

The Ultimate Pre-Travel Pet Checklist (90 Days Out)

A week-by-week countdown for stress-free travel with your dog or cat

90–60 DAYS OUT

- Book a vet wellness exam — confirm your pet is fit to travel
- Verify microchip number matches all documentation (ISO 11784/11785)
- Check destination country pet import requirements (USDA APHIS / official govt site)
- Confirm rabies vaccination is current — book booster if needed
- Determine if a rabies titre test is required and book at approved lab
- Research approved airlines and book pet space (spaces fill fast)
- Apply for import permit if required by destination country
- Order IATA-compliant travel crate and begin crate training
- Check breed restrictions for your airline and destination

60–30 DAYS OUT

- Confirm titre test blood draw date and approved laboratory
- Begin crate training — feed meals inside crate, extend time gradually
- Arrange pet-friendly accommodation at destination
- Purchase travel accessories: water bottle, collapsible bowl, waste bags
- Check temperature embargo dates for your travel month
- Identify emergency vet clinics at your destination
- Confirm airline pet policy — fees, carrier dimensions, documentation required
- Book quarantine facility if required (e.g. Australia Mickleham)

30–14 DAYS OUT

- Obtain health certificate from accredited vet (check timing — most valid 10 days)
- Get USDA/APHIS or government endorsement of health certificate
- Administer parasite treatments per destination requirements
- Heartworm test (dogs) — negative result required for many countries
- Confirm all documentation: passport/AHC, vaccination records, titre test, permit
- Purchase pet travel insurance
- Pack a travel kit: food (3-day supply), familiar toy/blanket, medications

- Freeze a water dish for in-flight hydration without spills

14–3 DAYS OUT

- Re-confirm booking with airline — pet space and documentation
- External parasite treatment (within 14 days of travel for most countries)
- Tapeworm treatment if required (e.g. entering UK — must be 1–5 days before)
- Label crate with: pet name, your name, contact number, destination address
- Attach "Live Animal" stickers to all four sides of crate
- Attach feeding/watering instructions to crate exterior
- Take photos of your pet for identification purposes
- Withhold food 4–6 hours before departure (reduces nausea)

DAY OF TRAVEL

- Arrive at airport 3+ hours early for international pet travel
- Exercise your pet well before check-in
- Place familiar item (worn t-shirt) inside crate
- Secure water container to crate door (frozen or attached drip bottle)
- Hand carry all original documentation — do not pack in checked luggage
- Confirm check-in agent has marked pet space on reservation
- Request direct flight confirmation — no unscheduled stops