Safe Summer Traveling Tips for Cats

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

If you plan on taking your cat along on vacation, that weekend get-away, or other summer traveling, here are a few things to remember:

- Bring food and water from home. The last thing you want is digestive problems when you are on the road. You may bring your cat's regular dishes, or there are convenient travel dishes available.
- Call ahead. Many places (including campgrounds) do not allow pets. Make sure it is OK to bring your pet before you leave. There are several books on the market which contain a state-by-state listing of hotels, motels, and inns that welcome pets.
- Make sure your cat's nametag is up-to-date and readable.
- Do not forget your cat's favorite toys.
- Pack a first aid kit for your cat. It is always a good idea to have one handy, just in case.
- Provide plenty of exercise before you leave.
- Stop often on long trips to allow cats to get exercise outside of their crates, and to relieve themselves.
- Travel on an empty stomach. Car sickness is more likely if your cat has a full stomach. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount than normal at least two hours before you leave.

- Restrain your pet during travel in either a pet seat or wire cage or plastic crate. It is the safest way to travel for both you and your cat.
- NEVER LEAVE YOUR CAT IN A HOT CAR even if you park in the shade. Pets are unable to control body temperature as efficiently as humans and just a few minutes in a hot car could cause irreversible damage or death.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*