

Traveling with your pets

Summer is a busy travel time of year and most people like to bring their four legged family members along on the vacation as well. While it can be fun for the entire family to have the dog or cat along on the trip some precautions should be taken in actually getting them there.

When taking your dog or cat on a longer trip in the car there a few things to consider.

- If they are not used to longer car rides do trial runs where you slowly increase the amount of time they will spend in the car.
- It is safest to keep your pets out of the front seat and have them either in a carrier or have a harness on them that can be buckled up.
- It is safest to have your dog keep their head and feet in the car. By letting them have their head out the window they can suffer from ear damage as well as be injured by flying debris. When they have the opportunity to have their head and feet out the window they are more likely to fall out.
- It is best to stop every two to three hours to let your dog out to go to the bathroom and move around a little bit.
- Keep a gallon of cold water, preferably from home, for your pets to drink on the way. Water from home is best because some dogs and cats will not drink water they are not used to.
- Having your pet microchipped is a permanent form of identification that stays with your pet even if their collar comes off.
- Be sure that your dog has a collar on and a tag with your contact information on it. Also bring along a copy of your pets medical records.
- Do not leave your pet alone in a car. On an 85 degree day the temperature inside the car can rise to over 110° F in a matter of minutes.

There are also things to consider when you are flying with your pet.

- Make sure your pet is healthy enough to fly.
- Check airline regulations as to if there are any breeds that are not allowed to fly in the cargo hold such as snub-nosed breeds.
- Ensure that you have your pets' health records and vaccination paperwork along with you.
- Have a kennel that allows them enough room to turn around, and stand without hitting their head.
- Make sure that your pet is used to being in the carrier before you leave.
- Ensure that your crate has a "Live Animal" sticker on it and that there is a food and water dish in there as well.

- Insure that your contact information is securely attached to both your pet and their carrier.
- Before the flight play with your pet so that they are tired, this will help make the trip easier.

Anytime you are traveling with your pet there a few things that you can do to make their trip more comfortable.

- Keep a familiar blanket or toy in your pets' kennel.
- If your pet gets nervous consider trying a Thundershirt® or ADAPTIL®
- Book hotel stays with pet friendly hotels and look for destinations that allow your pet to tag along with you.

If you have any questions about traveling with your pets or the Thundershirt® and ADAPTIL® please contact us at (920) 668-6212 or email us at info@cgvet.com