

Traveling With Pets

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□ Traveling with pets need not be stressful. Pets can make wonderful traveling companions with a few simple steps to ensure your animal's safety. These tips apply to any type of animal friend, be it a dog, cat, bird, or reptile.

1. It's best to crate all animals. The most well-behaved dog or parrot can be thrown about if you have to make a sudden stop. Even a minor accident can cause injury to your animal if it is
2. Make sure to bring extra water for your dog (or cat ... or bird ... or reptile ...) plus a dish or container dedicated for use as a water bowl.
3. It's a good idea to have your pet's name, your name, and an emergency phone number taped to the crate or traveling container. Make sure any health information, such as medication, is also noted. This will help ensure that if for any reason, you and your pet are separated along the way, authorities or good Samaritans will be able to find you quickly and help ensure that your animal is okay.
4. Be mindful of the temperature outside. If it's a hot day, we recommend leaving your animal friend at home, but if you do need to travel with your pet, a good practice is to run the air conditioning in your car to cool off the interior before loading your animal. According to the American Veterinary Association*, the temperature in your car can rise 20 degrees in just ten minutes and then can continue to climb even more!
5. Before traveling, make sure your pet is accustomed to spending time in its traveling container, be it a traditional crate for your dog, a small bird cage for your feathered friend, or a heavy-duty plastic storage tub with air holes for your reptile (we suggest securing the lid with bungee cords). New environments can be stressful for animals, so allowing them a little practice time in their traveling container ahead of your trip will be helpful to you and
6. When loading your animal into your car, choose a place where the crate cannot be knocked over, such as the foot-well of a seating area, or the floor of the hatchback area (but never the trunk, which will not receive proper ventilation). If you do need to place a crate on a seat, make sure you strap the crate in with a seatbelt.
7. It's important to remember that even once your animal is properly crated and seat-belted in, sudden starts and stops can still stress the animal and possibly jerk them about. Drive extra carefully, allow extra stopping room between you and the car in front of you, and allow a little extra time in your trip to account for gentler driving and possible doggy pit stops.
8. Check and make sure that pets are allowed at your destination. Many hotels and state parks do allow pets, but some do not. It's always best to check on pet policies ahead of time to ensure a good time for all.

We hope these tips help you prepare to travel with your animal friend! For any additional information,

or if you would like to discuss some tips on how to travel with your particular animal, please give us a call. We are happy to help!

*<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/pets-in-vehicles.aspx>



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