

Before you go

Ask yourself, will my cat or dog be comfortable and happy on a trip?

Some animals simply prefer to stay at home and are homesick. A possibly motion-sick pet will ruin everyone's trip. In such a case it's probably wiser to leave your pet with a friend, relative or hire a 'pet sitter'. If that is not possible, you might consider a boarding facility.

Plan ahead

If you do decide to take your pet along, take as much time preparing your pet's trip as your own. If you plan to travel by plane or boat, find out if they allow pets and what kind of reservations and transport arrangements are needed. If staying at hotels, motels or campgrounds, check if animals are welcome. If you're staying with friends or family, make sure your pet is also invited.

If your pet is on any current medication make sure you have enough for the time period you are away. Always remember to consider if your pet becomes sick when you are travelling what medical care will you need, especially if your pet has an existing medical condition.

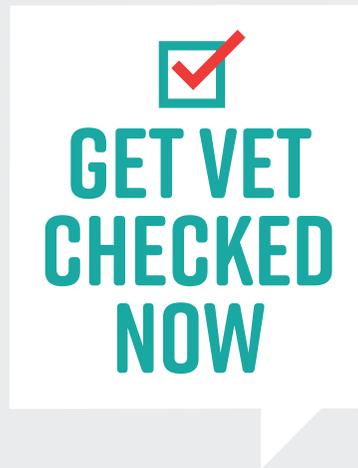
Consider how well your pet will travel and if medications may be necessary for motion sickness or anxiety. Your vet can advise of different medications for these issues.



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Travelling with your pet

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Travelling by car

If your pet is not used to being in a car, take them for a few short rides before your trip. Your cat will probably be most comfortable in a carrier.

- + Pets should NEVER be allowed to put their heads outside the window when riding in a car. Dirt particles or stones flicked up by tyres can cause injury.
- + Dogs travelling in the back of utes should be either caged or tethered. Be careful to use the right sized lead anchored in the middle of the cabin.
- + Plan snack, exercise and rest stops about every two hours if you're taking a long drive.
- + Give the main meal at the end of the day or end of journey. Dry food is most convenient, but if your pet needs canned food, dispose of any unused portions if they cannot be refrigerated.

It is not recommended to leave your dog or your cat in a parked car. If you must, lock all doors and open windows enough to provide good ventilation.

Remember, on hot days the temperature in a parked car can rise to dangerous levels in just minutes and your pet could experience heat stroke, which is a veterinary emergency.



Travelling by plane



- + The best option is to contact the airline you will be flying with well in advance. Each company has its own regulations, and reservations for your pet will be necessary.
- + Be sure to ask about the airline's rules for pet crates or carriers, as well as their policy on giving medications eg: sedation for the flight.
- + Try to book a direct flight, one with minimal stops.
- + Be at the airport early, place your pet in their travel crate yourself and pick them up promptly when you land.
- + Consider contacting a pet transport company who can usually arrange a complete door-to-door service and look after any paperwork required.

Travelling by boat

- + Some cruise ships welcome pets. Check with the company you are sailing with.
- + Some boats have designated kennel areas where they are housed on the journey. They need to be reserved when you are booking tickets.
- + Others, on shorter journeys, may allow you to take the animal on board the vessel with you in designated areas. Just remember to have them restrained at all times. Or alternatively, they can be left in your vehicle (remember the windows though!)

Wherever you go

Nowadays, it is vital that your pet be microchipped, however, also ensure your pet **ALWAYS** wears their collar with complete identification and a registration tag.

Pack their usual food, toys, bowls, water and a leash. Having their usual food will decrease the likelihood of gastrointestinal issues eg: vomiting/diarrhoea.

If your pet must travel in a crate or carrier, be sure it is strong, large enough for them to stand up and turn around, has a place for food and water, is well ventilated, has a leak-proof bottom and closes securely.

Contact the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) or ask your vet for advice if you are planning to move overseas with your pet, as some parasite and vaccination regulations vary greatly.

Ensure your pet is up to date with vaccination and parasite protection.

Find out if any extra protection is needed in the area you are traveling eg: tick area, heartworm region.

