



Fear Free Transport of Your Dog to the Vet Hospital

You can help set your dog up for a low-stress, successful veterinary visit before you even arrive at the clinic! Stress can begin prior to even leaving the home based on changes in routines of their owners. Below are some suggestions on what you can do to create a “fear free” travel experience for your dog.

Safety

- It is important to be safe during travel. When driving secure your pet appropriately and use crash tested equipment. For information on crash tested crates and seatbelts visit centerforpetsafety.org

In Advance

- Use positive reinforcement and treats to get your dog used to their carrier, crate or harness prior to travel
- If traveling by car use the appropriate restraint for your dog
 - Crate or carrier for small dogs
 - Provide a non-slip liner
 - Place in the back of the car, away from the airbag
 - Do not leave a crated dog unattended in the car
 - Harness and seatbelt system for larger dogs
 - Ensure the harness is the correct size and fits comfortably
 - Secure the dog in the backseat
 - Do not leave a seat-belted dog unattended in the car
 - Please visit centerforpetsafety.org for more info on harness or crate selection
- Condition your dog to your chosen car restraint device
 - Get your dog used to the restraint device in your home first
 - Once they are used to the device go for a short car ride and reward for calm behavior with their favorite treats
 - Do not force them into the restraint device if they are nervous
 - Success with short car rides indicates longer car rides may be tolerated

Just Before Travel

- Spray a towel to place in the car or a bandana to place around your dogs’ neck with Adaptil Dog Appeasing Pheromone 20 minutes prior to travel
- If traveling by car
 - Keep the inside of the car quiet
 - Play soft, calming music such as classical or “Through a Dog’s Ear”
 - Avoid loud noises, hard stops and sharp turns that may startle your dog
- If walking
 - Choose an appropriate, well-fitting harness or collar and a leash (non-retractable)
 - If possible, choose a route that avoids loud/stressful situations such as construction sites or very busy streets

- Bring some of your dogs' favorite treats to reward them for calm behavior

Arrival at the Clinic

- If your dog is extremely anxious and/or dog-reactive please call upon arrival from outside so we can get you into an exam room
- If you can tell that your dog is particularly stressed already upon arrival let us know so that we can develop a plan to keep them feeling as calm and safe as possible.
- If your dog is anxious in the waiting room ask the front desk staff if there is an exam room available or if time allows for a short walk around the block
- Please make staff aware of any food allergies or sensitivities your dog has. We will continue to offer them treats to make their experience as positive as possible

Back at Home

- When animals get home from the vet they may smell, look, and/or act differently which may be upsetting to other pets in the house.
- Closely monitor pets' interactions together when they arrive home from the clinic.
- In some cases, pets may need to be kept separate for a short period of time while they re-adjust
- If your pet was sedated or anesthetized please keep them isolated until they are back to their normal behavior
- If your pets are having stressful interactions after a visit please call us to get more advice