



# Pet Tips & Tricks

A helpful guide for families PCSing with pets

1

More than **30 days** prior to travel, ensure your pet's vaccines are current. For travel to the U.S., the rabies vaccine must not have expired; if the previous rabies vaccine has expired, it will need to be boosted which will preclude your pet from traveling for 30 days without having to be quarantined.

2

Once your travel date is set, contact your local vet clinic to schedule an appointment for your pet's health certificate. Certificates are only valid for **10 days** once signed by the veterinarian. Schedule your appointment no earlier than 10 days before you fly.

3

If moving to any country (other than US), check with the Veterinary Treatment Facility or the USDA website (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>) for animal **import regulations** specific to that country. Some countries require preparation of up to 7-8 months.

4

Before traveling, contact the Veterinary Treatment Facility at your **new duty station**. They can help parse the customs regulations for pet shipment and provide specific information on immunization and any necessary blood tests.

5

Always **consult with the airline** that your pet will be traveling with for extra information; there may be traveling-bans for certain pets during certain times of the year -- size restrictions, travel crate restrictions, and so on.

6

When **arranging travel** for your pets, be conscientious of several factors:

- Season and weather
- Avoid flying during temperature extremes
- Direct flights are the best; avoid or minimize layovers whenever possible.

7

If your pet has a chronic disease, begin the conversation early with your vet to ensure that you will have more than **enough medication** to last through the duration of your travel.

8

If your pet has been having any problems resulting from an **untreated disorder** (ie, decreased appetite, vomiting/diarrhea, increased urination, etc...), discuss this with the veterinarian several months prior to your expected travel period. These symptoms may be an underlying disease which may affect your pet's safety while traveling if not properly treated.

9

If moving to a heartworm area, ensure you have at least 6 months of **heartworm prevention**-- It is easier to obtain heartworm prevention before departing Germany than after arrival to your new destination.