

Traveling with pets – or NOT

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Summer brings travel, and May's article provided many tips and ideas for traveling with dogs. Several readers asked about traveling with cats. The best piece of advice ... DON'T! There may be a few exceptions, but as a rule, traveling with your cat is not recommended. Felines stress very easily, and really miss their homes and routines. It is best to leave them with a trusted caregiver, in their home environment.

If that is not possible, several established, reputable local feline resorts and vet offices are available in the area. These can be a great alternative to home care. As with all boarding situations, check them out beforehand. See if they will be a good fit for your cat's care.

If traveling with your cats is an absolute must, such as moving to a new city/home, start the trip with a visit to your vet. They can do a medical check, provide needed documentation and give you ideas on handling the move. A great local online source for information on traveling with your cat is www.allfelinehospital.com/travelingwithyourcat. This site has lots of great ideas to keep the stress level down for everyone!

If your travel plans include flying with your dog, be aware of the extra time and care this can take for your pet's travel needs. Airline travel poses different issues for your animals. Try to avoid sending your pet in the cargo hold; doing so can be very dangerous. If there is no other choice, do your research! Currently 15 air carriers turn in monthly pet incident reports to the DOT. Check these out, and the airline's requirements. Get all answers in writing.

Fly early or late in the day, because mid-day temps are too dangerous for animals in cargo. If you are flying with your pet in the plane, get there early. Reservations for pets on board are usually first come, first served. It is imperative to check with your veterinarian before flying with your pet. He/she will be able to verify that your pet is up for air travel and supply needed documentation. Your vet can also help with any issues concerning medical help for keeping your pet calm and as stress-free as possible.

Also be aware of extra safety precautions needed when going through security. Extra help, secured carriers, extra leashes, etc. are an absolute must. No one wants a frightened, lost animal at the airport.

The Coalition for Pet Protection was founded in 1992. It is a registered, 501 c (3) animal welfare organization. All monies are used locally. CPP members gratefully acknowledge the generous donations given on the recent Give to Lincoln Day. CPP currently focuses on felines and assists with their medical needs.

CPP also has an animal food pantry, supplying food for both dogs and cats. Look for information on our exciting upcoming fundraiser, "Cheers for Charity!" Plans are in the works for a great night of music and good cheer. Contact CPP at info@petcoalition, hotline at 402-434-7922, Facebook

or at www.petcoalition.org.

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