

Background & Methodology

Conducted 2,460 surveys among residents who own a dog in The Auto Club Group territory

- Fielding took place August 5 – 13, 2026
- Utilized a proprietary online research panel
- Weighted by age and gender within state

Key Measures

- Driving Habits with Dogs
- Traveling with Dogs

1. Do you currently own a dog?

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	400	400	405	422	414	439	445	400	400	403	400	427	4,955
Yes	59%	50%	50%	48%	49%	45%	45%	52%	49%	50%	54%	46%	50%
No	41%	50%	50%	52%	51%	55%	55%	48%	51%	50%	46%	54%	50%

2. On average, how often does your dog ride in your vehicle?

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	234	201	201	200	200	201	200	207	200	200	216	200	2,460
Never	8%	11%	15%	4%	9%	12%	8%	11%	11%	15%	16%	6%	11%
Less than once a month	29%	27%	30%	26%	27%	21%	27%	33%	30%	29%	30%	24%	27%
1–3 times per month	26%	20%	22%	31%	25%	27%	23%	23%	25%	27%	25%	23%	24%
About once a week	16%	13%	15%	16%	17%	14%	17%	11%	16%	11%	12%	16%	15%
2–5 times per week	11%	14%	9%	11%	13%	15%	17%	11%	13%	11%	10%	19%	13%
Daily or almost daily	10%	15%	9%	12%	9%	11%	8%	11%	5%	7%	7%	12%	10%

3. Where does your dog typically ride when traveling in a vehicle? (Select all that apply)

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
Back seat	67%	66%	63%	61%	55%	67%	60%	60%	61%	61%	64%	70%	64%
Front seat	26%	25%	28%	30%	36%	26%	33%	31%	30%	30%	27%	25%	28%
Cargo area inside the vehicle (e.g., SUV or hatchback cargo area)	15%	14%	12%	17%	11%	9%	18%	12%	18%	11%	10%	14%	14%
Moves freely throughout the vehicle	6%	8%	8%	10%	12%	12%	11%	11%	9%	7%	9%	11%	9%
Exterior truck bed	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%

4. How is your dog typically restrained while traveling in a vehicle? (Select all that apply)

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
Pet seat belt or harness	25%	39%	27%	37%	27%	32%	24%	32%	36%	37%	27%	31%	33%
Held by passenger	13%	18%	19%	16%	20%	16%	14%	14%	18%	19%	17%	10%	17%
Crate or carrier	13%	12%	18%	13%	8%	7%	11%	6%	16%	10%	13%	12%	12%
Vehicle barrier/gate	13%	15%	15%	11%	5%	12%	6%	9%	9%	11%	11%	6%	12%
Held by driver	5%	5%	12%	8%	8%	3%	6%	4%	8%	7%	9%	3%	7%
Other restraint method	4%	1%	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	6%	3%
My dog moves freely/is unrestrained while traveling in a vehicle	41%	28%	27%	31%	37%	38%	47%	40%	28%	28%	33%	42%	32%

5. Why have you let your dog ride unrestrained while in a vehicle? (Select all that apply) - Asked if dog moves freely/unrestrained in vehicle or has ridden in the exterior truck bed

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
So they can stick their head out the window	36%	43%	41%	50%	51%	49%	33%	43%	49%	44%	41%	44%	44%
I don't own a proper vehicle restraint for the dog	44%	25%	41%	26%	38%	26%	46%	43%	39%	33%	41%	40%	34%
I feel bad for them if they ride in a crate	16%	19%	17%	21%	23%	16%	17%	15%	24%	17%	11%	14%	18%
Makes too much noise while restrained or in a crate	5%	11%	19%	16%	6%	12%	10%	8%	14%	14%	5%	8%	11%
Well trained/lays down or sits during car rides	7%	12%	8%	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%	7%	6%	9%	3%	7%
So they can sit in my lap while I drive	2%	8%	7%	9%	5%	10%	5%	3%	1%	5%	7%	4%	6%
Dog is too big for a crate	2%	4%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Other	9%	5%	2%	3%	7%	5%	7%	7%	0%	9%	4%	15%	5%

6. How important do you think it is to restrain a dog while traveling in a vehicle?

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
Very important	43%	55%	62%	52%	41%	47%	38%	39%	51%	48%	52%	47%	51%
Somewhat important	48%	37%	25%	36%	43%	38%	50%	49%	37%	44%	38%	42%	38%
Not important	9%	8%	13%	12%	16%	15%	12%	12%	12%	8%	10%	11%	11%

7. What types of distractions have you experienced from your dog while driving? (Select all that apply)

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
Barking or whining	30%	29%	30%	35%	31%	33%	30%	25%	29%	36%	36%	33%	31%
Seeking attention (i.e., petting)	28%	22%	30%	28%	20%	21%	27%	26%	25%	28%	27%	24%	25%
Moving between seats	24%	20%	27%	20%	33%	25%	26%	28%	24%	26%	32%	26%	24%
Jumping into the front seat	21%	18%	26%	22%	21%	19%	16%	21%	20%	24%	21%	19%	21%
Hanging its head out of the window	19%	11%	18%	21%	21%	20%	19%	14%	14%	16%	21%	15%	17%
Sitting on a person's lap	19%	15%	15%	16%	14%	13%	15%	12%	18%	14%	16%	13%	15%
Blocking the driver's view	13%	12%	15%	13%	14%	13%	19%	13%	11%	15%	14%	13%	13%
Giving food or water	8%	10%	12%	8%	6%	10%	3%	5%	6%	9%	13%	7%	9%
Escaping a restraint or crate	8%	9%	11%	10%	4%	4%	6%	3%	9%	11%	9%	7%	8%
Other	2%	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
None of these	28%	30%	23%	22%	28%	26%	26%	31%	28%	23%	21%	29%	26%

