

Planning a holiday with your pet

Who will look after your pet when you are going on holiday? Can you take your pet on holiday with you? Finding and organising pet care for whilst you are away on holiday is not always easy for pet owners.



Which type of pets can you take on holiday?



Generally, dogs prefer to stay with their owners and feel most at ease when they are around. If your dog doesn't mind travelling in the car or on the train, then you could take your dog on holiday with you.

Cats tend to prefer to stay in their familiar surroundings. However, if you regularly travel to the same holiday destination or your cat is used to long journeys, you may be able to take your cat with you.

Small animals, on the other hand, are used to their familiar surroundings at home. A new place can make them feel quite anxious.

How to organise a holiday with your pet



- 1 Find out about any entry regulations for pets for the country you will be travelling to and through. Also, double check if there are any entry requirements before travelling back.
- 2 Make sure to get your pet used to its transport box from an early age.
- 3 Gradually get your pet used to travelling in the car or by train.
- 4 Before going on holiday don't forget to visit the vet's for a check-up.
- 5 Update any vaccinations, give your pet a deworming treatment if necessary and find out about any diseases in the country you will be travelling to.
- 6 Make sure your pet's transport box is secure.
- 7 Make sure your pet has enough water for the full duration of the journey.
- 8 Take regular breaks, especially when travelling long distances.



Everything you will need for going on holiday with your pet



For dogs and cats

- ☐ EU pet passport/health certificate/any required documents for the country you are travelling to
- ☐ A copy of your pet liability insurance
- ☐ A copy of your pet health insurance, if applicable
- ☐ Microchip number
- ☐ Addresses and telephone numbers from nearby vets for where you will be staying
- ☐ Enough food and water for your holiday and also a water bottle for when out and about
- ☐ Your pet's normal food and the same sized portions in case that food it is not available in the country you will be travelling to
- ☐ Treats
- ☐ Transport box or a pet crate carrier if you are going on an aeroplane
- ☐ A tag for your pet's collar with the address from your holiday accommodation and your telephone number
- ☐ Your pet's basket and/or favourite blanket
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ A brush, if needed
- ☐ Old towels

Specific for dogs



- ☐ Collar
- ☐ Dog harness if applicable
- ☐ Lead
- ☐ Muzzle, if needed
- ☐ Poo bags
- ☐ Dog chews
- ☐ Depending on the weather, a coat or jumper for your dog if needed

Specific for cats



- ☐ Cat litter tray incl. cat litter, litter scoop
- ☐ Scratching boards and mats
- ☐ Cat drinking fountain if necessary
- ☐ A collar and lead if needed

First aid kit and medication for your pet



If you are travelling with your pet, you should also pack a first-aid kit. Medication for chronic illnesses that your pet needs to take should also be included as well as a few other items:

First aid kit

- ☐ Gauze roll
- ☐ Bandages and dressings
- ☐ Bandage scissors
- ☐ Disposable gloves
- ☐ Disinfectant without alcohol
- ☐ Wound cream
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Disposable syringes without a needle for administering medication
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ Tick tweezers
- ☐ A torch

Medication

- ☐ Medication for nausea/vomiting, but speak to your vet beforehand
- ☐ Diarrhoea tablets, for example, charcoal tablets, but make sure you give the right amount
- ☐ If necessary, tablets for travel sickness, but speak to your vet beforehand
- ☐ Eye and ear drops, if necessary (use carefully)
- ☐ Painkillers if needed, but speak to your vet beforehand



Organising pet care before going away on holiday



You will need to organise pet care before you go away on holiday if your pet does not like travelling or being in an unfamiliar place. Small animals, for example, feel more at ease in their familiar surroundings and should therefore stay at home. Pet care for whilst you are away on holiday is also a great alternative for most cats and some dogs. In addition to professional pet care offered by boarding kennels and pet hotels, you could also ask family and friends or a pet sitter. Below you will find more tips on finding pet care:

- ✓ Family, friends or a neighbour who knows your pet
- ✓ You could contact a private pet sitter. Online there are websites and directories for private pet sitters
- ✓ Another option would be to contact your pet's breeder

What to keep in mind when organising a pet sitter



It is a good idea to draw up a list for your pet sitter so that they can look after your pet and offer the best care. Drawing up a list will also help to make sure that your pet sitter doesn't forget anything important.

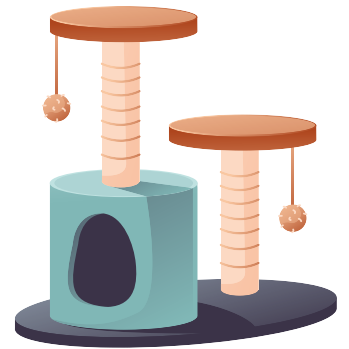
Shopping list before going on holiday

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Food, make sure to get enough for the full duration of your holiday | <input type="radio"/> Bedding |
| <input type="radio"/> Treats that your pet loves | <input type="radio"/> Poo bags |
| <input type="radio"/> Chews | <input type="radio"/> Cleaning products for bowls, sleeping area and for hutches or cages |



Important information for your pet sitter

- ☐ Information on feeding: the amount, how often and times, any special dietary requirements
- ☐ Note any important information about doors, windows or your pet's cage to make sure that your pet and home stay safe and secure
- ☐ Emergency contacts such as your mobile phone number, number from the holiday accommodation where you will be staying and your vet's phone number
- ☐ Any important information concerning your pet such as their character traits, illnesses or health conditions
- ☐ Dosage and any important information for medication that your pet needs



You can find more information on taking your pet on holiday, how to find pet care or a suitable pet hotel for whilst you are away in the following article: [Going on holiday with your pet.](#)