



Use of Dog Travel Restraining

Harnesses in the Cabin of Aircraft

Purpose

To provide guidance on best practise, regarding the use of travel restraining harnesses on assistance dogs in the cabin of aircraft.

All assistance dogs, permitted to travel in the cabin of an aircraft, must be restrained using a travel restraining harness secured to a locked seatbelt on take-off, landing and at other times where the seatbelt sign is illuminated. It is recommended by Guide Dogs UK, that this restraining harness remain on the dog throughout the flight, if the dog has the requisite space to lie down and turn around with relative ease and comfort.

The travel restraining harness that should be used, is the type sold specifically for the purpose of restraining a dog in vehicles.

An assistance dog's guiding, or control harness is not designed to perform as a restraint for a dog, so should not be used for this purpose. However, this may be something the assistance dog handler uses on and off the aircraft, or when visiting the toilet and other facilities in flight, for guiding and/or control of their dog.

Because of the limited space in the aircraft, it may be advisable for assistance dog handlers to fit their dogs restraining harness in the terminal building before boarding the flight. Likewise, it may be easier for the restraining harness to stay on the dog when exiting the aircraft and remove it in the terminal.

Whilst having a guiding and restraining harness, or a harness and jacket on a dog at the same time is not ideal, this would be ok for the short distance and time between the terminal and aircraft.

It is not unreasonable for airline staff to ask an assistance dog owner to place their dogs guiding or control harness in the overhead locker when not in use, if that individual is supported to place and recover the harness at the appropriate point at the start, during or end of the flight.

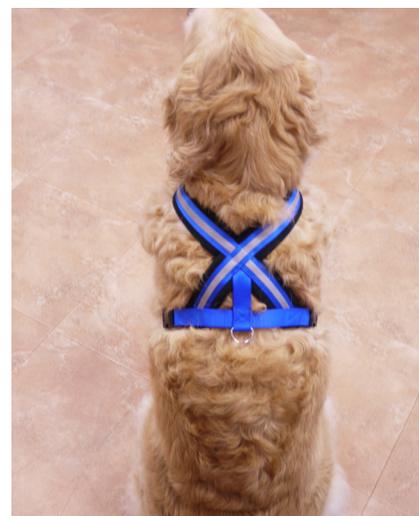
It is up to an assistance dog owner to provide an appropriate travel restraining harness for their dog in flight.



Kurgo true fit smart, easy to fit, comfortable and safe.



Eazydog Drive, safest but least comfortable.



Company of Animals comfy harness, not designed for travel reflective and good for exercise.

Organisations like Guide Dogs and other members of Assistance Dogs UK will advise assistance dog handlers about the appropriate type of travel restraining harness, if requested.

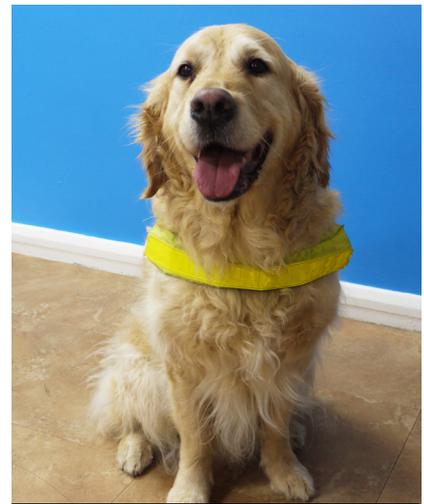
Nearly all UK and European airlines will require an assistance dog to be secured to the seat with a travel restraining harness. This is done by attaching its securing strap, carabiner or a seatbelt extender to the seatbelt, and to give the dog room to turn around and lie down whilst being secure. If a seatbelt extender is used, it should only be a bridge between the restraining harness to the seatbelt, and not be placed around the body of the dog.

It is not acceptable under any circumstances for a dog lead and/or collar to be used as a restraining device. Use of anything other than a travel restraining harness could cause irreparable damage to the dog if turbulence or other factors impacted on the dog's restraint.

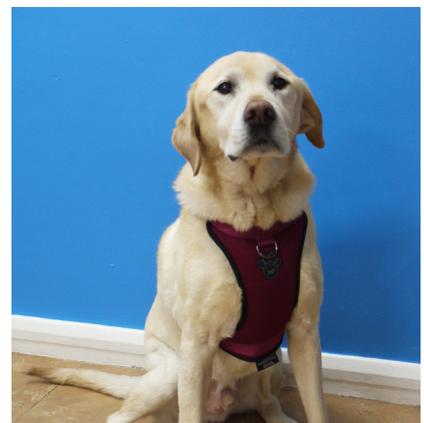
Airline staff should check that the dog has been secured but should not physically interfere with the process of securing the dog, unless requested and directed by its handler. Assistance dog handlers are advised to be fully confident on how their travel restraining harness is secured to their assistance dog before flying, as this is not the responsibility of the airline or its crew.

All training organisations who are members of Assistance Dogs UK, make it a mandatory requirement of qualified dog partnerships, for these dogs to wear a travel restraining harness when flying. Issues that result from assistance dog handlers not securing their dog in the cabin of the aircraft, may result in a withdrawal of support from the relevant training organisation.

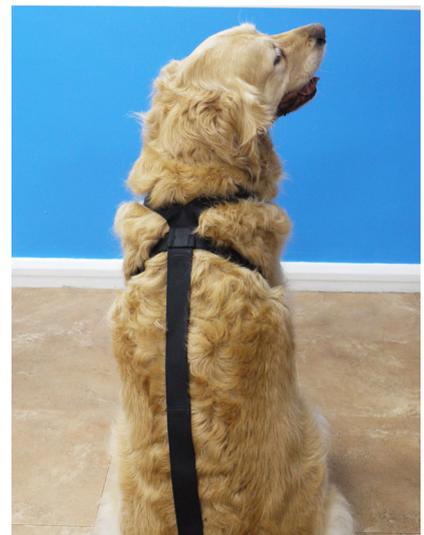
The following pictures demonstrate the range of restraining harnesses available to support a dog when travelling.



Guide Dog harness, NOT designed for restraint.



Canada Pooch no pull harness, not recommended as it restricts dog movement.



Clix Car Safe, MORE CAR TRAVEL BY DESIGN, easy to fit.



Ancol travel and exercise, comfortable, padded and easy to fit.