

CHECKLIST: TRAVEL BY CAR WITH YOUR PET



2 Weeks Before Departure: Order & Packing Checklist

- Calming anti-stress collars, cat pheromone room diffusers
- Anti-anxiety spray for you and for your pet
- Mobile/foldable cat litter tray
- Car protection for dogs/Mobile enclosure for cats
- Cat backpack or carrier bag for transportation to/from your car
- Small trash bags and poo bags
- Bones and other chewies for dogs
- Collapsible water bowl, pet food, food and water bowls
- Favorite toys, blankets, and treats
- Medications (if your pet is taking any)
- Cats: Cat litter, cat litter box, litter box scoop, hot water bottle with cover
- Dogs (and trained cats): Lead, harness, poo bag dispenser

1 Week Before Departure: Prepare Your Pet

- Check that all vaccinations of your pet are up-to-date
- Find and enter in your phone emergency pet hospital numbers for all key locations
- Clip their nails a day in advance so that they can't injure themselves/wreck your car
- Ensure that your pet has a collar with a tag that has your phone number on it**
- Check that your pet insurance covers travel and is still valid (if any)
- If your pet has a long coat, brush them thoroughly on the morning of departure
- Check your car and remove any car air fresheners, they can really irritate your pet as they have very sensitive noses (and cats really hate all citrusy smells!)
- For cats, put their carrier/backpack in a visible place a few days in advance
- Transport all bags and other items to the car the day before

On the Day of Departure: Transport Your Pet to the Car

- Ideally, plan to depart at the time when your pet tends to be inactive/sleep
- Put the anti-anxiety collar on your pet an hour before departure
- Take your dog for an extended walk/play with your cat to wear them out
- Install the car protection covers/cat enclosure and blankets in the car

HAVE A WONDERFUL TRIP WITH YOUR FURRY BABY

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- Put the heater/AC on in winter/summer to prepare the car for your pet
- Prepare the hot water bottle, put it in its cover to avoid scalding, take it to the car
- Spray the area where your pet will be traveling with anti-stress spray
- Don't be nervous and behave as normal – your pet will only get stressed if they see that you are! If you behave as if it is business-as-usual, they will calm down quickly

During Your Trip: Driving with Your Pet

- Use car child safety locks to ensure your pet does not open a door or a window**
- Make sure that your pet has access to clean, fresh water at all times
- For dogs, make regular stops to walk your dog so that they can stretch their legs
- For cats, they are more likely to use their mobile litter box when you are driving than when you stop, because they get used to the car being in motion after a while
- For cats who are trained to walk on a leash: We don't recommend that you walk your cat during rest stops. They are much more likely to escape in a place that's not familiar to them, and trust us, every cat can get out of their harness if they really want to!

On the Road: Hotel Stays with Pets

- There are many hotels, motels, and B&B that will allow you to stay the night with your pet, but you need to check this in advance to avoid disappointment
- When you are searching for a suitable hotel or travel accommodation, apply the "pets allowed" filter for a list of pet-friendly options
- IMPORTANT FOR CATS** More often than not, "pets allowed" or "pet friendly" means "dog friendly" and they won't check in cats; call the place you are planning to book to double check if your cat will be welcome (the same applies to Airbnb rentals!)
- Pack a separate bag with 'pet hotel stay' items to make their hotel stays as comfortable as possible and avoid unpacking fully every night: Food and water bowls, favorite toys, pet bed or blanket, treats, and a mobile litter box + cat litter for cats.
- For cat owners: If you have a cat pheromone plug-in room diffuser, take it to your hotel room with you and plug it in, it will help your cat to relax

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