

Pawsitive Press

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Pet Travel Safety

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The holiday season is a time for visiting family and friends. Many of us wouldn't dream of leaving home for an extended period of time without our fur babies, therefore traveling with our pets has become commonplace. The comfort and safety of our pets regardless of distance is important.

Keeping our fur babies safe should be our first priority. Whether just traveling across town or across country it's always advised that your dog wear collars, leashes and identification. Keeping your dog tethered to the seatbelt lock or using a crate will keep them even safer in the event of a quick stop, fender bender, or having to stop for roadside assistance. Dogs can easily slide around in the car without warning as they aren't aware of the direction of the car's travel. Keeping your pet from being a ping pong ball around your car is not only safe for them, but for your passengers too.



Traveling with cats can be sometimes stressful for your feline despite distance. Most cats like to hide and be secluded from strange and new surroundings, so crating and covering the kitty can be comforting. Again putting a collar on your fur baby and even a small leash while he/she in the carrier is a safe plan. Some cats can become fractious when they leave their home. For these situations there are some helpful stress relievers like Feliway spray for a blanket, *Calming Collars* (calmingcollars.com), catnip, and sometime prescribed sedatives.

Living in Florida it is not uncommon to have to make long trips for vacation or even evacuation due to storms or flooding. Identifying your pets is the most paramount safety issue. Microchipping your pet is an easy way to ensure that safety even if the

collar is forgotten, lost, or comes off your pet. It will act as a permanent identification.

Some pets get nausea while traveling and need medication to help with the motion sickness. You should contact your family veterinarian if this is the case, so they can help.

If traveling long distances consider having enough supplies such as water, food and waste bags. These things may not seem necessary for a short road trip, but if there is a change in plans and you have road trouble or choose to stay the night, you will have the things your pet will need in those situations. Sometimes just the trip in the car can create stress to your pet, and changes in diet or dehydration could compound on a smaller issue.

Remember when you are flying with your pet(s), a health certificate is required by most airlines. It is important to get the health certificate no more than 10 days prior to your travel date, as most airlines will not accept a health certificate older than that. Pets are required to be up to date on at least a rabies

Pet Travel Safety Continued

vaccine in order to fly the friendly skies. More vaccines and/or tests may also be required depending on where you are flying to. If you are traveling outside of the continental US, we suggest using an animal mover such as Air Animal for your travel needs. They are well educated and trained on the special needs of pets traveling to areas outside the USA and know all the paperwork you will require for a smooth and seamless transition.

Traveling with your pets can be a fun and worthwhile experience, as long as you do it safely. Remember they will have the same needs away from home as you would. It is always best to be prepared for whatever may arise when traveling with your pet(s). If you have any questions regarding safely transporting your pet around town or across the country, please feel free to give the office a call. We are happy to help!



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Safety Gear for your Furry Traveling Companion

There are lots of companies that make products to make traveling with pets safer and easier. The following items can be found in pet stores, big box outlets, or online from suppliers.

Pet Barrier

Available in a variety of sizes for wagons, minivans, or SUVs, a barrier gives your pet some room to move, but keeps them safely contained behind the rear seat and off the upholstery.

Harness/Restraint

According to Barkbuckleup.com, a 60-lb dog traveling at 35 mph can turn into a 2,700 pound projectile in an accident. For the safety of your pet and your family, look for a harness that lets your pet sit or lie down, but will keep them restrained in an accident.

Cargo area mat or liner

Mats and liners help protect carpets and make cleanup easier. Look for one with a 2-3 inch lip around the edge to keep spills contained.

Mat/travel bed

If you have a pet bed at home, you can bring it along to help keep your pet comfortable and make them feel more secure. Or get one just for your car. Beds for the cargo area are one option, as are hammocks that fit over the rear seat area.

Water bowl

A re-sealable container is fine, but you can find ones that are collapsible, spill proof, or both. One cool model from BarkBuckleUp.com fits in a cup holder.

Loading ramp

Smaller and older dogs can more easily get in and out using a ramp, and it makes loading easier on your back, too. A variety of models and sizes are available. Telescoping or foldable models provide extra length without being too long to fit in your car.

Check out these websites!

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Pet Safety TRAVEL TIPS

1
When travelling by car, cats and dogs should go in carriers that are secured to a seat.

2
On long trips, make sure to stop frequently for pets to relieve themselves and stretch.

3
Never travel with a pet in a truck bed. A sudden change of motion or impact could be fatal.



4
When travelling by air, make sure you read your Airline's policies; they can vary.



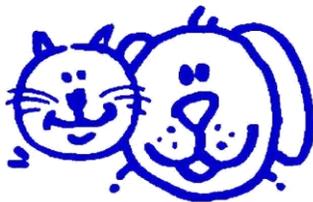
5
Always make sure your pet has access to water and gets food during long trips.

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\$1

First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. NL



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\$25

Home Again Microchip

(\$30.40 Savings)

Present this coupon to receive a Home Again microchip implantation, lifetime registration and one year of advanced benefits from Home Again. Call the office today to schedule your cat or dog. 727-733-9351 May not be combined with any other special offers or coupons. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 1/31/16 NL



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2 Months Free Advantage Multi

(\$36.00 - \$42.00 savings)

Buy one 6 pack of Advantage Multi and get 2 months same size free. Patient must have been seen by a doctor at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin within the past year. May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 1/31/16 NL