



Media Information

MINI and Dogs Trust's top tips for happy travel with your V.I.Pooches.

MINI UK and partner Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, are on a mission to help you and your Very Important Pooches (VIPs) travel safely and happily during the festive period.

One in three households in the UK now include a dog¹ and online searches for 'how to travel with a dog' have risen by 97%² ahead of the holiday season, so MINI and Dogs Trust have compiled five top tips for calmer car journeys.

GET YOUR CAR AND CANINE ACQUAINTED.

It's a good idea to introduce car travel gently and as early on as possible. Dogs having choice around a new or scary thing improves their confidence long-term.

You can start by simply acquainting your dog or puppy with the car itself. Encourage them to have a good sniff and get familiar with your vehicle's scent. Open up the doors and boot, allowing them to hop in and out at their leisure. A tasty reward for their nose work will help build positive associations with the car.

IT'S ALL IN THE BODY LANGUAGE.

Signs of distress can be shaking, panting and pulling away from the car. There are so many reasons a dog might feel anxious about car journeys – so introduce your dog to the car slowly and try to take some trips purely for fun to the beach or park. That way you'll begin to build positive associations. Watch out for signs of over-stimulation and stress and take a break and a few steps back to the point your dog was comfortable.

KEEP YOUR HOUND SAFE AND SOUND.

Consider where your dog will travel and protect your pooch by securing them in place with a harness, guard or crate. That way they'll be restrained if you have to

BMW Group Company

Postal Address
MINI UK
Summit One
Summit Avenue
Farnborough
Hampshire
GU14 0FB

Telephone
+44 (0) 1252 920 000

Internet
www.mini.co.uk

¹ PFMA Pet Population report

² Data for 'how to travel with a dog' collated from Google Trends 10th October – 19th November

make a sudden stop. It'll also help to keep them out of the driver's way, and avoid distractions while you're on the move.

THREE POINT TURN.

Can your dog do a 'three-point turn' in the back of the car? Your dog should be able to stand up, turn around comfortably and lie down in their space in the car.

IN CAR SNACKS.

Everyone enjoys an in-car treat, including your doggie pals. Bring your pooches' favourite treats on trips to reward them for being a great travel companion. You could prepare them a long-lasting chew for the journey or a passenger could drop them a little reward every now and then.

David George, Director of MINI UK says, "With more dogs in families now than ever before, we're really happy to be working with Dogs Trust to support our MINI and dog-loving customers to help make sure they travel safely and enjoy the ride."

MINI is a sponsor at DogFest Christmas at Crystal Palace Park on Saturday 27th November and Dogs Trust are the official charity partner for the event. Visitors will be able to try out the travel tips first-hand with a MINI Clubman, or even have a go around the MINI Dogstacle course, as well as visit the Dogs Trust Village to find out more about the important work they do.

For more information at the MINI and Dogs Trust partnership, visit the MINI Dogs Hub: https://www.mini.co.uk/en_GB/home/mini-dogs-hub.html

Ends

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2020, the BMW Group sold over 2.3 million passenger vehicles and more than 169,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2020 was € 5.222 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.990 billion. As of 31 December 2020, the BMW Group had a workforce of 120,726 employees.

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Postal Address
MINI UK
Summit One
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Farnborough
Hampshire
GU14 0FB

Telephone
+44 (0) 1252 920 000

Internet
www.mini.co.uk

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmwgroup>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bmw-group/>

About Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity and normally cares for around 14,000 dogs across its network of 20 rehoming centres in the UK and one in Dublin. Dogs Trust has a non-destruction policy and will never put a healthy dog to sleep. The charity also focuses its efforts on understanding dogs and sharing that knowledge with the wider public to prevent problem behaviours that can result in relinquishment or abandonment. We are working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

Website: <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/>

MINI Press Office Contacts:

Helen Wilson
Senior Press Officer, BMW & MINI Communications
Tel: 07815 372480
Email: Helen.Wilson@bmw.co.uk

Georgina Cox
MINI Media Relations Manager
Tel: 07815 370878
Email: Georgina.Cox@mini.co.uk

Emma Begley
General Manager, Product and Internal Communications
Tel: 07815 371062
Email: Emma.Begley@bmw.co.uk

Graham Biggs
Corporate Communications Director
Tel: 07815 376867
Email: Graham.Biggs@bmw.co.uk

Media website:
www.press.bmwgroup.co.uk
www.mini.co.uk
www.twitter.com/miniuk
www.facebook.com/miniuk
www.youtube.com/miniuk

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