



Going on a holiday with your pet can be one of the most memorable experiences for you and your family. Before you pack the boot to head on your family adventure however, it's vital you consider a few important points.

### What is National Pet ID Month?

Each year, thousands of lost cats and dogs across Australia arrive at shelters and have no way of being reunited with their owners, either because they are not identified or their owner's contact details are out-of-date.

National Pet ID Month is an annual awareness raising month by National Pet Register and The Lost Dogs' Home to better the chances of reuniting these lost cats and dogs with their owners.

### IDENTIFY, UPDATE, REUNITE

You want your holiday to be memorable for all the right reasons and the last thing you want to happen is to lose your cat or dog. Being in an unfamiliar environment can heighten their desire to escape and increase the risk of injury and becoming lost.

It is crucial you stay on top of your pet's identification year-round. Enable a quick and safe reunion by following the checklist below.

#### Checklist:

- Always identify your pet with a collar tag and microchip.
- Check that your pet's tag has your current phone number and replace if it has worn off.
- Contact your pet's microchip register to check that your current phone number and address are up-to-date. Please refer to [petidmonth.com.au/update](http://petidmonth.com.au/update) for other methods.
- Always include an emergency contact.

**Please note:** Your microchip registration is not the same as your council registration. Make sure your pet is registered with your council.

### PLANNING A HOLIDAY THAT'S FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Always be realistic about whether your pet is actually going to enjoy holidaying with you. Some cats and dogs are happier left at home with a sitter or at a boarding facility. When planning, it is important to keep what is best for your pet front of mind.

#### Tips:

- Research pet friendly destinations and accommodations that are a good fit for your pet.
- Cats feel safer in a familiar place, so going to your holiday house or an accommodation you travel to regularly may be a better fit.
- Holidaying with your pet for the first time? Start small with a short trip. Within just a couple of days, you will find out a lot about how your pet travels.

**What to pack:**

- ample pet food and water,
- prescribed medication
- first aid kit,
- insect repellent,
- treats,
- protection for the sun and cold,
- carrier or crate,
- and, toys and games.

**Please note:** It is important to take your pet's bed and any familiar items that will help them feel more settled and at home.

**Other resources and factsheets:**

- To identify, update or find out about lost and found pets, visit [petregister.com.au](http://petregister.com.au), [petidmonth.com.au](http://petidmonth.com.au) or call National Pet Register on 1300 REG PET (1300 734 738).
- For more pet health and wellbeing factsheets, please visit [dogshome.com](http://dogshome.com)

**BOOK EARLY**

Start your research early and book well in advance to avoid plans falling through due to a last minute attempt at making arrangements.

**Tips:**

- Search the many Australia-wide pet friendly accommodation directories online.
- Always ensure the accommodation provider is aware you will be bringing your pet. While hotels/resorts/camping sites may advertise as being pet-friendly, this may not be year-round.
- Ask plenty of questions including, where the nearest park is, whether pets are permitted indoors, where the closest vet clinic is, if a kennel/pen is provided and whether there is an extra fee for bringing a pet?
- **Please note:** some hotels and resorts have restrictions on breeds and sizes.

**ON THE ROAD**

- Your pet should be contained safely throughout the journey and should never be seated on the driver's lap or the front passenger seat. A carrier is perfect for cats, while a crate or harness is good for dogs.
- Regular breaks are essential to exercise, toilet, hydrate and feed your pet and let's face it, for you too!
- Maintain a comfortable temperature in the vehicle.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle.

**WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

There is nothing quite like the excitement of finally arriving at your holiday destination. Before you get swept away, try a few simple tricks that will help your pet settle in.

- Spend some time introducing your pet to the new environment, while reassuring them they are safe by playing a game or by showing them some affection.
- Consider a 'thunder shirt' as a way to help pets with anxiety.
- Check all fences and gates are secure, that your pet is supervised at all times and never left alone or with unfamiliar people.
- Above all, have fun making life-long memories together!

**WEATHER AND BUSHFIRE WARNINGS**

It's crucial you keep an eye out on weather and bushfire warnings throughout the year to protect the safety of your family and your pets. This is particularly important if you decide to camp or holiday in a regional/rural area.

**Tips:**

- Download the Bureau of Meteorology app or visit their website regularly at [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)
- Download your state fire service app or visit their website regularly.
- Have a bushfire safety plan your family is well versed with and keep it updated each year.



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Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for more than 30,000 cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including; proactive adoption, foster care and behaviour rehabilitation programs, responsible pet ownership education and provide discounted microchipping through National Pet Register.