

SAILING

TIPS FOR

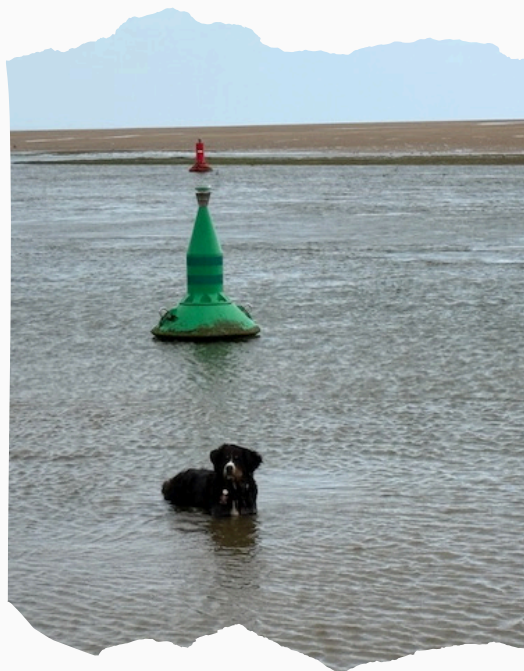
DOG OWNERS

TOP 10 DOGSAIL

TIPS FOR SAILING WITH YOUR DOG



DOGSAIL.COM



NO

EXERCISE REGULARLY

Keep your dog active to prevent restlessness is vital. Extra long walks the day before a long leg help burn off energy, and a stretch immediately after docking keeps dogs happy and calm.

On longer trips, we may bring Svea on deck and let her have a dip.

Exercise may seem an obvious message, however it should be front and centre when planning passage lengths and timings. During our Circumnavigation, we had a day off after any sail over 10 hours and considered sailing through the night to ensure Svea's routine was not too disrupted.



HOW

GET ORGANISED

When you're cruising with a dog, a bit of homework goes a long way. Every port, marina, and even country has its own rules about animals, so check ahead before you cast off.

Some places are relaxed, others want paperwork in triplicate. Keep copies of your dog's documents handy: vaccinations, microchip details, passports if you're crossing borders. You might never be asked, but the one time you are, you'll be glad you're not rummaging through lockers at the customs dock.



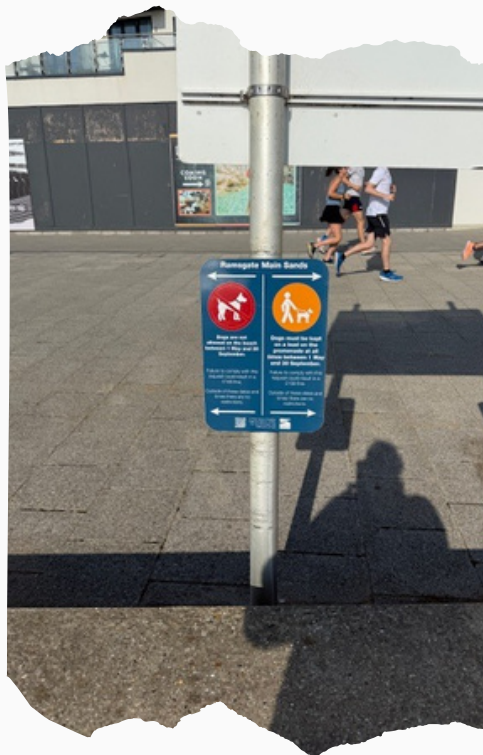
FOR

TOILET TIME

As the yacht is Svea's home, she has been trained not to go to the toilet on the yacht. We keep our journeys where possible under 12 hours and ensure the first and last thing we do is take Svea for a walk. This works as she knows the routine and will happily wait until we are ashore.

If travelling on a longer passage, many dog owners find that the easiest way to train a dog is to give them a dedicated "spot" - a square of fake grass or a mat. Start at home so it smells familiar, then bring it on board.

It can take patience (and a lot of treats), but routine is everything. After meals, straight to the mat, plenty of praise when they get it right. The golden rule? Don't wait for an emergency in a rolling sea- practice on calm days so both you and your dog feel confident when nature calls.



CHECK THE DOG FRIENDLINESS OF THE DESTINATION

Not every harbour rolls out the red carpet for four-legged crew. We nearly found this out the hard way when sailing into Newlyn. Pete, ever the meticulous planner, called ahead—only to be asked casually by the harbourmaster, “You don’t have any animals on board, do you?”

“Yes,” we replied. Cue the polite but firm response: dogs are banned, thanks to a local bylaw tied to the port’s busy fishing industry. Crisis averted, but only because we’d checked first. Marinas vary wildly: some tolerate dogs, some welcome them, and a rare few actually celebrate them. You’ll usually get the vibe within five minutes of tying up. The key is to ask before you arrive, not after.



