

TRAVELING WITH PETS



MerckVetManual.com



PLANNING

- Consult your veterinarian regarding health requirements before traveling, and ensure your pet is allowed to stay at your destination.
- A certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate) issued by an accredited veterinarian may be required to cross state lines or travel internationally.
- For overseas travel, consult relevant regulatory authorities to ensure your animal is allowed to enter and that quarantine and import requirements can be met.



TRANSPORTING

Check your pet carrier or crate to ensure:

- It is in good condition.
- It is large enough for your pet to fit comfortably.
- Your pet has had time to become acclimated while you are still at home.
- It meets airplane requirements, and has proper contact information and ID tags.



SAFEGUARDING

- Make sure your pet's collar has identification tags, including current contact information.
- Pets should be microchipped. Check that your microchip registration is up-to-date.
- Take a current color photo with you so you can easily identify your pet in case it becomes lost.
- Research contact information for local veterinarians at your destination in case emergency care is needed.



PACKING

Prepare a pet travel kit, including:

- Bedding and a favorite toy
- Grooming supplies
- Food and water
- Leash, collar, harness, and ID tags
- A first-aid kit, including sufficient medication
- A health certificate and other required documentation issued within 10 days of your trip



MONITORING

- Always perform a daily health check. In unfamiliar surroundings, your pet's appetite, energy level, and disposition may change.
- Stop every two hours for water and "potty" breaks, if traveling by car.
- A small meal about 30 minutes prior to the trip can alleviate carsickness.

