

Summer Travel Tips

If you plan on taking your pet with you on vacation, here are a few things to remember:

- 1. Bring food and water from home.** A sudden change in water or food can cause digestive problems when you're on the road. It's also a good idea to bring their regular dishes, although there are travel dishes that can be handy as well.
- 2. Identification.** If your pet already has a name-tag, make sure the information is up-to-date and readable. Microchips are **GREAT!** If your pet doesn't have a microchip, call your local vet to ask about getting one, they are very affordable! If your pet already has a microchip, make sure you have all the information up-to-date with the company the microchip was registered with. Another good idea is to have duplicate copies of the pet's ID & vaccinations in the glove compartment or attached to the crate along with contact info for someone to care for them in case of an accident. (It may also be a good idea to have emergency contact info and medical info on hand for your non-animal family as well.)
- 3. Call ahead.** Many places (including campgrounds) do not allow pets. Make sure it's OK to bring your pet before you leave.
- 4. Equipment.** Make sure you have all necessary equipment - leads, meds., brushes/combs, bedding, etc. Attach the lead **before** you open the door for your pet's safety.
- 5. Toys.** Keep your pet from becoming bored, be sure to bring his favorite toys. Balls to fetch outside & bones to chew on in the car to keep him occupied will help a great deal.
- 6. First-Aid.** It's always a good idea to have one handy, just in case. If you're not sure what type of first-aid items to take, call your vet for suggestions.
- 7. Protect Your Vehicle.** It's always a good idea to cover your seats. A shedding pet will change the appearance of your car seats forever. Hair is tough to get out. Make sure that the cover you use won't be harmful to your pet if they happen to chew on it. Plastic may not be a good idea.
- 8. Provide plenty of exercise before you leave.** This will help your pet relax and enjoy the trip.
- 9. Stop often** on long trips to allow pets to relieve themselves and get some exercise.
- 10. Clean up after your pet** to keep the great outdoors great, and out of consideration for others. If you don't want to carry around a pooper-scooper, you can always use any from of Dispoz-a-scoop bags. Even cheap sandwich bags will work.
- 11. Car Sickness** - Travel on an empty stomach. Car sickness is more likely if your pet has a full stomach. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount than normal at least two hours before you leave.
- 12. Travel Safely** - Restrain your pet during travel in either a harness, pet seat, wire or plastic crate. Vehicle Safety Barriers are great but don't protect your pet if you're in an accident. Your pet could still be thrown around in the back of your vehicle and seriously injured. So, even if you have a safety barrier in your vehicle, additional restrain should be used. The crate can provide added protection if the vehicle is damaged severely enough that your pet is thrown from the vehicle. A crate helps protect them from the impact.

And last but VERY important:

- 13. NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A HOT CAR** even if you park in the shade. Pets are unable to control body temperature as efficiently as humans and just a few minutes in a hot car could cause irreversible damage or death.