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Summer Supplies

K9 Nose Work

If you are a nose work Junkie, you'll soon learn we search in any and all types of weather as long as we can stay safe. Supplies for the heat (and yes cold too) are non-negotiable for your dog and you. It's difficult to crate indoors during class all the time, and when we are on the road we can't crate indoors. We'll have to constantly monitor our situation for every class. Assume you will be outside. Hot weather, in my opinion is the most difficult, so you might consider investing in the supplies (or something similar) on my list if you intend to do this ongoing or plan to compete. The right supplies make all the difference! My dogs have attended trials in 10 degree and 100 plus degree weather in comfort and safety thanks to the right gear. The stuff on this list has been well tested by Henrietta, Olivia, Little Miss Sunshine and many other Houston nose work dogs. I regularly practice in the heat (and cold) with my dogs and as long as I set up their gear they are perfectly comfortable. If you find something to add to this list, please let me know!

Note: You don't need to have the fancy summer supplies for the Level One class as we will crate indoors whenever possible. In other levels we will crate indoors whenever we can, but you should ALWAYS be prepared for weather and outside time in class, ALWAYS! Cold, heat, rain, snow

Now as for you, well YOU are on your own, ha! But seriously, remember sunscreen and a protective hat and water, water, and more water.

Heat Exhaustion (Dogs)

We've never had this issue yet, but be sure you can recognize heat exhaustion and dehydration in your dogs. Here's a decent article:

<http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/heat-stroke-dehydration-dogs>

Indoor Class Supplies

Please start to bring the following additional supplies with you to Smart Dog class locations so we can try to minimize distractions and noise if we have to crate indoors:

- A **sheet** to cover your dog's ENTIRE crate.
- **1-3 large pieces of cardboard**, if you use the crates in the building. You can block the sides from your next door neighbor and lean the third panel against the front. Some dogs will be fine with just the sheet on the front, but others need a more solid barrier. You might need one thing during one class and the other another time.
- **Collar without tags or tape the tags together** (the tinkling in the crates has proved to drive some dogs nutty!) There are tag silencers online if you are interested. Personally my dogs just wear a Scout ID ([large](#) or [small](#)) on their collars so I never have this issue!

Outdoor Class Supplies

REFLECTIVE SILVER MESH BLANKETS (Strongly Suggest. If you buy one thing, buy this)

This is a must have and it makes a HUGE difference. This mesh reflects the sun and heat but allows the breeze to come through. Buy the silver mesh, not the sun shades. Yes you will look like a UFO, but they work the best. You'll want one large enough to cover most (if not all) of your car, the more windows you cover the better. Don't skimp on this one! When sun gets through the windows, even the ones up front, that's when the baking begins. I'm sure you can get them on Amazon cheaper, but I have many of them and I purchased them from this small business below. They even made custom crate silver mesh covers for me, which are awesome - I just used them at nose work camp. I can attest their quality and service is excellent. Mine have grommets so I can bungee or affix the mesh to my mirrors and roof rack in the wind (if we are so lucky). Take a look at their whole site. The nose work community swears by the mesh blankets. I have not seen them in stores, at least not in the huge sheets I recommend you use.

- <http://www.silvershademesh.com/StandardTarps.html>

BALL BUNGEEES or REGULAR BUNGEEES (Strongly Suggest)

The ball bungess are perfect for the mesh blankets (Academy has them). And the regular bungess will save the world someday along with duct tape and Quake Hold.

- <http://www.amazon.com/Ball-Bungee-cord-Heavy-Tarps/dp/B000ILOAPC>

EZUP POP UP CANOPY (Optional. But if you trial, get one.)

Invest in one of these puppies if you intend to trial. Academy often has them on sale this time of year. I think honestly the EZUP brand is the best, but that's just my opinion. You can do many things with these, but what nobody realizes is you can make an instant "garage" for your car with them. Add a few mesh blankets on the side where the sun is hitting (using the ball bungees!) and the change in temperature is pretty incredible. Add open windows, doors, hatches and crate fans and it's down right luxurious.

- <http://ezup.com/>

CRATES

In my instructor training they warned us about using the plastic vari-kennel type crates in hot cars and high humidity and warned us about wetting down the dogs and putting them in these styles of kennels as they actually get hotter, not cooler. I don't know if it's fact or fiction, but make sure your dog is secure in the vehicle in a sturdy and well ventilated crate or seatbelt harness. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS IN THE HEAT.** Even still your dog must be secure at nose work events in the cars (no loose dogs in cars). You can also crate outside your car in some situations, but it needs to have shade and your dog must be monitored at all times. Tall xpens are also acceptable, but they must have a top. If your dog barks or lunges regularly, you will be asked to crate inside the car. And don't use a soft crate if your dog is reactive or has separation issues!

BREEZEGUARDS

I don't have these (yet) but I know several who do and love them. Breezeguards safely keep dogs in and stranger's hands out. They are durable, made to not scratch your car, and you can roll your windows up and down with them in. Good for folks who can't use a crate and must seatbelt their dog in.

- <http://muttmanagers.com/>

VENT LOCKS (Strongly Suggest)

I use these security bars to allow my back hatch to hold open only part way so the dogs get ventilation BUT people can't get in and dogs can't get out. I wouldn't use these with a loose dog, but could keep crates from rolling out. Also, it makes your car think you've closed the hatch entirely and your alarm and locks will still work. I love them. I have the gold and silver bar sizes and they are the most ideal. The really short size won't do much good in our heat. I use them a ton on road trips to dash in to go potty or get my fast food. Even still never leave your dog unattended in the heat with them on!

- http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&product_ID=879&ParentCat=776

WATER (Required!)

Be sure your dog has access to plenty of water at all times IN THE CRATE. You'll want to be sure it's secure in the crate so it's not knocked over and you realize later your poor dog hasn't been getting much to drink! Use whatever works for you, but if you want suggestions, I also have my favorites here too, of course!

- For soft sided crates, [crate crocks](#):
- For my wire crates in the car
 - [Kennel Gear series](#) (rocks)
 - [Popware series](#)

CRATE FANS (Strongly suggest something, anything)

You *need* a crate fan, no matter what kind of dog you have. There are many out there, but this is my favorite so far, [ROYOBI ONE PLUS PORTABLE FAN](#). You have to invest in a lithium battery and they actually have a car charger, too. Those batteries charge quickly and last awhile on the fans, in my experience. They are large though, not compact like a typical dog crate fan. Freezing a one-liter coke bottle makes a nice block of ice to lean against, too.

BINDO COOL CRATE PADS

I've used a variety of the cool crate pads with water and freezer inserts, but they have never worked all that well in my opinion. At the 2014 Houston Dog Show I stumbled upon these cool crate pads and they are truly wonderful. They work on a completely different kind of technology, and you still need to freeze and insert, but they stay cool for hours and hours on end in high heat. They are not shock cold, which can be dangerous, rather they cool as you sit or lay on it and then it truly feels cool. They are pricier than other cool pads on the market, but they actually work and they aren't messy! If you want to see them in action, come visit my dogs in the minivan. Add crate fans and silver mesh blankets and your dogs will be quite comfortable.

- <https://sites.google.com/site/bindopad/home>

MOSQUITOS - THE FINAL FRONTIER

I haven't totally solved the issue yet with the rascals getting into the car. A huge mosquito net draped over the rear opening and secured with twist ties does help. It's just a pain. If you have a great solution, let me know!