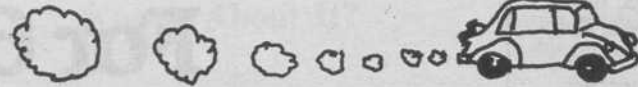




How To Travel With Man's Best Friend—And Other Four Legged Friends



By Car

If possible, start the animal out on short drives around home before vacation time. This will gradually get him used to the motion of the car.

Before starting a long trip, have your pet examined by a veterinarian. Be sure you have health and rabies vaccination certificates available especially if you plan to cross state or international borders.

Ask your veterinarian to prescribe a motion sickness pill or sedative if your animal suffers from severe motion sickness. NEVER give an animal tranquilizers without your veterinarian's approval.

Bring a pet carrier if traveling with a cat or other small animal. Let him become accustomed to the carrier before you leave.

Take along the pet's food and water bowls, blanket and bedding, and some familiar toys. They'll give him a touch of home.

Don't let your pet jump around the car or hang his head out of the window. He should sit or lie quietly and not annoy the driver.

Don't feed an animal for several hours before any trip. Bring along a canteen of fresh, cool water and stop frequently to let him drink.

NEVER leave your pet alone in a parked car. The heat in a closed auto can easily reach more than 120 degrees in a matter of minutes. In cold weather, cars can become as cold as refrigerators. When traveling, keep the windows rolled down several inches or use the air conditioning to cool off the car.

Allow your pet to cater to his needs when you cater to yours. Dogs, in particular, need regular exercise.

Bring a full litter pan if you're traveling with a cat. Carry the pan and litter inside a plastic garbage bag.

Keep the pet in your car with you, not alone inside a camper or trailer or in the back of a pick-up truck. This way you can easily tell when he's hungry, thirsty, hot or tired.

Make sure that your pet wears a comfortable collar with complete identification (pet's name and your name, address, and phone number) and a license tag.

By Train

Each railroad line has its own policy regarding transportation of pets. Amtrak, for instance, presently adheres to a strict "no pet" policy. Check in advance with your rail line before making any plans.

By Bus

While bus carriers differ in their pet policies, most long distance lines do not allow any animals except Seeing Eye or Hearing-Ear dogs to accompany blind or deaf passengers. Both Greyhound and Trailways follow this policy set by the National Bus Traffic Association. Lines that do allow pets generally require that they be transported in kennel carriers or containers. Contact the individual bus line or the National Bus Traffic Association (506 So. Wabash Ave., Chicago, ILL 60605) for more information.

By Ship

Each ship line has its own policy regarding transportation of pets. Check in advance with your ferry or cruise line before making any plans.

By Air

When traveling abroad, we strongly recommend the ASPCA health and rabies inoculation certificates for your pet's sake and because many coun-

tries and states require them. In some cases, inoculations for distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis are also required.

- Contact the airline well in advance to check regulations and services and make reservations.

- Again, tranquilize a pet only with your veterinarian's sanction. Never give an animal tranquilizers without a prescription from your veterinarian.

- Feed your pet a light meal at least six hours before departure. Do not give an animal water within two hours of the flight except in extremely hot weather.

- Exercise your pet before placing him in the shipping container.

- Whenever possible, plan your trip so that your pet does not arrive on a weekend, a holiday, or during off hours. Try to schedule the flight so that there are a minimum of stops and transfers. Arrange evening flights during the hot summer months.

- Ask in advance about other cargo on your flight. (Fumes from dry ice, for instance, can be lethal.)

- If the flight is a long one, place a supply of dry food in a cloth bag and attach it to the outside of the crate. Include a water dish so that the airline attendants can feed and water the animal without harm. Do not put water in the dish prior to departure because it may spill and dampen the whole crate.

- Make sure that the shipping container is well constructed of reinforced, unpainted wood; wood and metal; or reinforced plastic. It should be equipped with a leak-proof bottom. The door should have a positive lock, such as a hasp with a harness snap. The crate should be large enough so that the animal can stand, turn around easily, and lie down. There should also be good cross-ventilation. Consult the transporting airline, your local humane society, or the ASPCA Animalport for more information.

- Allow your pet to get accustomed to the

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