

We all love our fur children. In fact, some people RV just so they can travel with their pets. Most animals are just happy to be with their owners wherever they are. However, you can be sure to make their trip enjoyable with just a few precautions basically by keeping their routine the same as at home.

- **Use the same food and feed at the same time as you normally do at home.**



- Does your pet know where to go to let you know they need out when they are in the RV? As a full timer, Katie (our Maltese puppy), knows to go to the front door and bark. Some people with small dogs use piddle pads, as they are called, in the RV. Use what works for you and your pet.
- When we go to our vet each spring, he always asks us where we will be traveling as some areas of the country require different vaccinations. Lyme disease is one of these. Always use a good flea and tick prevention medication that your vet recommends. Carry the health certificate showing all the shots that your dog has received. (Some groomers even require proof of rabies shots.)
- If you are going out of the country (such as Canada or Mexico), you must get an extra health certificate within 10 days of your arrival. The certificate is good for 30 days. For detailed information use the www.aphis.usda.gov web site. Look under imports and exports to find pet regulations.

- Stop regularly on travel days to let your pet out. The walk and stretching is also good for their humans!
- Check out your rig's water supply, as it may change nightly with a new campground. Some pet owners use bottled water for their pets' water dish.
- Be a responsible pet owner. Pick up after your dog. A lot of beaches will not allow dogs any more as their pet owners did not pick up after them. This is just common courtesy.
- Some campgrounds offer pet sitting services. Cherry Hill, outside of DC, offers a person to stop by your RV and walk the dog for a fee. This is quite helpful when you could be in downtown DC or an hour Metro ride away from the campground. If this service is not offered, check with rover.com and petvacay.com.

Fantasy RV Tours welcomes pets, but they are not responsible for taking care of them. Their job is to take care of the humans. Pets cannot go on tours as many

times a meal is included and no restaurant will let pets come in. Know the maximum time your pet can be alone before they need to be let out, and make plans for their comfort on those parts of the tour where their participation just isn't appropriate.

Most of this information is for dog owners. RVers travel with all kinds of pets-cats, birds, snakes, and even a miniature horse. (Yes, we have camped near a couple who traveled with a miniature horse that was a service animal. Boy, were they the conversation at the campground that night!)

No matter which pet you travel with, enjoy their company and make both of your lives as easy as possible. You will have many years of pleasant travels together on the road with a little advance planning.

Connie