



Waggin' Tales

A Newsletter for Friends & Clients of All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic

Holiday Travel With Your Pet



'Tis the season for traveling. Whether it's for the holidays or just for fun, many of us want to bring our pets along with us. If you are thinking about taking your pet on a flight, there is a lot you should know in preparation for traveling to ensure the

safety of your pet. Each year thousands of pets travel on commercial airplanes, but that doesn't come without a certain amount of risk. There are several reports each year of lost, injured, or even deceased pets due to traveling on airplanes. The safety of your pet is the most important thing to consider before traveling. Hopefully this article will provide some helpful steps and safety tips prior to your trip.

Each airline has different rules and regulations regarding traveling with animals. You may want to contact several airlines before booking your trip to see which one best suites your traveling needs and learn the steps they take to ensure the safety of your pet during the flight. Fees for traveling vary from airline to airline, and depend mostly on if your pet is a carry on or if your pet has to be transported in the cargo hold. Most cargo areas have no climate control, but there are a few airlines that offer a controlled climate cargo area. This is an important factor when traveling to areas with extreme hot or cold temperatures. If you are traveling to a destination with extreme temperatures, be sure to find an airline with a climate controlled cargo area, otherwise most airlines will not permit your pet to travel in the cargo hold for safety reasons. Each airline has restrictions on certain breeds, pet size, and crate size so be sure to contact the airline directly for details.

If you are flying within the U.S. your pet will require a health certificate. You should schedule a health certificate exam with your veterinarian prior to your trip. The airline requires a health certificate to ensure that your pet is healthy enough for traveling, and also to show that your pet is up to date on vaccinations. If you feel your pet may require a sedative, or if your pet has motion sickness, these issues should be discussed at the time of your pet's health certificate exam, and your veterinarian will be able to prescribe any necessary medication. If you are traveling to a foreign country, or to Hawaii, be sure to find out if there is a quarantine or other health requirements of your destination. You must be compliant with all the requirements and may need up to six months prior to your trip to get your pet ready for traveling to certain destinations.

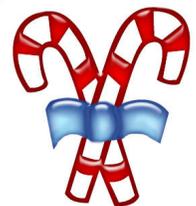


Holiday Travel With Your Pet (continued)

Once you have decided on an airline, book your trip as far in advance as possible since most airlines have restrictions on how many pets are allowed on each flight. Also book a non-stop flight if you can. If you can avoid transfers while flying, it will greatly reduce the risk of your pet being lost or injured. If you can't get a non-stop flight, your pet will be in baggage claim for you to recheck onto your next flight, unless otherwise directed by your airline. If delays arise during travel, inform your flight crew that there is a pet on board. If the delay is lengthy enough, your pet may need to be removed from the plane until the flight is ready for departure. Some airlines will allow you to watch your pet be loaded onto the airplane. This is always a good idea if possible so you can see that your pet has made it safely on board. If you are unable to watch your pet be loaded onto the airplane, check in with the attendant at your departure gate and have them phone down to the flight crew to make sure your pet is safely on board. Once you reach your destination, retrieve your pet as soon as possible & make sure your pet is ok. If your pet seems to have any evidence of injury after the flight, get your pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Preparing your pet for travel is very important. It is recommended that your pet be microchipped, and also should wear a collar with identification tags. Make sure their travel crate is properly labeled with your information, your pet's information & your veterinarian's information. If your pet isn't crate trained, buy a crate as far in advance as possible to get them used to being in a crate. Leave the crate out in an area that your pet likes to spend time and leave the door open. Put bedding, blankets, toys, and treats in the crate to get them interested in checking it out. You want to make your pet feel like their crate is a safe and comfortable place to be, especially during traveling. If the crate will fit in your car, you can take your pet for rides to get them use to the sounds, vibrations, and movement they may experience during the flight. If you will be traveling with multiple pets, it is best to have them in separate carriers during travel. Take your pet on a long walk or run to help expend extra energy before the trip. Ask your airline about food and water requirements prior to and during the flight.

We would like to be able to provide good, knowledgeable answers for you if you are thinking about traveling with your pet. If you have further questions about traveling with your pet, the best thing to do is contact your airline and give yourself plenty of time when planning the trip. If you have any health concerns about your pet before traveling, please feel free to contact us. From all of us here at All Tails Wagging, we wish you and your pet's, safe and happy travels.





What's New at All Tails Wagging



Our December contest is a "Santa Paws" photo contest! Send your best Christmas pet photos to: info@alltailswagging.com. Winners will be featured in the January newsletter & receive some goodies. Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates!

Toy or Trouble?



Our furry companions depend on us to make educated and sound decisions about the safety of their environment. It's important to provide a stimulating yet safe environment, and that includes providing safe toys. The types of toys your pet plays with should be age and breed appropriate. The safest toys are unbreakable, resistant to chewing and rough play, are interesting to the pet and lack parts that can break off and be swallowed or cut the lips or mouth. Stay away from old socks, shoes or



clothing; your pet can't tell the difference between an old sock or a new one, especially because they both smell like you! Toys should be just that; TOYS- not old socks, shoes or clothing.

Check yards and play areas carefully for objects that your pet may chew on or swallow. Pond rocks or rocks around the BBQ that have food on them may be attractive to dogs and can cause a gastrointestinal obstruction when swallowed. So keep your yard clean and buy safe toys from a reputable company, such as Planet Dog (toys pictured here). Your best bet is a one-piece, indestructible chew toy that comes with a guarantee. Have a safe & wonderful holiday with your pets and fill their stockings

carefully!

DECEMBER RAFFLE

Buy any box of **Frontline®** or **Heartgard®** and be entered to win a \$25 gas card AND a box of **Frontline!**

Congratulations to our
November raffle winner:
Diane Stouder

Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Saturday
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

