

Finding a Vet While Traveling

I love to travel. And, traveling with a disability has presented me with many interesting challenges and situations throughout the years. So, of course, traveling with an assistance dog has added additional scenarios that I have had to address.

During a couple of out-of-state trips, my assistance dog, Whistle, had some minor medical issues that required professional attention. My husband, Franz, and I found ourselves on each of these occasions in a hotel trying to locate a qualified veterinarian in an unknown community.

I am happy to report that on both occasions Whistle received excellent care. But, it was a stressful situation until we were able to find a vet clinic and get the medical care and medicine that he needed. Now when I travel, I do some additional planning and create my own resource list.

Vet Search and Resource List

- Check with your local vet to see if he knows of a vet in your planned travel destination.
- Search the Internet to find a 24-hour emergency vet clinic close to your hotel
- Identify one or two vets in the area, besides the emergency vet
- Search for a local dog supply store
- Compile the information you find on a one-page resource list
- Place the list in a plastic sheet protector and file it in your travel folder along with tickets and other travel documents
- Use colored paper to make the list easier to locate when you might be stressed
- Keep a copy in your suitcase as well as in a backpack or carry-on luggage

If you need to visit a vet while traveling, ask your regular vet to fax or email a copy of your dog's medical records. This will help the new vet to quickly assess your dog's health needs.

When you travel with an assistance dog or other dog, it is always possible that your dog might need veterinarian care while you two are on a trip. With a little pre-planning, you can respond to any situation and keep your dog happy and healthy and your travel plans on schedule!

Marcie and Whistle 

