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## **TRAINS, PLANES & AUTOMOBILES WITH PETS IN TOW**

Whether you're off hitting the road or flying the friendly skies with your pet, the tips below – provided by Michigan Veterinary Specialists veterinarians and technicians (veterinary nurses) – are sure to help relieve some of the stress that you and your pet may experience while traveling together.

- Always make sure you have plenty of your pet's medication packed. Take extra to be on the safe side.
- Pack a first aid kit for your pet: tweezers to remove ticks, bandaging material for any cuts, hydrogen peroxide, etc. For a list of items to include in your pet first aid kit, see below.
- If the pet has any ongoing medical conditions, take a copy of their medical record with you.
- Identify the nearest animal emergency hospital to where you are staying and have the phone number handy. A website where you can search for nearby emergency hospitals is [vetlocator.com](http://vetlocator.com).
- Make sure your pet's heartworm and flea prevention medications are current.
- Don't feed a large meal before leaving; simply allow periodic snacking.
- Carry collapsible bowls for food and water.
- Make sure that dog tags are clearly visible because people are more likely to catch pets if they can return them to the owner. Having your pet get a microchip for identification is a good step too.
- If your pet has implants (e.g. plates or screws from orthopedic surgery), and he/she will be flying, you should bring a note from your veterinarian.
- When flying, be sure to have wheels for your carrier. Even a 10-pound animal can get heavy when carried in a shoulder carrier walking through a long airport terminal.
- If your dog is one of the 17% that get sick when traveling, ask your veterinarian about a new anti-vomiting medication called Cerenia. Dogs get motion sickness either because they are anxious while traveling or because their balance is affected by movement. In either case, Cerenia blocks vomiting signals, which prevents dogs from getting sick.

### **Kitty Tips**

Cats can be particularly sensitive to traveling. Read on for valuable advice to keep kitties calm:

- Try spraying "Feliway", a synthetic feline facial pheromone, in the carrier about 30 minutes before leaving to help calm the feline traveler. Placing some catnip in the carrier may also serve the same purpose.
- Don't use tranquilizers or sedatives in cats for travel due to potential complications such as hypotension or paradoxical hyper-excitability.
- ALWAYS keep your cat confined in a carrier while traveling. A frightened feline can easily escape through an open car window or door without anyone noticing.
- Be sure to carry some moistened and dry paper towels and plastic bags for potential carrier accidents.
- Finally, invest in a pair of earplugs for a car journey.

## **About MVS**

Founded in 1990, Michigan Veterinary Specialists is the specialty and emergency medical center of choice for tens of thousands of pet owners and their primary care veterinarians. Similar to human medicine, they work in partnership with a pet's primary care veterinarian—through a referral system—to manage the pet's health. A primary care veterinarian may recommend a specialist if the pet has symptoms or conditions that require specialized diagnostic evaluation or treatment in areas such as Ophthalmology, Cardiology, Neurology, Dermatology, Radiology, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Oncology and Emergency/Critical Care. Michigan Veterinary Specialists has three hospitals in Michigan—Southfield, Auburn Hills and Grand Rapids. For more information about MVS, visit [www.michvet.com](http://www.michvet.com).

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