**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this badge and training is to increase awareness of safety practices, increase responsible parenting practices and aid in accident/emergency prevention and preparedness. By taking a few simple steps prior to leaving home with the dog, the handler can greatly decrease the likelihood of having to deal with an emergency situation and will be able to increase the safety of the dog.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** In earning the Travel Safety badge the dog learns and demonstrates his ability to ride quietly in a vehicle without causing distraction, while contained in a secured crate or by a crash-rated seatbelt. The dog must come to a stranger when running free and remain in the vehicle until given a release cue by the handler. The First Aid badge is a prerequisite for earning the Travel Safety badge.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** This badge is intended as a demonstration of how the owner ALWAYS travels with his/her dog, whether it is on a long trip or just a few blocks. The badge is not intended as a “one-time” demo of how it COULD be, but rather how it IS whenever the dog is in the vehicle. It is meant to be a badge earned because of long-term use of the safety skills and practices required to earn the badge. This badge requires significant commitment to safe travel on the part of the handler.

The handler must educate him/herself on travel safety practices, including the need to always have identification on the dog, securing the dog in the vehicle when traveling, ensuring emergency information for people and dogs is always in the vehicle, building and carrying a first aid kit, understanding practices for staying in a hotel, and knowing special items and/or pre-trip actions needed for travel to different locations (out of the country, including, to the beach, to an arid location, to a cold location, etc.) Additionally, the handler has a clear understanding of items needed and practices for travel by plane, train and automobile.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** A number of things are necessary in order to meet the requirements for this badge, including pre-work on the part of the owner to prepare customized emergency information for the vehicle and to create a first aid kit. Items needed are as follows:

* A crash-rated seatbelt or crate that is secured to the vehicle
* Identification on the dog in the form of tags, a microchip, etc.
* A first aid kit owned by the handler and stored in the vehicle
* Emergency info for humans and dogs (dog’s/human’s picture, emergency contact info, medical info for pets and people, temperament info, etc.) with the location of the information in the vehicle clearly identified on the driver’s side door
* Proof that the dog has earned the First Aid badge

**PROCESS:** The Evaluator must clearly see that all of the requirements are met AND that there is evidence that they are practiced consistently. Emergency information will be evaluated to determine if it is current. The first aid kit must be one that remains in the vehicle at all times and is updated as needed to ensure items have not passed their ‘use by’ dates. The evaluator will ask questions to determine the handler’s understanding of how to use the items in the first aid kit, pre-trip considerations for different situations, and practices for staying in a hotel. Additionally, the handler must show where the first aid kit is kept in the vehicle and be prepared to explain their choice for a restraint system for the dog while traveling in the vehicle.

The evaluator will test the dog to determine if he routinely rides quietly in the vehicle, to see if he will come to a stranger when out of the vehicle and unrestrained, and if he waits in the vehicle when the door is opened until he is given a release cue by the handler.

In order to demonstrate that the dog does not leave the vehicle until released, the evaluator will watch for the following:

1. The handler opens the door of the vehicle
2. The crate door is opened or the harness is unclipped and the dog is cued to stay in the vehicle
3. The handler steps back out of the dog’s path
4. The dog stays in the vehicle for about 5 seconds until he is given a release cue

To evaluate the dog’s willingness to come when called by a stranger, the evaluator will need to observe the following:

1. The dog in the vehicle with the door closed
2. The handler moves out of sight and out of reach of the dog
3. A helper or the evaluator opens the vehicle door and asks the dog to exit
4. A second helper positioned away from the vehicle calls the dog without using his name, treats or toys to entice him to come
5. The dog needs to come close enough to the person to be grabbed by his collar
6. Once captured, the dog is returned to the handler

Dogs that are loose without the handler in sight can act very unpredictably. If there is any sign of aggression, the dog does not pass, and the helper should immediately back off and get the owner. Helpers must be especially careful when reaching for or holding the dog’s collar as this may be when some dogs show aggression out of fear because they feel trapped. The helper should always take the dog to the owner during practice to help the dog understand the process and reduce fear. This way, the dog learns that the fastest way to find or get to the owner is to go to the person calling him.

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| ALLOWED: | NOT ALLOWED: |
| * Repeated cues | * Dog’s name, treats or toys during the recall |
| * Giving encouragement to the dog during testing | * Person from the same household acting as the stranger |
| * Rewarding the dog after testing items | * First aid kit not owned by the handler |
|  | * Blocking the vehicle exit to keep him there |
|  | * Out-of-date emergency information * Expired first aid items * Any show of aggression |

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