Doggie Danger

Letting your dog ride in the back of an open pick-up truck bed without being securely fastened in is against the law and can cause serious injury to your pet. Dogs cannot “hold on” the way that humans can, and any sudden start, stop, or turn can toss your pet onto the road. If the impact of hitting the street at a high speed does not kill your dog, approaching traffic probably will.

There are other dangers to consider as well. Although many dogs love the feeling of the wind blowing past their ears, that wind can seriously irritate their mucous membranes and blow pieces of dirt, sand, and rocks into your dog’s eye, which could cause permanent damage. Insects or flying debris can also get stuck in their nasal passages or get sucked up into their windpipe.

The safest way for your dog to travel is inside the cab of the truck, however, even then they need to be securely fastened — and **YES** they do make seat belts for dogs! (Please call your local pet store for details). If the dog must ride in the back of the truck, it is best to put the dog inside of a crate so that they will have some protection from the wind and weather. The crate should be securely fastened to the walls of the truck bed so that it cannot slide about or be tossed out of the truck. If you love your dog, **PLEASE** remember their welfare when traveling.

San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609