

## **How to ensure your pets are safely cared for while travelling**

Minimising the distress of animals – and maintaining the important bond between a pet and its owner – can be especially tricky when you need to take a journey.

This is true whether you are taking the animal with you or arranging temporary shelter and care in your absence.

### **Getting pet care right**

There are times when taking a pet with you on your trip is not an option.

If your journey is unexpected and urgent, please find emergency pet sheltering. For example, Red Rover provides support for animals displaced by some form of crisis.

Leaving a pet alone at home is never acceptable, even if it's for one night or you're leaving enough food and water. Animals – especially cats and dogs – need proximity to humans. Your absence can be deeply traumatic and lead to serious behavioural issues.

[This article](#) details how even short absences can create separation anxiety in dogs.

### **Planning pet care**

Planning ahead offers an opportunity to find pet care that is practical and affordable.

Not everyone has a family member or friend willing to step in. So, many owners engage the services of a pet sitting service. This can be someone accredited and checked who cares for your pet in their home, or it can be someone willing to move into your property.

There are a lot of advantages to letting your precious pet stay in their own home, where they feel safest. They have familiar smells and places to comfort them. This can be a great option when it doubles as house sitting too!

You could do some research on [how pet sitting works](#) and consider the ways it can save money when compared to other options.

There are also kennel services and pet hotels to care for your animal while you travel.

However, not all pets enjoy being housed with multiple other animals in a commercial pet care facility. Especially if they're missing you!

Some vets offer short-stay facilities for animals too – particularly ones with health issues. This can be costly, and using a pet sitting service with healthcare expertise tends to be more affordable.

[This site](#) discusses the relative advantages and disadvantages of various pet care options.

## **Pets and travel**

Are you taking your pet with you? Some pets love to travel! Social media shares many videos of dogs in cars with big smiles as they watch the world go by.

But this is not always the case. Even the shortest trip can be upsetting for some animals. They can become travel sick or deeply anxious. It's not only distressing, it can also break down some of the trust between the pet and their owner, creating long-term repercussions.

Leaving pets in good temporary care can be a much better option for them, even if it's a wrench for you.

If you still decide to take your animal along, proper preparation is important.

Much depends on the nature of the journey, of course. For example, if the trip is due to either the owner or pet being in crisis, additional help may be required. Having someone with you can help to keep the situation calmer. You can focus on managing your own anxiety and travel arrangements, while your companion concentrates on bolstering you and your precious animal.

If the journey is for leisure purposes and everything is calmer, you can take more time over getting everything sorted in advance.

### **Different transport requirements**

Does your journey involve road, rail, sea or air?

With some forms of transport and types of animals, you will need an appropriate travel container for them. It's important to invest in one that is specially made for your type of pet, and that creates a comforting and comfortable environment for them.

If you are travelling by air, the airline can help guide you. [Qantas](#) provides a great example of a pet owners' guide.

Sometimes you can travel with your animal by your side, if it has an appropriate restraint. This keeps your pet still and safe, but also makes them feel more secure too.

It's important to note that letting your pet roam around your vehicle may seem fine if it's placid and well behaved, but it could cause accidents and be very dangerous for both the animal and your passengers.

Check product reviews if you're buying pet care products for travelling. For example, [this site](#) provides a review of harnesses and seatbelts for larger and medium sized dogs.

## **Manage the expectations of kids**

Red Rover helps kids to build greater empathy and understanding when it comes to caring for animals. Pet awareness is important when travelling, and children need to have their expectations managed.

They may want to play with their pet and cuddle them on the journey, however removing them from secure containers or restraints is unacceptable. It endangers all the passengers in the vehicle.

It's another reason why leaving your pet in expert hands can sometimes make your travel less stressful for everyone.