8. Has your dog's behavior ever caused you to do any of the following? (Select all that apply)

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	213	178	171	191	180	176	186	185	179	171	180	187	2,197
Take my eyes off the road	22%	21%	20%	30%	23%	16%	30%	23%	19%	23%	27%	25%	23%
Remove a hand from the steering wheel	21%	19%	22%	16%	18%	14%	22%	15%	19%	17%	23%	21%	19%
Brake suddenly	13%	12%	13%	15%	8%	9%	7%	12%	11%	18%	12%	11%	12%
Swerve or change lanes unexpectedly	7%	8%	13%	13%	8%	8%	5%	5%	6%	4%	10%	8%	9%
Miss a traffic signal or sign	11%	6%	9%	8%	6%	10%	6%	8%	11%	5%	12%	5%	8%
Be involved in a minor collision	3%	5%	5%	5%	2%	4%	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	4%
Be involved in a major collision	0%	5%	4%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%
None of these	58%	57%	52%	50%	60%	60%	56%	55%	56%	57%	54%	54%	55%

9. During the past 12 months, which of the following travel-related activities have you done with your dog? (Select all that apply)

	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	234	201	201	200	200	201	200	207	200	200	216	200	2,460
Taken a day trip	44%	34%	36%	39%	39%	38%	39%	31%	47%	33%	37%	40%	38%
Taken a road trip requiring an overnight stay	30%	26%	26%	30%	23%	25%	35%	19%	26%	24%	24%	33%	27%
Stayed in pet-friendly lodging	23%	31%	35%	24%	18%	25%	21%	18%	25%	23%	28%	26%	27%
Chosen a destination because it was dog-friendly	19%	18%	15%	15%	16%	22%	17%	12%	19%	20%	18%	19%	18%
Traveled by airplane	7%	9%	6%	11%	7%	8%	5%	6%	10%	6%	6%	7%	8%
None of these	32%	34%	35%	31%	40%	34%	34%	43%	32%	39%	36%	34%	34%

10. During the past 12 months, where have you traveled with your dog? (Select all that apply)													
	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	234	201	201	200	200	201	200	207	200	200	216	200	2,460
Visited friends or family	40%	39%	42%	41%	44%	44%	52%	36%	41%	38%	41%	52%	42%
Within my local area (under 100 miles)	33%	26%	23%	29%	36%	32%	35%	26%	31%	35%	32%	34%	30%
City or urban destination	24%	27%	18%	32%	27%	30%	23%	20%	25%	27%	24%	24%	26%
Beach or lake destination	15%	30%	25%	23%	20%	22%	28%	12%	23%	21%	22%	26%	24%
National or state park	29%	19%	21%	23%	20%	19%	13%	12%	20%	19%	20%	19%	20%
Rural destination	16%	16%	18%	15%	21%	20%	28%	17%	21%	18%	18%	20%	18%
Camping or RV destination	22%	13%	14%	11%	14%	19%	11%	14%	13%	10%	14%	16%	14%
Mountain or outdoor recreation destination	31%	8%	15%	10%	6%	10%	10%	8%	19%	15%	12%	13%	13%
Another state within the U.S.	14%	10%	14%	11%	14%	11%	13%	11%	16%	16%	13%	16%	13%
International destination	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Other	5%	4%	2%	5%	5%	2%	2%	3%	4%	7%	2%	3%	4%
None of these	13%	14%	17%	10%	17%	14%	15%	20%	17%	12%	15%	9%	14%

Respondent Profile

Gender													
	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	234	201	201	200	200	201	200	207	200	200	216	200	2,460
Male	47%	50%	44%	48%	49%	48%	54%	48%	53%	48%	46%	51%	49%
Female	53%	50%	56%	52%	51%	52%	46%	52%	47%	52%	54%	49%	51%

Age Range													
	CO	FL	GA	IL	IA	MI	MN	NE	NC	SC	TN	WI	Total
Base (n=)	234	201	201	200	200	201	200	207	200	200	216	200	2,460
18-29	20%	24%	24%	24%	24%	21%	21%	25%	19%	20%	24%	19%	23%
30-39	21%	18%	21%	19%	19%	17%	20%	19%	20%	21%	21%	17%	19%
40-49	17%	15%	19%	19%	18%	19%	19%	20%	17%	20%	19%	19%	18%
50-59	15%	15%	12%	14%	15%	15%	17%	14%	16%	16%	16%	19%	15%
60-69	16%	15%	14%	12%	13%	15%	13%	11%	15%	14%	13%	17%	14%
70+	11%	13%	10%	12%	11%	13%	10%	11%	13%	9%	7%	9%	11%

Statistical Statement:

The AAA Consumer Pulse™ Survey was conducted online among residents living in The Auto Club Group territory from August 5 - 13, 2026. A total of 2,460 dog owners completed the survey. Survey results asked of all respondents have a maximum margin of error of $\pm 1.97\%$ points. For individual states, the maximum margin of error is $\pm 6.9\%$ points. Responses are weighted by age and gender within state to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the adult population (18+).