

Dog Hiking Gear Checklist

Not every dog needs boots or a backpack. Start with safety and function to ensure a secure, enjoyable trip for you and your companion.



1 Before Choosing the Trail

- ☐ Confirm dogs are allowed on the exact route.
- ☐ Check distance, elevation and trail surface.
- ☐ Review weather, alerts and seasonal restrictions.
- ☐ Identify water and rest opportunities.
- ☐ Find the nearest practical exit points.
- ☐ Decide how the dog could be carried in an emergency.

2 Before Packing

- ☐ Secure leash that complies with local rules
- ☐ Well-fitting harness or collar
- ☐ Identification tags and current contact details
- ☐ Water and a collapsible bowl
- ☐ Suitable food or treats
- ☐ Waste bags and a way to carry used bags out
- ☐ Dog-specific first-aid supplies
- ☐ Necessary medication
- ☐ Paw protection when conditions require it
- ☐ Towel, brush or comb for post-hike checks
- ☐ Emergency carry sling for remote routes
- ☐ Current photograph of the dog

3 Before Leaving Home

- ☐ Recheck the official trail page.
- ☐ Confirm the temperature for the complete outing.
- ☐ Fill water containers.
- ☐ Check the leash, harness and identification.
- ☐ Download or carry the route map.
- ☐ Tell someone where you are going.
- ☐ Confirm the dog appears healthy and comfortable.

4 After the Hike

- ☐ Check every paw.
- ☐ Inspect the coat and skin for ticks and debris.
- ☐ Offer water and allow quiet recovery.
- ☐ Clean and dry the leash, harness and bowls.
- ☐ Record distance, weather and any difficulty.
- ☐ Seek veterinary advice for persistent limping, breathing changes or unusual behavior.

Trail Notes & Observations

DOG'S CONDITION & BEHAVIOR

TRAIL STATS

POST-HIKE CHECKS

Trail Name _____

Paw Check _____

Distance _____

Tick Check _____

Weather/Temp _____

Gear Notes _____