

# Top 12 Tips for Traveling with Your Pets

*Traveling with your pet can be fun and rewarding-especially when you're prepared.*

In addition to the pet travel basics. . .safely restraining your pet, allowing adequate time for potty breaks, bringing comforting items from home like favorite toys & bed. . .several additional simple practices can help make every trip easier and more pleasant for both you and your pet.

1. Schedule a veterinarian visit to ensure overall health and current vaccinations. Ask for a health certificate and vaccination records, especially if you're traveling out of state.
2. Make sure your **pet's identification tags** are up-to-date and readable. Also, be sure the rabies tag is current. Include your **destination address** and/or phone number on your pet's tags and cage/crate.
3. Remember to **pack water** to prevent dehydration. The Handi-Drink works extremely well, and allows your pet to drink from it. To help ensure convenient feedings, bring along a collapsible food bowl. Make sure that you take your pet's food in a re-sealable container. That way your pet can't root into the food when you're busy driving!
4. Pack all **medications and supplements** to avoid missed doses.
5. Pack a **first aid kit** to ensure readiness in the event of an injury or medical emergency.
6. **Exercise** your pet prior to departure. A tired pet is typically much more amenable to travel. Also, bring fetch toys & a lead or harness to allow exercise during "pit stops." Attach the lead before you open the door for your pet's safety.
7. **Feed** your pet at least four hours prior to departure to prevent car sickness. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount than normal at least two hours before you leave. Bring along some low fat treats & biscuits. Don't succumb to giving your dog treats on the run.
8. Use a **travel remedy**, if necessary. If your pet is extremely anxious about travel, try a soothing non-prescription product like Ultra-Calm or Rescue Remedy.
9. **Trim toenails** to prevent snags and injury, especially if your pet will travel in a cage or crate.
10. Cover your **car seats** with specialized pet seat covers to keep them clean and free of hair shed on the trip. Bring some favorite toys so that your pet does not become bored. Bones to chew on in the car will keep your pet occupied during the drive.
11. Know your **travel rules** and restrictions, especially if you will travel on an airplane. Call ahead. Many places (including campgrounds) do not allow pets. Make sure its OK to bring your pet before you leave. There are several books on the market and websites which have a state-by-state listing of hotels, motels, and inns that welcome pets.
12. **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. To keep your pet cool ***on the road*** try a car window shade.



*Since Brutus filled the bag, Ginger will have to get her own!*