

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



Should I travel with my pet this summer?

Summer is upon us and, for many that means vacation time and hitting the road with our families. In some cases, four-legged members of the family are included in the vacation plans. What can we do to prepare our furry friends for travel?

First of all, not all pets like to ride in the car or visit new places, and air travel can be difficult for pets. So, if your dog or cat hates to ride in the car or gets stressed in strange situations it may be kinder and less stressful to leave her at home with friends or family or in a reputable boarding kennel.

However, many pets do enjoy traveling with their owners, and many owners wouldn't dream of not including the family pet in their vacation plans. If your pet travels well, or you just can't leave him home while you are away, here are some tips to ease the stress of travel.

Make sure your pet is healthy and that you have up-to-date vaccination certificates. You may also need a health certificate if you are flying with your pet or traveling out of the country. Traveling outside of the United States with your pet often requires months of planning and there are stringent rules and even quarantines that must be followed. Be sure to do your research and work with your veterinarian.

Make sure you also have ID tags with your name, contact information and the pet's name, microchip, tattoo or other license information, and maybe even a picture or description of your pet just in case the unthinkable would happen and your pet becomes lost in an unfamiliar place.

Make sure your dog is well socialized and knows basic commands and walks well on a leash before taking him into unfamiliar surroundings and finding that you have an unruly or anxious dog who is difficult to control.

You want to look up a veterinarian or emergency clinic and maybe even a kennel near your destination. Having a backup plan for your pet is also a good idea should plans or travel policies change before your trip.

Traveling with your pet can be a fun and relatively stress free experience with a little extra planning. For more great information, check out the AAA website, www.PetSpot.AAA.com or other AAA publications listing pet-friendly hotels. Enjoy the summer holidays and safe travels with your tail-wagging friends!

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