

TEN EASY STEPS TO REMEMBER WHEN TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET BY CAR

More and more people will be bringing their pets along with them in their cars this year and it's not hard to see why. From a Siamese cat to an all-American mutt, pets provide their owners with plenty of love, companionship and just plain fun. It's also often cheaper to take your pet with you than to board the animal at a kennel. So, if you feel that no one can care for your pet as well as you can, keep in mind these 10 easy ways to make your auto trip more enjoyable for you and your pet.

1. Always take your pet's own food and water bowls. Bring a canteen of fresh water for the trip, no matter how short. Offer your pet water whenever you get yourself a cool drink.
2. Never give your pet tranquilizers without your veterinarian's approval.
3. Always secure your pets with a leash when you open your car window and never open the car windows all the way. This discourages them from jumping out, which animals all too frequently do. Use the car's ventilation system or air conditioning to cool off the car whenever possible.
4. Never leave your pet alone in a car. The summer sun can turn your car into a 120 degree oven in less than three minutes even with the windows open. And parking your car in the shade usually does little good, especially since the shade shifts.
5. Never leave your pet alone in a car even when the weather is cool. Animal thieves make handsome profits stealing pets and selling them illegally to research laboratories and kennels. Your car may also be stolen.
6. Always keep your pet in your car with you, and not inside a camper or trailer or in the back of a pick-up truck. This way you can easily tell when the animal is hungry, thirsty, hot or tired.
7. Always allow your pets to cater to their needs when you cater to yours. If you need to stop at a restroom, they probably need to relieve themselves too.
8. Always leave plenty of time between feeding of your pet and traveling if the animal is not used to car trips. Try to leave six hours or more between feeding and traveling when you can, especially with animals that easily get car sick.
9. Always carry with you the semi-moist packaged type of pet food. It's easier to handle and open than other types of pet food.
10. If you're traveling with a cat, bring a litter pan with litter in it. You can easily carry the pan and litter inside a plastic garbage bag.

REMEMBER: A SAFE, HEALTHY PET IS A HAPPY PET.