



Animal Motel's Pet Travel Guide

Moving, relocating or traveling can be stressful on both you and your pet, but it doesn't have to be! Here are some helpful tips to ensure your pet is healthy, happy, and safe on your next adventure.

Preparing for Your Trip

Upon deciding to travel or move make sure you prepare your pet properly for the trip.

- ✓ Get a clean bill of health from the veterinarian and update your pet's vaccinations. Obtain a health certificate showing proof of up-to-date inoculations, particularly rabies, distemper and canine cough.
- ✓ Ask the doctor about potential health risks at your destination (Lyme disease, heartworm infection) and the necessary preventive measures.
- ✓ If your pet is taking prescribed medicine, pack a sufficient supply plus a few days' extra. Also, take the prescription in case you need a refill and get a list of clinics or doctors at your destination from your veterinarian or the American Animal Hospital Association (www.healthypet.com).
- ✓ Depending on the length and nature of the trip and your pet's level of command response, an obedience refresher course might be a good idea. It's also a good idea to socialize your pet by exposing her to other people and animals (especially if she normally stays inside).
- ✓ Learn about your destination and find out what types of documentation will be required and check into quarantines or other restrictions well in advance. Animal Motel can help you with this!
- ✓ Most people traveling with pets drive, and our Car Travel Section will help auto travelers, pet and person alike.
- ✓ Flying is really the only major alternative to car travel. Amtrak, as well as Greyhound and other interstate bus lines, do not accept pets. Many airlines do accept animals in the passenger cabin or cargo hold, and as more people choose to fly with their pets, airlines are becoming more pet-conscious. Check out the Airline Travel Section and be sure to inquire about animal shipping and welfare policies before making reservations. Animal Motel, a licensed USDA Intermediate Handler can assist you with pet relocation for both Domestic and International travel.
- ✓ Reconfirm all travel plans within a few days of your departure, especially with lodgings and airlines; their policies may have changed after you made the reservations. If you plan to visit state parks or attractions that accept pets on the premises, obtain their animal regulations in advance.
- ✓ The easiest way to make sure your pet will reach the destination is to use a company that can handle all the facets of travel. Animal Motel works with an international group of professionals who can assist in the arrangements. We can do most of the work for you we can do door to door service.





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Packing Checklist:

Here is a packing checklist to ensure you are prepared for your trip.

- Carrier or crate
- Sturdy, well-fitting nylon or leather collar or harness, license tag, ID tag(s) and leash
- Health certificate and other required documents
- Food and water dishes
- Can opener and spoon (for canned food)
- Food supply plus a few extra days
- Medications, if necessary
- Healthy treats
- Blanket or other bedding
- Litter supplies & plastic bags
- Favorite toys – bones, squeaky toy
- Chewing preventative
- Grooming supplies as needed
- First-aid kit
- A recent photograph and written description including name, breed, gender, height, weight, coloring, and distinctive markings
- Call Animal Motel for Pet Travel help



Packing Checklist





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Airline Travel

As a Pet Travel Agency, Animal Motel is able to help with any airline travel questions whether it would be domestic or international pet relocation. Here are a couple questions you might want to ask before deciding to fly your pet on an airplane.

- ✓ **Do your homework:** Investigate the airline's animal transport and welfare policies, especially if you are flying with a small or commuter airline. All airlines are subject to basic AWA regulations, but specific standards of care vary greatly from one company to another.
- ✓ **Understand the potential hazards:** Because a plane's cargo hold is neither cooled nor heated until takeoff, the most dangerous time for your pet is that spent on the ground in this unventilated compartment. Both summers and winters potentially expose pets to the possibility of serious injury or death from heatstroke or hypothermia. To minimize these risks, regulations prohibit animals from being kept in the hold or on the tarmac for more than 45 minutes when temperatures are above 85 F or below 45 F. Some airlines impose even tighter temperature restrictions and may not permit animals. (Exceptions may be made for animals whose veterinarians certify they are acclimated to colder temperatures, but never warmer.)
- ✓ **Decide where your pet will fly:** Most animals fly in the hold as checked baggage when traveling with their owners, or as cargo when they are unaccompanied. The AWA was enacted to ensure animals traveling in this manner are treated humanely and are not subjected to dangerous or life-threatening conditions. For specific requirements pertaining to your animal, check with the airline in advance, as policies vary.
- ✓ Small pets may be taken into the passenger cabin with you as carry-on luggage. This places the animal's welfare squarely in your hands but is feasible only if he is very well-behaved and fits comfortably in a container that meets standard carry-on regulations. Keep in mind that the carrier — with the animal inside — must be kept under the seat in front of you throughout the flight. Note: AWA regulations do not apply to animals traveling in the cabin.
- ✓ Flying the not-so-fur-friendly skies: American, Delta, US Airways and JetBlue have all raised their travel fees for pets, with costs now ranging from \$100 to \$150 for pets traveling one-way in-cabin.
- ✓ **Make stress-free travel arrangements:** Animal Motel can take care of the travel plans for your pet. We are up-to-date on regulations and prices and are able to really make your travel arrangements stress free!





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Car Travel

Sometimes even a car ride can be quite the trip for your pet(s). Here are some specific tips in relation to traveling with your pet via car.

- ✓ For safety reasons, pets should be confined to the back seat, either in a carrier or a harness attached to the car's seat belt. In addition, a restrained animal will not be able to break free and run away the second the car door is opened.
- ✓ To help prevent carsickness, feed your pet a light meal 4 to 6 hours before departing.
- ✓ Do not give an animal food or water in a moving vehicle.
- ✓ Never allow your pet to ride in the bed of a pickup truck. It's illegal in some states; he also can jump out or be thrown. Harnessing or leashing him to the truck bed is not advisable either: if he tries to jump out, he could be dragged along the road or the restraint could become a noose.
- ✓ Avoid placing animals in campers or trailers.
- ✓ Don't let your dog stick her head out the window, no matter how enjoyable it seems. Road debris and other flying objects can injure delicate eyes and ears, and the animal is at greater risk for severe injury if the vehicle should stop suddenly or be struck.
- ✓ We recommend that drivers stop every 2 hours to stretch their legs and take a quick break from driving. Your pet will appreciate the same break. Plan to visit a rest stop every 4 hours or so to let him have a drink and a chance to answer the call of nature.
- ✓ Be sure your pet is leashed before opening the car door. This will prevent her from unexpectedly breaking free and running away. Keep in mind that even the most obedient pet may become disoriented during travel or in strange places and set off for home.

