

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PETS

We are approaching summer, FINALLY! This means vacations for some of you lucky folks including your furry friends. Whether you're taking them with you on vacation or they are going to a kennel, there are a few things to keep in mind to keep them safe and healthy during this time.

OUT OF PROVINCE

We are lucky enough to not have to worry about heartworm here in Alberta, but in British Columbia and other provinces this is a constant risk. To keep your pet safe from such parasites as well as others including Fleas, Ticks and Mites, ask your veterinarian about prescription parasite preventatives. The number of treatments your pet may require does depend on the duration of your trip so make sure to inform your veterinarian of any upcoming trips and they can provide you with the proper amount of treatments.



INTERNATIONAL

Traveling out of the country with your pets can be an exciting time. In preparation of crossing the border you will need a couple documents for your pets! First some countries require an *International Health Certificate*, this ensures that your pet is in good health and is safe to travel. Second some countries such as the US also require proof of current vaccinations, especially the Rabies vaccine. This is just another precautionary measure to make sure that your pet will stay happy and healthy throughout your time away and will neither contract nor spread any harmful diseases. These documents can be provided to you by your veterinarian.



BOARDING KENNELS

If your pet is not able to join you on your travels, that's okay. There are many wonderful boarding kennels that provide excellent care for your loved ones. All kennels require current vaccines; this again is to ensure the safety of your pet as well as the well being of the other animals in their care. The majority of kennels will also require an additional vaccination called *Kennel Cough* or *Bordetella*. This vaccine provides protection from a hacking cough and snotty nose brought on by the highly contagious bacteria *Bordetella Bronchiseptic*. Kennel Cough is not usually life threatening but can be very uncomfortable and potentially painful for your pet. Regardless if the kennel you choose requires this vaccine or not it is highly recommended by your veterinarian to vaccinate. It is also recommended to vaccinate approximately one month prior to attending the kennel.



CAMPING

Camping is a favorite for many, pets included! Just a few things to keep in mind when taking your pet camping; First investing in a clip on light for your pets collar will make it easier to keep an eye on them when the sun goes down. It gets really dark out there as we all know. Second, with being outside in the heat for an extended period of time, make sure your pets have access to plenty of food, water and shade. Many camp grounds do require your pets to be leashed at all times as well as their food and water dishes be put away when not in use. This is to prevent the attraction of wild animals to the camping area. Remember not to leave your pets unattended in an enclosed environment such as a tent or vehicle without proper ventilation; they get very warm very fast. Finally don't forget to ask about parasite prevention, as you will be out in the woods where Fleas and Ticks are prominent.



TRANSPORTATION

If your pet is being transported in a carrier the carrier **MUST** be large enough to allow your pet to stand, turn around and lie down comfortably. The carrier should have proper ventilation and be appropriate to the species it will be containing. Keep in mind driving with pets in the vehicle can be distracting, so for their safety and yours carries are the way to go. If you choose not to use a carrier while driving with your pet, make sure they have a comfortable area in the vehicle to lie down that does not interfere with the driver. Keep in mind that it is **PROHIBITED** to transport your animal in the bed of a pickup truck.

Have a great summer and enjoy your travels!



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