Traveling with Your Cat

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If you plan on taking your 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 are on the road. You may bring your cat'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.
- **Make sure your cat's nametag is up-to-date and readable.**
- **Do not forget your cat's favorite toys.**
- **Pack a first aid kit for your cat.** It is always a good idea to have one handy, just in case.
- **Provide plenty of exercise before you leave.**
- **Stop often** on long trips to allow cats to get exercise outside of their crates, and to relieve themselves.
- **Travel on an empty stomach.** Car sickness is more likely if your cat 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 pet seat or wire cage or plastic crate. It is the safest way to travel for both you and your cat.
- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR CAT 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.

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