



A “Cool List” for your Saint Bernard

by John Cox

This list is a composite of ideas from Saint Bernard fanciers used to keep their dogs cool when traveling. It is always good to have a plan and equipment with you on a trip. One NEVER knows when a car can break down on the road and there you are, along side the road, in the heat with your Saint Bernard. It could be hours before help arrives depending where you break down!

- 1) Think of purchasing (your next car) a WHITE car!
- 2) Sun roof to let the heat out, plus it works well with all the windows down for a good cross breeze.
- 3) Silver Space Blankets and clips to put on the roof/sides and windshield of the car (check out the camping stores or dog vendors). Reflect the heat away! A solid silver space blanket on the roof and sides works well to keep the heat out. There are silver mesh styles which may also be placed over the open windows that allow air flow.
- 4) Large open wire crate for maximum ventilation.
- 5) Canine Cooler (water bed--do a Google search) mat on the bottom of the crate. These are heavy (filled with water) and once in place they are great. As a bonus, this style of bed is excellent in providing a soft surface for protecting the dog's elbows and joints. In winter months put a fleece cover over the bed.
- 6) 12-inch fan (12-volt) can be purchased at stores such as Camping World. Small crate fans are next to worthless as they do not produce much air flow for a Saint Bernard.
- 7) Portable Battery Jump Starter (Wal-Mart, Sears or Shucks Auto Stores) *with a 12-volt accessory plug-in* to run above fan (saves the car battery). These are 110-volt re-chargeable.
- 8) Non-spill water dish for inside the crate.
- 9) Large Box Fan with extension cord for when you can use a 110-volt hook-up (carry a 3-prong adaptor just in case you should encounter a non-grounded style outlet). The box fan can be tied on the top of the crate blowing down and not take up valuable space. Also, an inverter can be purchased to use this style fan with your car battery if needed for a short term.
- 10) Carry LOTS of water by the gallons, plus an ice chest *filled* with ice. Liter bottles can be filled with water and frozen before the trip. These work well in the crates as a cool item for the dog lay up against. Another item is dampened towels (frozen in the freezer) then added to the ice chest before leaving.