



Murray Bridge Vet Clinic

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Travelling with your pet

Before you go

Ask yourself: Will my cat or dog be comfortable and happy? Some animals prefer to stay at home and a 'homesick', possibly motion sick pet will ruin everyone's trip. In such case it is probably wiser to leave your pet with a friend or relative or hire a pet sitter. If it is not possible you might consider boarding him/her at a kennel or cattery.

Plan ahead

If you decide to take your pet along you must take as much care with the preparation of your pet's trip as much as your own. If you plan to travel by plane or boat, make sure to find out if your pet will be welcome and, what kind of reservations and transport arrangements must be made. If you will be staying in hotels, motels or campgrounds, you must check if animals are allowed or if kennel facilities are available.

Wherever you go

- Ensure your pet ALWAYS wears a collar with complete identification and a registration tag. It is a good idea to get your pet microchipped prior to travelling.
- Pack his/her favourite, toys, dishes, water and a leash.
- Before your pet trip have your pet examined and vaccinated if necessary by your Veterinarian.
- Contact the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) or ask your veterinarian for advice if you are planning to travel interstate or overseas. Some states/countries require your pet to be up to date with various different vaccinations and/ or worming to prevent spread of disease.
- Be sure to find out exactly what your pet requires, making sure you leave enough time for a vet visit before your trip.

Traveling by plane

- Before you leave contact the airline you wish to fly with to find out their individual regulations and reservations for your pet. Be sure to ask about the airlines rules for pet crates and carriers.
- Try to book a direct flight with minimum stops.

Traveling by car

- If your pet is not used to traveling in a car, take him/her for a few short rides before your trip. Cats will generally be more comfortable in a carrier.
- Dogs travelling in the back of utes should be caged or tethered. The lead or chain should be attached to a harness with the other end fastened to a point near the middle of the cabin. The chain should be at a length that will allow the dog to lie down, stand and move but not short enough so the dog can not put its legs over the side or climb onto the roof.
- Plan exercise and rest stops every two hours if your taking a long drive.
- It is not recommended to leave your dog or cat in a parked car for a long period of time. Always leave the windows down slightly to provide good ventilation. Remember, on ho days the temperature of a parked car can rise to dangerous levels in just minutes and your pet could be at risk of heat stroke.

Protecting your pet

- Be sure to check out our clinic handouts on Heartworm, Intestinal Worms, Fleas & Ticks to ensure your pet is covered if you are traveling to a high risk area.

Comments from your vet

If you have any further questions please make an appointment with your Veterinarian or ask one of our friendly staff members.