Your dog belongs at the foot of your bed, not in the bed of your truck.

PLEASE: When dog is your co-pilot, make sure he travels safely.

We know it's tempting. It's convenient, and dogs seem to love riding there.

But every year, thousands of dogs are injured when they fall out of the backs of pickup trucks. Many of them die; others suffer broken limbs and horrible road burns.

Some of the worst cases are those animals whose owners, trying to make their ride safer, leash the dog into the truck. Then the truck takes a turn a little too fast, and the dog strangles on the restraint.

We know. We've seen the aftermath, and we know the heartbreak and guilt that follows.

Don't let this happen to you and your beloved pet. Your dog is safest in the cab with you, or—if that's not possible—in a crate carefully strapped down in the back of the truck (if you're traveling a long way, make sure it's not too hot for him to ride there).

