



Opossum Pike Veterinary Clinic

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Travel Plans? Taking Fido or Fluffy With You?

You have already made your travel plans, bought tickets, and reserved your place to stay. Be it a tropical or mountainous, domestic or international vacation, there are many things to think about when traveling with pets.

Will Fido or Fluffy be able to fly with me in the cabin? Will Fido or Fluffy need to fly cargo? Do I need forms for the airline? Do I need USDA authorized forms to travel? Should I take Fido or Fluffy with me or leave them with a sitter? These are all questions that are considered when you plan and book a vacation.

If you are traveling with your pet, it is important that you let us know as soon as possible. Health certificates, USDA forms, and in some cases, vaccines will be needed depending on where you are traveling. Certificates and vaccines will need to be given prior to your departure.

In order for us to safely get you and your furry family member to your destination, please give our office a call as soon as your travel arrangements have been made. Lauri takes care of coordinating all of our patients travel. Ask for her and she will begin the process of getting you the documents and information you need for traveling with your pet.



When Vacationing with Your Furry Family Member:

Make sure your pet is up to date on their exam and vaccines, is taking flea and tick treatment and heart worm preventative.

Pack extra food and refrain from feeding your pet the morning of your travel. This will help decrease nausea. Pack extra treats as well. Bring bottled water as water from place to place changes and may cause nausea.

Restrain your pet safely in the car using a harness that attaches to the seat belt or a specific dog seat belt. A cat should be in a carrier when traveling by car.

Bring a favorite toy, blanket, chew stick, or treat from home to help your pet feel more comfortable.

Plan for pit stops every few hours to let your dog run laps and stretch. This will also allow time for them to go to the bathroom and get out their nervous energy.

Check the airline for pet travel requirements before purchasing your ticket.

Practice long sleeps in the carrier at home before flying with your pet.

Keep your pets routine the same as much as possible.

Consider microchipping your pet in case they wonder off in a new unfamiliar place. A microchip makes it easier to find the owner. Microchipping is a great form of permanent identification. We microchip patients at our office during anesthetic procedures or technician appointments. Please give us a call for further information or to schedule to have your pet microchipped.

Never leave your animal in a parked car!

For international or state to state travel information, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel



Boarding at Opossum Pike Veterinary Clinic

If you decide that traveling with you pet is not ideal, there is another option.

At the Opossum Pike Veterinary Clinic, we offer boarding for our patients. We board cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, bearded dragons etc. If your pet is up to date on their rabies and distemper vaccines as well as their yearly exam, they may board with us. We have boarding available 365 days a year.

We provide bedding, walks outside (if requested by owner), food, lots of love, and snuggles. If you have two dogs and would like them to board together, we can do that also. If your pet is on a prescription or special diet that we do not carry here, please bring it with you and we will feed your pet the same food that they get at home. If you would like us to feed your pet our food, we can also do that. We feed dogs Purina Brand EN, an easy to digest multi benefit dry food. We also have wet versions of Purina EN if your pet likes wet food. For cats, we offer Purina UR.

If you are interested in boarding your pet, please call in advance to make a reservation to assure that we have room for your pet.

Upon your arrival to drop your pets off for boarding, you will be asked if you pet has eaten and when their normal meals occur. You will also be asked exactly what they eat (we need to know the brand name and type of food), how much they eat, and when they eat it. This allows us to keep the feeding routine the same as it would be at home, thus decreasing anxiety for pets. You will also be asked if your pet takes any medications. We will ask you for the medication and how you give the medication. Everything will be written in the chart to allow clear communication on when the pet gets their medication.

Pets can be dropped off for boarding from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm Monday to Friday and 7:00 am to 11:30 pm on Saturdays.

It is important to note that although we offer boarding 365 days a year, we do not have staff on duty 24 hours a day. We have care taking staff that come in two to three times a day on Saturday's and Sunday and our last employee leaves for the night about 8:30 pm.with the first employee arriving around 7:00 am each morning.



Dog Days of Summer! The Heat is On!

The dog days of summer have arrived and the heat is on! Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are unique tolls that sticky, humid, high heat index days, can have on dogs. It is important to know the signs to look for and when to call for help.

Heat exhaustion (body temperature of 104° to an ambient temperature of 106°) can be serious and has the potential to progress to heat stroke (body temperature of 106°), but there are many warning signs that your dog is getting overheated. Early warning signs include restlessness, heavy panting, vomiting, diarrhea, increased respiration, heart rate, and salivation. In more advanced stages, your dog may become weak and seem to stagger. They may gasp or wheeze, and their gum color will become progressively darker.

Even more dangerous than heat exhaustion, heat stroke in dogs can indicate a serious medical problem and cause invisible complications, such as swelling of the brain, kidney failure, intestinal bleeding, and abnormal blood clotting. Get your dog to a veterinarian immediately if you see these signs - temperature above 106°, heavy panting and difficulty breathing, excessive drooling, lethargy, drowsiness, or seeming uncoordinated or if the dog is collapsing or vomiting.

Call us immediately if your dog is experiencing any of the above symptoms.