

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.