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## **Car Travel Tips for Pets This Summer**

**Pet Restraint Safety.** Pets need to be restrained while traveling. This prevents them from distracting the driver, and causing injury to themselves or the vehicle. If the car stops suddenly, the pet is less likely to be thrown from the vehicle. It is best for pets to travel in a plastic sided carrier. The carrier should allow good ventilation. The pet should be able to sit down, stand and lie down. Prevent your pet from sticking its head out of the window. This can cause damage or injuries to the ears and eyes. There is also the danger of your pet jumping or getting struck by flying objects.

**Ease Stress Beforehand.** Get your pet used to traveling before the big trip. Take smaller trips first. Your pet will feel more comfortable and stress-free, if it is used to the crate. You can do this by feeding tasty treats in the carrier. Pets will also feel more familiar with their surroundings, if they sit in the vehicle for a couple minutes per day before going on the trip.

**Eating & Driving Don't Mix.** Before leaving on the big trip, be sure to feed your pet a small meal 3-4 hours prior to leaving. During the trip, do not feed your pet in a moving vehicle.

**Pets Don't Travel Solo.** Never leave your pet alone in the vehicle. Temperatures can get very hot or cold quickly, and your animal may not tolerate these changing conditions. If the pet is not properly restrained, it could cause damage to the car or escape if a window is left open.

**Pack for Pet Needs.** Things to bring for your pet, while traveling, are food, bowls, leash, waste pickup scoops, plastic bags for waste disposal, grooming tools, pet medications, pet first aid kit, toys, etc. Prevent your pet from drinking out of standing water by bringing bottled water instead to ensure pet safety.

**Pet Identification.** Your pet should be properly identified with collar, tags, microchip along with traveling tags with your immediate contact information or travel destination. If you are driving between states, you will need an interstate health certificate. If going to other countries, an international health certificate will be needed at the border. You will also want to keep a copy of a current rabies certificate.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.