Summer Travel Tips

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

If you plan on taking your dog or cat along on vacation, that weekend get-away or other summer traveling, here are a few things to remember:

- **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 there are convenient travel dishes available.
- **Call ahead.** Many places (including campgrounds) do not allow pets. Make sure it's OK to bring your pet before you leave. There are several books on the market which contain a state-by-state listing of hotels, motels, and inns that welcome pets.
- **Attach nametags to your pet.** If your pet already has a nametag, make sure the information is up-to-date and readable.
- **Pack a lead and tie out.** Attach the lead before you open the door for your pet's safety.
- **Bring toys.** To 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.
- **Pack a first aid kit for your pet.** It's always a good idea to have one handy, just in case.
- **Cover the seats.** A shedding pet will 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.
- **Provide plenty of exercise before you leave.** This will help your pet relax and enjoy the trip.
- **Clean up after your pet** to keep the great outdoors great, and out of consideration for others. Every pet owner should have a supply of Dispoz-a-Scoop bags on hand when traveling.

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- **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.
- **Restrain your pet during travel** in either a harness, pet seat, barrier, wire cage or plastic crate. It's the safest way to travel for both you and your pet.
- **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.

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