

14 Tips for Safe Summer Travel

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If you plan on taking your dog or cat along on vacation, a weekend get-away or other summer adventure, remember the following tips:

- 1.) Bring food and water from home.** The last thing you want is digestive problems when you're on the road. You may bring your pet's regular dishes, or use convenient [travel dishes](#).
- 2.) Call ahead.** Many places (including campgrounds) do not allow pets. Make sure it's OK to bring your pet before you leave. Several books on the market contain state-by-state listings of hotels, motels, and inns that welcome pets.
- 3.) Attach nametags to your pet's collar.** If your pet already wears a nametag, make sure the information is up-to-date and readable.
- 4.) Pack a lead and tie out.** Attach the lead before you open the door for your pet's safety.
- 5.) Bring toys.** To keep your pet from becoming bored, be sure to bring his favorite toys. Balls to fetch outside and bones to chew on in the car to keep him occupied will help a great deal.
- 6.) Pack a first aid kit for your pet.** It's always a good idea to have one handy, just in case.
- 7.) Cover the seats.** A shedding pet can change the appearance of your car seats forever. Hair is tough to get out. [Car seat covers](#) are an excellent investment if you want to retain the value of your vehicle and keep it looking clean.

8.) Provide plenty of exercise before you leave. This will help your pet relax and enjoy the trip.

9.) Clean up after your pet to keep the great outdoors great, and out of consideration for others. Keep a supply of [Dispoz-a-Scoop](#) bags on hand when traveling.

10.) 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.

11.) Restrain your pet during travel in either a [harness](#), [pet seat](#), [barrier](#), [wire crate](#) or [plastic crate](#). It's the safest way to travel for both you and your pet.

12.) Get a health certificate from your veterinarian and update your pet's [vaccinations](#). Be sure to take a copy of your pet's rabies certificate.

13.) Bring any medications your pet is taking.

14.) 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, consider a car window shade for a cool, safe, refreshing journey.