

TRAVELS WITH YOUR PET

Bringing Fido along requires careful consideration

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Travelling with an animal has the potential to be either a wonderful or frustrating experience for pet owners.

And for the pet who does not have any say in where he goes or how he gets there, the experience can be both frightening and traumatizing.

In order to make travelling a little easier, here are some tips offered by people who have travelled with their pets:

When travelling on a plane with an animal, remember:

- You'll need a special animal container.

- Tranquilizing is recommended for some but not others. Check with your animal's vet.

- Proof of vaccinations and current health certificates should be carried with you, especially if you will be crossing any borders.

- Make sure the vaccinations meet the standards for entering and leaving — check with the traveller's bureau.

- Attach food to the animal's kennel in case of delay or loss.

- Include food and water in the crate. Many airlines make this mandatory.

- Put tags on your dog in case the kennel gets opened.

- Include a chew toy for boredom.

- A piece of your clothing or a blanket can help your pet feel safe and calm.

- There can be extra fees when travelling with a pet, be prepared for them.

- Avoid lay-overs. Pets can be left on the tarmac and exposed to heat, cold, rain and snow.

- Try to contact a vet in the area prior to going, it could save you some heartache later on if there's an emergency.

When travelling in cars:

- Don't travel with a dog that hates the car, it'll just make you both miserable.

- Don't take dogs along if they're going to be stuck in the hotel the whole time.

- Plan ahead. Check what hotels and parks welcome pets.

- Keep animals on a leash to prevent problems.

- Never leave a dog alone in a car in

hot weather.

- Be careful around kids. Even an animal who is usually wonderful around children can become cranky when his routine is changed.

- Pack water from home and the animal's regular food to prevent an upset stomach.

- Take some of their favourite toys.

- Remember to poop and scoop.

- Don't forget your animal's medication.

When considering if you should take your animal with you, decide whether the extra trouble it will entail for you, and the upset it will cause your pet, is worth it.

If there are any doubts, you can always leave your pet at a reputable kennel, or arrange for a home-sitting service to care for your pet.

If you do decide on a kennel, check it out in advance. While one "vacation resort" for pets in New York offers first-

class pet suites, room service and a spa-like setting, for the more budget-minded pet owner, there are plenty of kennels that offer a safe and loving environment at reasonable prices — minus the room service.

KENNEL CONSIDERATIONS

Pet owners often recommend that, in addition to talking to people who have left their pet at the kennel you're considering, you also leave your pet there one or two nights to see how he reacts to the surroundings prior to leaving him there for a week or more.

Check out these websites for help planning your trip:

www.healthypet.com — Lists places that have pet hospitals in the U.S. and Canada.

www.travelweb.com — Lists hotels that accept pets in the U.S. and Canada.

Double check, some only accept in the off-season.

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