

Safe traveling with your pet

Most people have occasion to travel with their pet, even if it's just a trip to the veterinarian. Here are a few tips to insure both passenger and pet safety. If at all possible, your dog or cat should travel in a crate or carrier. For those cars that can't accommodate a crate, a special harness that attaches to your seat belt or a pet barrier would be an alternative. If you are using a pet barrier, make sure it is secure and doesn't collapse on top of your dog. For several reasons, it is dangerous for your dog to ride in the front passenger seat. Even if they are secured with a harness or seatbelt they may still be able to reach controls such as a stick shift or paw the drivers steering arm causing the vehicle to veer. In addition, most cars are airbag equipped and this can injure and/or severely frighten a dog. When driving, don't let your dog hang out the window. He can become over excited at someone or thing and accidentally fall or jump; he could also be hurt by flying debris. Lastly, remember to never leave your dog unattended in a parked car. Heat distress and dehydration happen very quickly. Lastly, when exiting the car, your dog should be secured with a buckle collar and leash and not allowed to bolt out freestyle.

If you're going on an extended trip take a doggy travel kit that contains the basics such as fresh bottled water, dishes, food, a leash, a collar, id tags, some favorite toys, a crate or bedding, grooming supplies, first aid kit and a photo of you and the dog. If your dog gets lost, the picture may be key in aiding his return. It's a good idea to include your cell phone# on the dog's tags. Depending on where and how long your trip is you may want to include your pet's medical information i.e. a list of current medications, your veterinarians contact information, or up-to-date vaccine or titer results.



Woofs, Purrs & Twitters