

Plan ahead for fun in the outdoors with your dog

By Angela Rudolph, Reno Gazette-Journal

Reno/Tahoe is a highly active region with many residents who enjoy getting outdoors to hike and camp. Most dog owners love to take their four-legged best friend with them for all the fun adventures – so, here's how to make sure you and your pooch stay safe together.

Be sure that your dog is wearing proper identification (and preferably also has a microchip), and that your dog is fully vaccinated, before taking her on a hike or camping. Remember to always bring water with you, even if you're just going on a short hike. Higher altitudes and hot weather can cause rapid dehydration. Bring enough water for you and your dog, as she can get dehydrated just like you. Be sure to avoid hiking during the heat of the day, and if you're at a lake or on a beach, be sure there is shade for you and your pooch. Some light-coated pets might also do well with sun screen, since their fur might not provide the same protection that pets with thicker coats often enjoy.

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