

### **Traveling With Your Pet**

1. Ask yourself if taking your pet with you is the right thing to do for your pet and your family. If the answer is “no”, then make suitable arrangements (pet sitter, boarding kennel, etc.) . If the answer is “yes”, then make appropriate plans.
2. Make sure your pet will be welcome where you’re heading—this includes any stops you may make along the way as well as your final destination.
3. If you’re crossing state lines during your travel, you need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (also called a health certificate). You’ll need to get it within 10 days of when you plan to travel. Your veterinarian will examine your pet to make sure it doesn’t have any signs of infectious disease and that it has the appropriate vaccinations (e.g. rabies). This certificate can’t be legally issued without a veterinary exam.
4. Make sure you know how you can find a veterinarian quickly if there’s an emergency on the way to or after you’ve reached your destination. The AVMA’s MyVeterinarian.com site (<http://www.myveterinarian.com>) allows you to search for a veterinary practice by zip code or city/state, even in an emergency.
5. Prior to travel, make sure your pet is properly identified in case they become lost. Your pet should be wearing a collar with an ID tag (with accurate information). Microchips provide permanent identification and improve your chances of getting your pet returned to you, but make sure you keep your registration information up to date.
6. Properly restrain your pet with an appropriately-fitted harness or in a carrier of the appropriate size. “Appropriate size” means that the can lay down, stand up and turn around, but it’s not so big that they will be thrown around inside the carrier in case of a sudden stop or a collision. There should be no heads or bodies hanging out the windows and no pets in laps. That’s dangerous for everyone.
7. Make sure your pet is accustomed to whatever restraint you plan to use before your trip. Remember that road trips can be a little stressful on your pet. If your pet isn’t already used to the harness or carrier, that’s an added stress.
8. When traveling with your dog, make frequent stops to allow for urination and defecation, and to stretch their legs.
9. Take adequate food and water for the trip. Offer your pet water at each stop, and try to keep your pet’s feeding schedule as close to normal as possible.
10. When traveling, keep a current picture of your pet with you to help identify your pet if it gets lost.
11. Make sure you take your pet’s medications with you, including any preventives (heartworm, flea and tick) that may be due while you’re traveling.