dog before starting out in the boat.

Take the time to consider the safety and comfort of your dog, and you will enjoy many happy boat rides with your buddy.



It is important to make sure you dog can easily get in and out of your boat.

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Take the time to teach him how to use the ramp.

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