

## Toto - Leaving on a jet plane

In September 2009 my husband and I were visiting our friends who live in the Costa De Azahar. My friend Julia runs a B&B there plus boarding kennels for dogs and cats and unbeknownst to me had been watching for some months a little dog who had been wandering around in the village.

Her friend who lives in the village knew of the little dog that had been acquired by their neighbours for the grandchildren to play with, but as the dog grew up and no longer retained the cuteness of a puppy the grandchildren tired of her and she was booted out of the villa onto the streets (a sad occurrence these days).

One morning, on the pretence of going into the village to pick up post, Julia hurried out of the house only to return with the little dog under her arm. I looked at the tiny tyke and she locked eyes with me and I knew I could give her a better life. Within the hour we had cut out with surgical scissors all the huge burrs in her deeply entangled in her coat, clipped, bathed, Front Lined and whisked her down to the vet who, in-turn, jabbed her, micro-chipped her and rabied her. She who became "Toto" now needed to wait out her DEFRA quarantine time in Spain before she could travel to England.

The next hurdle was how to get her to England without having to mortgage the house because trying to get a dog from Spain to England really asks the age old question; "how long is a piece of string." I could have driven over to pick her up and driven back, but the other half dug his heels in so I had quotes ranging from £185 to £1100 and I planted my heels too. I began to research and discovered that airlines on the continent would take two animals per flight who weighed a total of eight kilos to include their carrying case. Thus a flight from Valencia to Paris Orly, by RER train into Gare du Nord in Paris, then by train to Calais Frethun and finally by taxi to P&O Ferry seemed very doable.

When queried about where Toto would spend her travel time on the ship P&O Ferry assured me she would be in an air-conditioned room, so I upgraded to Club Class. Now all I needed was something to carry her in and as I already owned a Dog Bag Carrier from the Roof Box Company, I selected from their USB line the Dog Travel Kit. The Travel Kit, like the Dog Bag Carrier, not only looked great, but actually w-o-r-k-e-d really well and believe you me, the outlined journey above reads easy; however, in reality it was no picnic – yet everything worked really well and Toto travelled quite easily in the carrier. However, the icing on the cake was the "air conditioned" room that P&O used to transport animals back to England. My eyes nearly fell out of their socket as I looked at the trolley cage, but Toto actually travelled quite well and safely as she was in her luxurious carry bag and I just dropped the window pads to keep her warm.

Thank you Roof Box Company – your products are truly great and I have just ordered the large contour messenger and the smaller Dog Bag for Toto as the new rescue dog I am bringing back to England in December will inherit her current Dog Bag and will travel in the contour messenger bag to England.

Judith Basham

