

## THE PET CONNECTION

By Deb Waldron

Pampered Paws Mobile Groomer

### **Travel And The Family Pet**

It seems I'm making a habit of writing about topics that are currently on my personal radar. This month's column was inspired by a trip we are making to N.Y. A 1500 mile car trip, that will include the companionship of our two senior citizen age puppy dogs, and one very small but opinionated bird!

Needless to say, traveling with a pet entourage has it's challenges. Planning is the secret to making a successful journey with your pet/s. Searching ahead of time for pet friendly rest stops, hotels, and eateries along your route will help to curb everyone's stress levels. Where does one find all this information? Well I'm glad you asked! Fortunately, whether you are going by land , air or sea I have discovered that there is a plethora of helpful information about pet travel just a "Google" click away. Here's some of the best stuff I found.

[www.PetTravel.com](http://www.PetTravel.com) - This website is absolutely fabulous! Who knew that there were so many ways to travel with your pet. We're talking trains, planes, ferries, buses, cruise ships, public transportation, in both the United States and Europe. This website made our little road trip from Florida to NY by car look boring by comparison!

[www.TripsWithPets.com](http://www.TripsWithPets.com) – For travel in the United States and Canada. What I loved about this website was how user friendly it was. The information was very well organized, and the site was not cluttered with advertising.

[www.DogFriendly.com](http://www.DogFriendly.com) - Another great website. This is a world wide pet travel guide, with links to pet friendly hotels, RV parks and campgrounds, beaches, even restaurants that offer outdoor dining for people and their pets.

Some other suggestions that I would like to make:

1. To minimize stress, try to keep as much of your pet's normal routine and schedule as possible when you travel. Plan potty breaks and feedings around the same time your pet would be used to at home. This is important even after you have arrived at your destination. Remember to bring favorite toys, beds, and your pet's regular food and water bowl with you.
2. When traveling by car, we have found that if our dogs can see out the window they are usually calmer, and less likely to get car sick. You can purchase doggie car seats that not only raise your small dog up high enough to see out, but can also be seat belted in for safety. I recommend putting cats and birds in pet carriers/crates for travel. Never let any of your pets ride in your lap or loose when you drive. Really guys, NEVER.
3. Sometimes traveling with your pet is just not an option. For those times when you have to leave your furry, feathered, or scaled friend at home check into the possibility of a professional pet sitter, or boarding facility. For small dogs, cats, birds and reptiles I would lean towards the services of a pet sitter who comes to your home. Large dogs seem better able to cope with the noise and commotion that is often found at boarding facilities.

Hope this information helps both you and your pet to better enjoy your next trip. HAPPY TRAILS!!!

If you would like to see a specific topic discussed in a future column of The Pet Connection you can email your request to: [Debbie@PamperedPawsSalon.com](mailto:Debbie@PamperedPawsSalon.com)