



Travel & My Pet: Time for a Car Ride!

Traveling with a pet can be stressful for both you and your four-legged friend, but it doesn't have to be. Here are some tips to help you through your journey. Check them off as you go.

☐ Begin your trip with a healthy pet.

Touch base with your veterinarian before departure to ensure your pet is in good health and to obtain vaccination records. If your vet recommends sedatives for your pet, 'test drive' them before your true trip to ascertain your pet's reaction to medication.

☐ Short rides make the long ones easier.

Try getting your pet used to the car by letting them sit in it with you without leaving your driveway. Go for short rides. Don't make your pet's first car adventure a trip to the vet!

☐ Pack the Paperwork. Be sure you have current vaccination information, health certificates, and a photo of your pet. US borders require a valid rabies certificate to cross, and a photo will save you heartache if your pet gets lost. Also, locate the nearest animal emergency center to your final destination in case you experience a crisis during your vacation and need emergency assistance.

☐ Plan ahead for accommodations. Motels, hotels, and campgrounds can fill up quickly, and many accommodations do not accept pets at all. Use resources like www.PetsWelcome.com or www.TakeYourPet.com to find places to stay en route or near your destination.

☐ Identify your companion with tags. Use a sturdy leash and collar. Make sure your pet's tags have their name, your name, your number, and proof of rabies. Rabies tags also often have your vet's information.

☐ Cool crates, tough toys, and relaxation.

Crates can offer excellent safety for your pet during a trip, and they keep your pet out of trouble in a hotel or host's home. Fill a sturdy, ventilated, and sufficiently large (the pet should be able to turn around, stand up and lie down) crate with familiar toys or blankets; a bit of home for the road.

☐ Familiar food with an empty stomach.

Bring your pet's normal food with you so their routine does not change. Feed at times you would normally feed at home. Routine helps ease transitions. Avoid car sickness by traveling your pet on an empty tummy, but provide plenty of water.

☐ Are we there yet? Car rides can be stress-free. Instruct children not to tease or annoy your pet in the car. Don't allow your pet to ride with their head out the window, as this can cause eye injuries. Play soft, non-lyrical music if you notice your pet is agitated, and never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle, even for short periods of time. Designate family members to stay with your pet at all times.

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ANIMAL
EMERGENCY
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Travel & My Pet: Time to Fly!

If you have chosen to fly with your pet, here are some tips to help you through your journey. Check them off as you go.

☐ Begin your trip with a healthy pet.

Touch base with your veterinarian before departure to ensure your pet is in good health and to obtain vaccination records. Health certificates are always required for flights.

☐ Book it, Book it. Book a direct flight when possible, and find out any information you can from your airline about pet restrictions and safety protocol well in advance. A direct flight will decrease the chances that your pet will be left on the tarmac during extreme weather or mishandled.

Note: Smaller pets can often fly in the cabin with you.

☐ Pack the Paperwork. Be sure you have current vaccination information, health certificates, and a photo of your pet. Check with your receiving county on their pet regulations if you plan on flying off domestic soil. Locate the nearest animal emergency center to your final destination in case you experience an emergency during your vacation

☐ Plan ahead for accommodations. Hotels fill up quickly. Many accommodations do not accept pets at all. Use resources like www.PetFriendlyTravel.com to find places to stay during layovers or upon arrival at your destination.

☐ Identify your companion with tags. Use a sturdy leash and collar (for cats breakaway collars are recommended), and make sure your pet's tags have their name, your name, your number, and proof of rabies.

☐ Crates, photos and live animals.

Crates can offer excellent safety for your pet during a trip, and they keep your pet out of trouble in a hotel or host's home. Fill a sturdy, ventilated, USDA-approved, and sufficiently large (the pet should be able to turn around, stand up and lie down) crate with familiar blankets. Write 'Live animal' in letters greater than 1inch and use arrows to indicate the crate's upright position The crate door should be secure and closed, but not locked in case airline personnel need to open it for emergencies. Affix a current photograph to the crate's top for identification.

☐ Less is more with food and sedatives.

Withholding food is generally recommended 6 hours prior to flight. Sedating your pet can hamper breathing-so it is not recommended. Check with your veterinarian. Freeze a bowl of water the night prior so it doesn't spill during loading, and melts by the time your pet becomes thirsty.

☐ Don't be afraid to talk it up! Tell all airline employees you come across on the ground and in the air that you are traveling with a pet. If the plane is delayed and whenever feasible, insist that personnel check on your pet. Certain situations warrant removing animals from cargo and deplaning. Your pet is always your first priority!

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