

PETS & PEOPLE

Tips For Hitting The Road With Your Pet

(NAPSA)—For many people, pets aren't just companions; they're important members of the family. So it's not surprising that people enjoy bringing those pets along when they travel.

Whether you're going down the street or on a cross-country road trip, ensure your pet has a safe and happy car ride with these travel tips from leading car insurer Progressive:

Get your pets used to the car and make them feel comfortable. Often, the only time pets ride in the car is when they're visiting the vet or groomer—so they may not always associate a car ride with positive feelings and may even be afraid to ride in the car. Teach them instead that car rides can be fun by taking them for short road trips to a dog park, a friend's house for a playdate or just to a new place to take a long walk.

Make sure your pet has proper identification. Just in case he or she gets lost while traveling, you want to be sure your pet is wearing up-to-date ID tags with your address and cell phone number, especially if you're traveling out of town. You may also want to have a photo of your pet on hand.

Prepare a doggie bag. A pet travel pack is a great way to make sure you're prepared for anything—and is something that can remain stocked, so it's ready to go with you at a moment's notice. Make sure it contains cleanup



With proper planning, travel with pets can be easier than many realize.

supplies, a towel or bed to serve as a comfortable resting place, portable feeding and watering bowls, food and water, a pet first-aid kit, and lots of toys to keep pets busy and well behaved.

Restrain your pets for safe car travel. Free to paw their way around the car, unrestrained pets can be a distraction to drivers and can get injured if the car makes a sudden stop or is involved in an accident, even if it's just a fender bender. Secure your pets in a crate or with a harness to keep them safe.

Check with your car insurance company to see if your pets are covered in case of an accident. With Progressive's Pet Injury coverage, your dogs and cats are automatically covered for up to \$1,000 in vet bills, free with Collision coverage on your car or RV.

For more information, visit www.progressive.com/pet.