



MEDIA RELEASE

Hitting the Road with Fido and Fluffy

Plan ahead to take the worry out of traveling with pets

CHICAGO (April 12, 2017) – Memorial Day marks the official beginning of summer... time for road trips, vacations and building great memories with the whole family. Traveling with a pet requires a little extra planning, but thanks to today's technology and cool innovations, including your furry friends in the family fun is easier than ever!

Dr. Tony Kremer, a prominent Chicago-based veterinarian and a noted speaker and blogger on animal care, is an advocate for animal health and safety. "There's no doubt that we love our pets, and it's always fun to include them in family activities," said Kremer. "We are more aware than ever of the need to protect our pets just like we do our kids. Innovations like pet seat belts are easy to use, and they save lives."

In preparation for summer travel season, Dr. Tony suggests the following innovations and considerations before traveling with a pet.

Stress-Free Travel: Many cats and dogs associate travel with negative experiences such as a trip to the vet or kennel. Sleepypod mobile pet bed allows a pet to travel safely in the comfort of its own bed, thereby reducing travel-related stress because the Sleepypod is already a trusted part of its everyday life.

No need to buy multiple products because Sleepypod is three products in one: a carrier, a pet bed, and a safe car seat. Ultra plush bedding surrounded by a luggage-grade, ballistic nylon base forms the bed that easily becomes a carrier by simply zipping on its mesh dome. In a car, the crash-tested Sleepypod becomes a safe car seat. On the road and at your destination away from home, a pet remains in its own bed through the entire journey.

The Sleepypod car seat function was crash tested at the standard set for child safety restraints. It is proven to be one of the safest carriers in an auto collision. Watch the crash test at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9IIE_fnnSE&index=3&list=PL2t9swGuON-Srpva8N9XYW7KxnKogNNdC

Seat Belts for Dogs

It has been proven that seat belts save lives. This applies to dogs as well as humans. Unsecured animals can easily be injured or killed in an auto accident. Of the numerous dog seat belts available today, the Sleepypod Clickit Utility was given the highest recommendation by The Center for Pet Safety, which conducts crash test simulations on dog seat belts.

Prevent Car sickness

Nothing ruins a car trip like motion sickness, even in your pet! As many as one in five dogs suffer from canine motion sickness. Veterinarians recommend giving your dog Cerenia, an FDA-approved medication for canine motion sickness that does not cause drowsiness and is very effective in preventing the drooling, lip-licking, whining, discomfort, nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness in dogs. Dogs should never be given human medications like Dramamine.



Pet cooling pads

Some pooches have a hard time keeping cool during the dog days of summer. Check the internet for a variety of gel-filled cooling pads that your dog will love lounging on. They are cool to the touch, do not require time in the freezer, and are perfect for car trips. However, they are not intended to keep a pet cool in a parked car.

Cooling toys

They look like popsicles, and they're icy and cold! Cool pup cooling toys are, in fact, made of rubber. Fill them with water, stick them in the freezer, and Fido has something cool to chew on during a hot summer day.

Overnights made easy

Find pet-friendly hotels and parks, discounts and lots of resources on digital resources like www.takeyourpet.com, www.dogfriendly.com and the Bring Fido app.

Pack a bag

Consider all the places where you'll be traveling and staying during your trip, and be sure to bring along items for feeding, comforting and taking care of your dog during the trip. In addition to any medications, this should also include your dog's food and food bowl, a leash and harness, familiar toys and chews, a favorite blanket or towel, treats and poop bags. Be sure to bring some items that smell like and remind your dog of home; these will give him comfort as you travel to unfamiliar places.

No bored dogs!

Face it: car rides can be boring. Plan ahead to prevent unruly behavior in the car by bringing along a stuffed Kong or food puzzle for your dog to work on during the drive. Stop every couple of hours so you and your furry friend can stretch your legs.

Fireworks / Noise aversion

At least a third of dogs in the U.S. suffer from anxiety related to storms, fireworks and loud noises. Your vet can prescribe Sileo, the only FDA-approved prescription medication for the treatment of canine noise aversion. This is a low-dosage medication that calms down your dog but allows him to remain fully functional and interact normally.

You can also try ThunderShirt to calm your dog. ThunderShirt is a snug garment that applies gentle pressure to your pet's torso. These are remarkably effective for a lot of dogs, and operate on the same concept as swaddling a baby to calm it. ThunderShirt is sold by veterinarians and at pet stores – you can use this product for other kinds of pet anxiety, like grooming, crate anxiety, barking problems and separation anxiety. www.thundershirt.com/

Dog life jackets

Not all dogs can swim well, especially barrel-chested breeds like boxers. According to The Modern Bark, 4,000 dogs drown each year in swimming pools alone! Canine life jackets provide dogs with buoyance to combat fatigue, and they also make them more visible to boaters and jet skiers when you're at the lake. Check out the review of life jackets at <http://themodernbark.petgiftsonline.com/2013/05/4-best-dog-life-jackets-reviewed.html>.

Hiking... you bet!

Many dogs love the adventure of hitting the trails with their people. It's important to think through a lot of details before embarking on any hike with a dog, though. Be sure to carry adequate water (and a collapsible bowl) for your dog, as canines become dehydrated quicker than humans, and you should not allow your dog to drink from ponds, lakes, puddles or rivers. Also, keep your dog on leash at all times. Even the best-trained dogs can get sidetracked by a



squirrel, rabbit or worse (porcupine?!). At the end of the day, carefully inspect your dog for scratches, cuts and ticks after your hike. Check out www.dogster.com for lots more tips on hiking with dogs.

About Dr. Tony Kremer

Dr. Kremer is a prominent veterinarian based in Chicago, Illinois who currently operates six veterinary hospitals (<http://drtony.com/>) in the Chicago area and Columbus, Ohio. President and co-founder of Help Save Pets (<http://HelpSavePets.org>) an animal shelter that has adopted more than 1,000 animals a year into loving homes, Dr. Kremer is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee who routinely gets the word out about responsible pet ownership. Dr. Kremer co-founded the Humane Society of Plainfield, Illinois to save dogs and cats from euthanasia. He is involved with Chenny Troupe, an animal-assisted therapy group. Dr. Kremer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 and later conducted post-graduate study at The Ohio State University in advanced orthopedic surgery. He has a special interest in performing advanced knee and hip procedures as well as complicated fracture repair. In his veterinary practices, Dr. Kremer brings the latest technology and techniques to his patients. Dr. Kremer has founded three scholarships for veterinary students who have financial need. He is also a member of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association Public Education Committee and a certified Veterinary Journalist, appearing regularly on local radio and TV programs in segments that educate people about animals.

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