

TRAVELING

With Your Pets



As summer and warmer weather approach, many of us will travel to outdoor activities, summer vacations, or simply to someplace a bit cooler than the desert southwest! Near or far, there are some special considerations to traveling with pets, so you'll want to plan ahead.

- Different areas of the country may present different risk factors for parasites like fleas and ticks, exposure to different illnesses [e.g. Lyme Disease, Salmon Poisoning to name a couple]. Risk-based vaccines and/or different preventatives may be warranted to help protect your pet.

Does travel or unfamiliar surroundings cause stress to your pet? Not all dogs and cats are comfortable outside of their home environment. Consider boarding or in-home care for those animals who will likely be happier staying home!

- Please ensure that your pet is up-to-date on all vaccines and both heart worm and flea-tick prevention before you leave. If they take other medications, you'll want to ensure that you have any prescriptions filled before leaving. Double check that their microchip information is up to date. Carry copies of your pets' vaccination records and any pertinent medical records with you. Young puppies who have not received their full set of immunizations likely should not travel.
- You'll likely need to look ahead for pet-friendly accommodations while you travel. Always crate pets when they are unattended, be courteous and bring old sheets to cover beds/furniture, and be sure that your pet has comfortable bathroom routines and won't whine or vocalize excessively. Check indoors or outdoors for any hazards before allowing your pet to roam freely.
- Similarly, plan ahead for rest stops/hikes that are pet friendly. It is safer to avoid off-leash dog parks or off-leash hiking areas where you and your dog are unfamiliar with the terrain. Keep your pet leashed to help mitigate and avoid any encounters with unknown pets or wildlife.
- Consider your destination and length of stay-confirm that you can either pack enough of your pet's regular diet or that you will be able to purchase it along the way. Some pets may also develop an upset stomach from new water sources. You may need to plan to carry or buy bottled water for them.
- Veterinary care can be difficult to find when you are outside of your local area. Be prepared that you may have to visit an emergency hospital if your pet is ill or injured while traveling. Again, carrying an up-to-date copy of your pets' medical records can help to streamline this process.
- Pets should ALWAYS travel in a crate or seatbelt. Please do not allow your pet to roam freely the vehicle as this is dangerous for you both! Take time before your trip to acclimate your pet so that they are comfortable and relaxed while traveling.



If flying, please check airline regulations ahead of time to see what vaccinations and/or health certificates might be required for your pet. Check for any temperature restrictions. Ensure that your carrier or crate meets airline regulations.

For car travel, look for crates, carriers, or seatbelts that are crash tested. Acclimate your pet to their crate ahead of time. Reach out if you have concerns regarding motion sickness or anxiety!