BE PREPARED FOR FIRST AID AT SEA

Always be prepared for health issues. Keep a vet contact card onboard, know the basics of dog first aid, and plan for seasickness—even healthy dogs can feel uneasy in rough water. Having these essentials ready gives peace of mind on longer passages.

Svea cut her leg on one leg, so we ensure that the first aid kit has enough equipment for her as well as the rest of the crew.



SAFETY IS YOUR PRIORITY

For the majority of boat owners, a well fitting life vest is a must. We like Baltic pluto splash as the strap under the chin is padded (you don't want this too tight) and the chest straps don't crush the rib cage.

Some dogs owners however feel that a life vest causes more danger than good eg. it catches on handles or is too hot. Whilst comfort is safety - Svea is not allowed aboard without her life vest on.

And yes ... we have used it several times on this trip when Svea missed the pontoon as this is probably the most likely time she will fall in.



MEVES

PRACTICE KEY COMMANDS

Strong, consistent commands are essential at sea. Teach your dog “Stop,” “Come,” “Bed time” “Sit,” and “Wait,” and always pair them with actions. Marina noise can be loud, so clear, practiced cues keep your dog safe on deck and around the boat. Svea knows when she can not come up on deck, and when it is safe. Hand queues, whistles as well as body language all provide Svea with clear guidance.

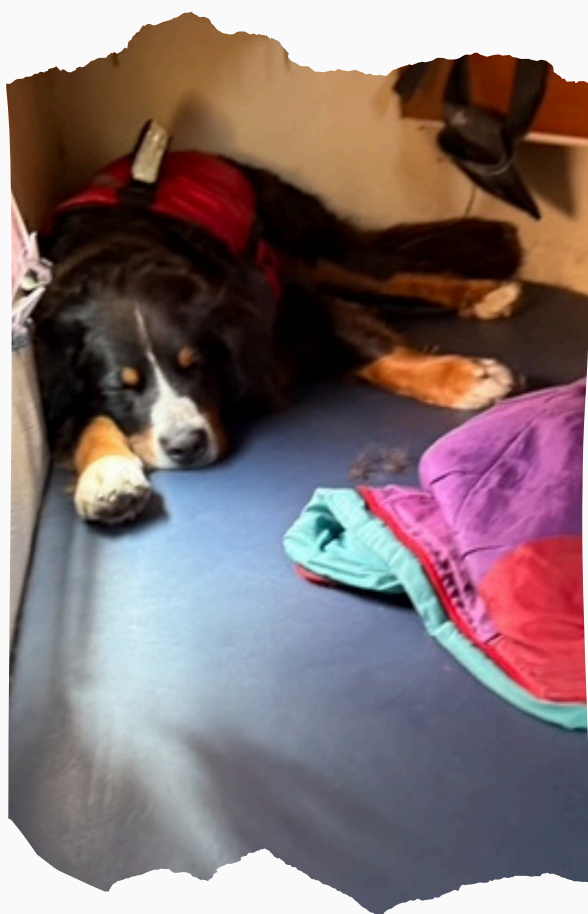


FEEL

PRACTICING BOARDING AND DISEMBARKING

As soon as we get into port, Svea is desperate to get off the yacht ... for both a stretch and a loo break. We have therefore trained her to get on and off from both the stern and side of the yacht.

This should be done with a life jacket as this is probably the most likely time where Svea may fall in. We have had some near misses.



HAVE A SAFE SPACE DOWN BELOW

Give your dog a dedicated spot below deck where they feel secure. A familiar bed or mat works well—Svea knows “bed” means we’re about to leave.

Once underway, she prefers the aft cabin, where she can brace comfortably on either side when the boat heels.

Ensure all loose objects are stowed safely and that water and toys are available to keep your dog hydrated and entertained.



KEEP YOUR DOG COMFORTABLE IN HEAT / COLD

Dogs can overheat quickly on deck. Give them shade, avoid long spells in direct sun, and use dog-safe sunscreen on sensitive areas.

On hot days, a quick dip or a rinse with the pontoon hose can help cool them down.

Equally, be mindful of the cold - pack a dry towel and a warm blanket so your dog stays comfortable whatever the weather.

THANK YOU FOR READING!



**SVEA
AT SEA**



**SVEA
ON LAND**

**THIS GUIDE CONTAINS THE 'WHAT TO DO'
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT 'HOW' YOU CAN IMPLEMENT
MANY OF THESE TIPS, PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY AS WE
WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU, EITHER 1:1 OR IN OUR
'SOON TO COME' ONLINE 6 MODULE COURSE.**

