



Campbelltown Veterinary Hospital

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Tips For Travelling With Pets - BY CAR

If your pet is not used to being in the car or if you are planning on driving long distances, it is wise to ACCLIMATE your pet by taking short trips and gradually lengthening them until he/she is comfortable in the car.

Never allow your pets to ride with their heads out the window. They could get hurt by flying debris, or develop lung infections or inner air damage.

Never leave your pet alone in a parked car. On warm days, temperatures can rise quickly, posing a serious threat to your pet, even if the window is left slightly open. Of course, there is also the danger of tempting a pet thief.

Harness, rather than leash your dog inside the car. Cats are usually better off in their carriers as they are not as comfortable travelling in cars as dogs are.

Have your dog wear a flat collar with an ID tag imprinted with your home address, as well as a temporary tag with your mobile phone number, the number of the place where you are staying, and any other pertinent information. Bring a photograph of your pet.

Never let your pet out of the car without a leash. It's safest to use a car harness so that when you open the door, your pet won't dash out.

Be sensitive to high temperatures in the car - when driving for long times in one direction, shifting your pet to the shady side of the seat can make a big difference.

Do allow your pet "pit" stops frequently, and a little exercise is good for all of us.

Do not feed your pet in a moving car. It's best to plan your feeding schedule around your drive time, or plan on stopping to eat. Remember to give your pet plenty of water during your travels.

Don't forget your pet's Vaccination certificate and other required documentation as well as any medicine, vitamins or specific food or treats you may need. It's best not to change diet too abruptly so maybe bringing along enough food and water for part of your trip is a good idea.

Bring food and water bowls (portable bowls are very convenient), a scoop or plastic bags, baby wipes and a first aid kit with tweezers. Flashlights are helpful for late night strolls around the grounds. Bring grooming utensils, a favourite toy and bedding material or favourite pillow for a sense of security.