

Traveling with Dogs and Cats: How to Ensure a Relaxing Trip Tips from a dog trainer and recommendations for pet owners

Munich, 4 May, 2026 - Whether it's a weekend getaway or a summer vacation, more and more pet owners are including their four-legged friends in their plans as a given. Internal data from zooplus shows that demand for pet travel solutions rises by about 30% between March and August compared to the rest of the year. Just in time for the start of the vacation season, **zooplus expert and dog trainer Jacqueline Bachhäubl** offers practical tips on how both pets and their owners can reach their destination safely and relaxed.

Well-Prepared for travel abroad: Rules and guidelines for traveling with pets

The first step is always to check whether dogs and cats are allowed and welcome at the hotel, vacation rental, or campground. Especially when traveling abroad, it is important to review the entry requirements of your destination country and to obtain any necessary documents, such as health certificates or proof of vaccination, well in advance. **New regulations have been in effect in the EU since April 22, 2026:** For non-commercial travel, a maximum of five animals may be transported at the same time. The new EU regulations are being introduced gradually: Starting October 1, 2026, **new animal health certificates** will be required, while **updated pet passports** and **new identification requirements** will become mandatory as of January 1, 2028. Pet owners should therefore familiarize themselves with the applicable regulations before traveling.

According to dog trainer and zooplus expert Jacqueline Bachhäubl, **preparing for the trip itself** also plays an important role: "A stress-free vacation doesn't start on the day of travel, but ideally weeks in advance. Dogs should be gradually introduced to car rides, train trips, or travel crates and learn to associate them with positive experiences. This helps them develop a sense of security and familiarity."

Traveling with dogs: Ready to go, but safety first

Dogs often make enthusiastic travel companions, provided they're comfortable with the transport and surroundings. For most dogs, car trips are the easiest way to travel, as regular breaks every two to three hours allow for exercise and feeding. However, the top priority is safety for both the dog and the passengers. Depending on the dog's size, transport crates, special seat belts, or partition grilles in the trunk are ideal for car travel.

Among the top 5 bestsellers at zooplus during the travel season are the Trixie Friends on Tour Universal Boot Barrier, which provides a safe barrier between the cargo area and the passenger compartment, and the dog car seat for smaller dogs weighing up to 19 kg, designed to ensure they travel safely and comfortably. The flexi Giant Professional 10m Tape Lead also provides additional flexibility on the go, allowing the dog controlled freedom of movement during breaks, while scented poop bags serve as a practical companion. In addition, the Seresto collar reliably protects the dog against ticks and fleas. When traveling, it's also essential that the dog is never left alone in the car, especially in summer temperatures. When traveling abroad, you should also verify that the dog has adequate health insurance coverage and that liability insurance is valid overseas.

Press release

“To help your dog relax while on the go, it’s helpful to bring along familiar items,” explains Jacqueline Bachhäubl. “Many dogs benefit when their travel blanket or carrier has already been associated with positive experiences at home. Using the training technique of conditioned relaxation, the dog can learn to associate these items with calmness and security.”

Train travel is also a good option for many dogs. Small dogs are usually allowed to travel in carriers, while larger dogs generally require their own ticket and must be kept on a leash and wear a muzzle. On Deutsche Bahn trains, dogs that are not traveling in a carrier are not permitted to make themselves comfortable in the seats; instead, they must remain in front of, under, or next to their owner’s seat. Air travel, on the other hand, is often stressful for dogs, due to unfamiliar noises, cramped conditions, or pressure changes during takeoff and landing. Whether a dog is allowed to travel in the cabin or must be transported in the cargo hold depends on its size and the regulations of the respective airline. Further tips for flying with your dog are available in a detailed article in the zooplus Magazine.

Travelling with cats requires careful preparation

Cats are much more attached to their surroundings than dogs and are more sensitive to leaving their familiar environment. For car trips, they need a sturdy, well-ventilated carrier. This can be placed in the living area before the trip so the cat can get used to it. Aids such as valerian or catnip, as well as treats or toys, can help create a positive association with the carrier. Ideal for travel are the top 5 bestsellers from zooplus, such as the Trixie Capri 3 Open Top Carrier, the Trixie Capri 1 Carrier, or the Catit Cabrio Transport Box, which ensure safe journeys thanks to their stability and comfort. The TIAKI Mesh Carry Case offers additional flexibility on the go, while the Trixie Cat Harness provides extra security for short trips.

Traveling by train with cats is generally possible, provided the cats remain in a suitable carrier or travel bag during the trip, which is placed at the cat parent’s seat. On airplanes, cats are often allowed to travel in a carrier in the cabin as well, provided they meet the size and weight requirements of the respective airline. The limit is often around eight kilograms, including the carrier, which is stowed under the seat in front of you during the flight.

The Right equipment for the destination: What goes in the suitcase?

For a stress-free trip with your dog or cat, make sure your pet’s suitcase is packed properly. Essentials include a travel bowl for food and water, enough of their usual food, as well as a cozy blanket, a bed, and a favorite toy they’re familiar with. Just as important is a first-aid kit for the pet, including tick tweezers, bandages, and individually required medication.

Vacationing with pets – but not at any cost

With proper preparation and an eye for the individual needs of dogs and cats, traveling together can be a success. Nevertheless, it’s important to consider what’s best for the animal: While dogs are often adaptable and handle new environments well, cats generally need more peace and quiet and are more sensitive to change. Air travel is often extremely stressful for both dogs and cats.

“Not every dog needs to come along on vacation,” emphasizes Bachhäubl. “Sometimes, good care from a trusted dog sitter is the more animal-friendly solution. The key is to know the animal’s individual needs and stress limits and to focus on them.”



Press release

Further information and suitable products for traveling with dogs and cats are available at www.zooplus.de

About zooplus:

Since 1999, zooplus has been a pioneer in e-commerce for pet supplies, serving millions of pet owners with an ever-growing range of nutrition and lifestyle products, its own premium food and accessory brands, as well as expert advice, practical services and loyalty programs. Committed to the vision of "Celebrating Pet Love Every Day" and driven by a passion for innovation, zooplus has set itself the goal of setting the industry standard for smart, personalized shopping. zooplus operates local online shops in more than 30 European countries and is headquartered in Munich. For more information, visit corporate.zooplus.com, the zooplus.de shop page, or [LinkedIn](#).

Press contact:

SWORDFISH PR

Arzuo Kawyani / Ariane Poschner

Phone: +49 (0) 89 244 132 780

Mail: arzuo@swordfish-pr.de

Mail: ariane@swordfish-pr.de