



## Backpack Dog Packing Checklist

The following equipment is recommended for your dog to be comfortable and prepared on wilderness backpack trips.

Recommended items do not necessarily represent a brand recommendation. Please make sure your dog is physically prepared, by instituting an exercise schedule well in advance of any trip. You should also make sure he's comfortable carrying a pack. Also, if you're using booties for your dog, make sure you let him get used to them. Sometimes this takes time.

### General

### Weights Oz

- Dog pack:** Granite Gear, Mountainsmith, Ruff Wear



**Comments:** Make sure you size the pack to your dog. Most outdoor stores (REI) will allow you to try packs on with your dog. I usually limit the pack contents to food, grooming gear, simple meds, a dog dish and an emergency pair of dog booties.

Dog Pack.....18.0

- Backpack Towel:** MSR or REI Pack Towel



**Comments:** I take one of these for my dog. It's useful for cleanup prior to bed time or for drying off after those mountain lake wades.

Pack Towel.....3.1

- Dog Booties:** Ruff Wear, REI



**Comments:** The Ruff Wear booties have Vibram on the soles. The summer before last my dog wore through the soles of a non-Vibram pair half way through the trip. Surprisingly my dog (Bernese Mountain Dog) doesn't seem to need them even on sharp granite. I do always have an emergency pair along.

Combined weight.....9.0

- Sleeping Pad:** Thermarest, REI



**Comments:** I generally take an old ¾ length mattress along for my dog to sleep on. Sometimes he uses it and sometimes not.

Sleeping Pad.....13.4

**Dog Dish:** Ruff Ware, Various brands

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**Comments:** *I prefer a light weight metal dog dish rather than the nylon folding dishes. It fits quite well in the dog pack and is easy to clean. I also carry a small plastic water dish in the outside mesh pocket of my pack to provide trail water if necessary.*

Dog Dish.....7.6

**Grooming Tools:** Various brands

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**Comments:** *You should always carry grooming tools to clean tangles and woods from your dog's fur. I have tweezers in my first aid kit to remove tics if necessary.*

Grooming Tools.....1.6

**Dog Leash:** Planet Dog, Various

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**Comments:** *Plante Dog has a light weight and small extender leash I have taken after having my dog chase a bear across a meadow. I attach it to myself with a mini-biner. Just a light weight leash is fine also. However, you've got to be careful she doesn't pull you off balance.*

Extender Leash.....7.0

**Medications:** Various

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**Comments:** *Include any meds your dog takes on a regular basis. I usually take aspirin, but have now switched to a Rimadyl tablet after a long day of hiking. (Prescribed by my vet) Make sure your pet is up to date with flea, tick and heart worm medication.*

Medications.....3.4

**Dog Food:** Various

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**Comments:** *I usually stick to taking just kibble and daily treats while hiking. My dog seems to eat almost anything in front of him. Of course the amount of dog food (weight) will depend on your dog's size.*

Dog Food.....13.0  
(Average per day)

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**General 76.1 oz (Includes optional items)**

**Total: 4lb 12.1oz**