

Basic Information on Traveling with Your Pet

General Travel Tips

- 🐾 All pets must be healthy prior to traveling. Visit your veterinarian to get a clean bill of health and current vaccinations.
- 🐾 Pet identification is a must. All dogs and cats should have a collar with an ID tag. It is best to also have your pet "micro-chipped". A computer chip is inserted under the pet's skin; the chip contains a number which is represented in a national database. The database will carry all pertinent information about your pet. A small tag is attached to your pet's collar alerting others to the presence of the microchip.
- 🐾 Exercise the animal before you travel so it sleeps better.
- 🐾 If tranquilization is necessary for travel, a tranquilizer prescribed by the veterinarian or a natural remedy should be tested on the pet before the trip to determine when to give it and how much to give. You **MUST** check with your vet before tranquilizing a pet traveling by air. Pressurization can have different effects on an animal.
- 🐾 Food should not be given immediately before traveling. Ideally, a dog should be fed 3 to 4 hours prior to travel and at night after the day's travel. To protect a cat from motion sickness, it is best to feed it 4 to 6 hours before traveling. Pets should not be offered food during travel.
- 🐾 All pets must be on a lead or in a carrier when they are not in the car or on the plane. Even well-trained dogs get frightened at rest areas and run from their owners.

Traveling by Car

- 🐾 Restrain your pet during travel in the car. They can be crated, left on a lead with a person holding the lead, put in a seat belt, or kept in the back of the car by use of a vehicle barrier. NEVER let a pet run free in a car. A sudden stop or an open window could be a problem for the pet. A small dog squeezing between the driver's foot and the car's accelerator pedal, or a bigger pet leaping onto the driver's lap could mean big trouble for both the dog and the driver.
- 🐾 Pets should not be locked in a closed car for any length of time.
- 🐾 Tie-outs are ideal for car travel. Simply put the stake into the ground at a rest stop and attach the cable to the pet's collar or harness. The pet has an opportunity to stretch its legs without you having to hold the lead the entire time.
- 🐾 Traveling with cats is particularly tricky - even if the journey is to the Veterinarian's office only five miles away. A carrier is a must. It is safest to select a carrier that is fairly close to the body size of the animal. However, if the cat will be in the carrier for extended periods, they'll need space for food, water, and possibly a litter box.



Traveling by Air

- 🐾 If traveling by air, some airlines require a health certificate. The health certificate cannot be dated earlier than 10 days before departure.
- 🐾 Reserve space early! Reservations for the pet should be made when pet owners book their flights. The number of pets allowed on each flight is limited, so pet owners need to call early. It is best to book a direct flight and use jet service when possible.
- 🐾 All carriers must have the owner's name, home address, and phone number, as well as your vacation address and phone number.
- 🐾 Traveling crates must be USDA approved and large enough for the dog to stand, sit, and change position comfortably. The words "LIVE ANIMAL" must be written on the crate with arrows indicating the upright position. The crate must not be locked in case an airline employee needs to open it.
- 🐾 Most airlines allow only one pet per crate.
- 🐾 Traveling crates must have two dishes attached to the inside, easily accessible to airline personnel; one for food and one for water. For trips lasting more than 12 hours, a plastic bag containing dry dog food should be taped to the top of the carrier with feeding instructions for airline personnel, otherwise - do not feed your pet during the flight. (Hint: freeze the water so that it will not splash out during loading, but will melt by the time the pet is thirsty.) In case the dog urinates, an absorbent towel or pad should line the bottom of the cage.
- 🐾 Most airlines allow pets to fly in the cabin with you as long as the carrier is small enough to fit under your seat. Remember, pets are allowed in the cabin as a privilege, one that can be taken away if pet owners do not follow the rules. It is an FAA rule that animals are not allowed out of the crate.
- 🐾 Always check with the particular airline. Every airline has different regulations. Call ahead!



Traveling with a Bird

- 🐾 Purchase a safe travel carrier or small cage and allow your bird to explore its travel carrier several hours (or days) before the trip. Clean the travel carrier prior to departure.
- 🐾 Clean toys and remove swinging toys before travel.
- 🐾 Have your bird's wings clipped before travel.
- 🐾 Keep your bird in a cage when the vehicle is in motion.
- 🐾 Bring your bird's favorite toy and treats.
- 🐾 Keep fresh water available.
- 🐾 Never let your bird out of your sight.
- 🐾 Start out with short trips to see if your bird can handle traveling.
- 🐾 Check with the airlines - they have different rules and regulations concerning air travel for pet birds.

Please Note: The information in this handout is meant to provide basic information only. Please see a salesperson for more information.

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