

READY, SET... TIME TO GO CAMPING!



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In the previous issue, our Pets in Paradise article focused on prepping for an RV camping trip with your pet; to catch up, log on to our website, VeniceGulfCoastLivingMagazine.com. This time of year can be a wonderful time to hit the road for this type of excursion; by tending to a few things, you'll soon be ready to roll!

Pre-departure...ready for take-off. Short trips are best for a first excursion together because it allows you to see how well you and your pet can adjust to the experience. Since no two pets are the same, it is advisable to check in with your vet prior to any journey for specific recommendations. Pack all necessary supplies, making sure to keep treats, food and water handy. Feed your cat dry food before the trip, as it will help settle Fluffy's tummy. Make sure your furry friend has had plenty of water. Many dogs travel well, provided they can see the sights along the way. Although these devices are not legally required, using a safety harness to secure your pup is recommended, as it will ensure a smoother ride. Your feline friend will prefer traveling in style in a well-ventilated cat carrier that is shielded from direct sunlight.

After stowing the gear and securing your pet in the vehicle, you will be road-ready and raring to go! The following suggestions will make for a more peaceful journey:

Take frequent breaks. After driving for a while, allow some down time for both you and your furry friends. Take your pet for a quick walk or run on a lead, fit in a short playtime, drink plenty of water, enjoy a snack, and, of course, make a potty stop.

To air is humane. When you get back on the road, roll the windows down a notch or open the vents for some much-needed fresh air. As needed, adjust your vehicle's air conditioning to ensure it stays at a comfortable temperature.

Stability helps. Give your pet time to acclimate to the new surroundings. Just like people, our animal companions prefer having familiar items with them, so unpacking these things right away will help your furry friend feel more settled. Keep your pets' feeding and sleep schedules as consistent as possible since these routines provide them with comfort and security.

Beat the heat. Pets can dehydrate much faster than humans, so pay close attention to your furry companion. Make sure your dog has access to shade. If it is hot or humid, refrain from strenuous activities with your pet like taking them for a run with you; also avoid pavement that is in direct sunlight, as prolonged exposure to these surfaces can lead to heat blisters for Rex. Provide them with plenty of water and be sure to replace it several times each day. Also, keep your RV cool and comfortable, especially if you plan to leave Fido or Fluffy there for any length of time.

Fit to explore. Get to know the grounds wherever you are staying since some areas are more pet-friendly than others. For instance, many places have designated dog paths so that you and your pooch can enjoy exercising together. Also be advised that hand-held leashes that are six feet or less in length typically are required. As other guests approach, curb your pooch's enthusiastic response by using the 'sit,' 'stay' or 'heel' commands.

Pest, be gone. Being outdoors means more exposure to ticks and fleas. Take the necessary precautions to ensure your pet stays as free from these pesky creatures as possible. Check for these biting bugs and use tweezers to get rid of them; be sure to grab as close to the insect's head as possible while pulling to gently remove it.

Keep it green. Use biodegradable doggie waste bags to clean up after your pooch. Remove any leftover pet food; otherwise, it may attract the attention of insects or other wildlife.

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