Pet Travel Checklist

A pet travel checklist for owners covering carrier, documents, supplies and air or car travel.

Plan ahead

- [ ] Confirm your pet is healthy enough to travel.
- [ ] Check species rules for your destination and route.
- [ ] Research pet-friendly accommodations and stops.
- [ ] Update ID tags and microchip contact details.
- [ ] Decide on air or car travel based on your pet's needs.
- [ ] Carry a recent photo in case of separation.

Carrier and containment

- [ ] Choose a sturdy, well-ventilated, appropriately sized carrier.
- [ ] Make sure your pet can stand, turn and lie down inside.
- [ ] Acclimate your pet to the carrier before the trip.
- [ ] Line it with absorbent bedding and a familiar item.
- [ ] Label the carrier with your name and contact details.
- [ ] Confirm the carrier meets airline rules if flying.

Documents and records

- [ ] Carry vaccination records, especially rabies.
- [ ] Bring any required health certificate for travel.
- [ ] Check import or entry rules for your destination.
- [ ] Keep microchip registration details accessible.
- [ ] Save your veterinarian's contact information.
- [ ] Confirm requirements early, as they vary by species and region.
  Verify official rules and timelines well before departure.

Supplies to pack

- [ ] Bring enough food for the trip plus extra.
- [ ] Pack water and a travel-friendly bowl.
- [ ] Carry medications with clear dosing instructions.
- [ ] Include waste bags, litter or cleanup supplies as needed.
- [ ] Add a familiar blanket, bed or toy for comfort.
- [ ] Pack a basic pet first-aid kit and wipes.

Air travel

- [ ] Book early and confirm the airline's pet policy.
- [ ] Check whether your pet flies in cabin or cargo.
- [ ] Verify carrier size and labeling requirements.

- [ ] Arrive early to allow extra check-in time.
- [ ] Avoid heavy meals right before the flight.
- [ ] Discuss flight safety and any sedation questions with your veterinarian.

Car travel

- [ ] Secure the carrier or restraint so it cannot shift.
- [ ] Keep the cabin cool and well-ventilated.
- [ ] Plan rest, water and potty breaks along the route.
- [ ] Never leave your pet alone in a parked car.
- [ ] Feed lighter before travel to reduce motion sickness.
- [ ] Watch for signs of stress or overheating.
- [ ] Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Consult your veterinarian about travel safety and confirm carrier, airline and destination rules before your trip.