

# media release

*Colorado Department of Agriculture*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### *Relieve the Stress of Holiday Traveling with your Pet*

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Whether you leave your pet at a kennel for the holidays or load them up in the car with the kids and presents, there are steps you can take to make your travels less stressful for all.

“A change in routine such as a new location, traveling, and meeting new animals can be stressful for pets and this makes them more prone to illness. One of the most important steps for keeping them healthy is to make sure they are up to date on their vaccinations. Check with your veterinarian to make sure your pet is properly protected against any diseases to which they may be exposed.” said Dr. Kate Anderson, pet care program administrator for the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

#### **Leaving your pet at a kennel**

- You can request an inspection history of any kennel, shelter, or doggy daycare by contacting the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- Also consider asking a friend, veterinarian, dog trainer, or local animal shelter staff for their recommendations. This is often a great resource.
- Don't just drop your pets off. Make a visit to the facility first, meet the staff, and make sure you're comfortable with it.
- Bring comforting objects with familiar scents from home, if the kennel allows it. Their usual bedding, toys, chews, and snacks will help them relax and settle in for their visit.

- Look at the other pets that are boarded while you visit. Do they look relaxed and content?

### **Traveling with your pet**

- Make sure you have food, water, and toys available. But don't feed your dog a lot before the trip as they are prone to motion sickness.
- In the event that your pet gets away from you on your trip, you can increase the chances of recovery by making sure they can be properly identified by a microchip or tag.
- It's also a good idea to exercise your pet before traveling. Helping them burn off extra energy will keep them from getting over-excited on the road.
- Don't leave your pet in a parked car, especially when it's warm out. Even with the window cracked open, the car can quickly turn into an oven.
- A crate is an excellent way to keep your pet safe in the car, and is required for airline travel. It can also keep your pet from becoming a distraction as you drive and help protect them from severe injury in the case of an accident.

“So many of us consider our dogs as part of the family and wouldn't consider going on vacation without them. But, there are steps that will help make your travels safer and healthier for them,” said Anderson.

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