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## **Tips for travelling with pets this summer**

With the holiday season fast approaching, New Zealand pet owners planning their great kiwi getaway will be asking themselves whether or not to take their dog or cat away with them.

Purina is urging travellers who do want to take their pets with them on holiday to be aware of pet's needs when traveling, and to consider their pet's overall safety when taking them away from home for a long period of time.

Shivaun Statham, a dog behavior expert and pet care advisor for Purina, says planning is key when it comes to traveling with pets.

"If your pet suffers from motion sickness, it is worth talking to a Pet Professional first to be prepared. There are behavioural modification techniques and some veterinary medications that can help alleviate symptoms," says Ms Statham.

"If pets have a negative association with the car, slowly getting them used to a stationary car and then taking them on very short trips may help."

Ms Statham says stress during travel can also cause some pets to vocalize, pant, salivate, and vomit or toilet whilst in the car.

"When traveling, dogs should be restrained in a seatbelt harness or in a secured crate or pet carrier. Cats should also be contained in a secured pet carrier."

Ms Statham says taking a cat away on holiday can have its own unique challenges.

"It's important not to let cats outside of your holiday home unless they are familiar with the area you are staying in. It's common for cats to run away and not be able to find their way back," says Ms Statham.

"By law all dogs have to be micro chipped and wear registration tags, but it is vital to make sure your cat has identification too. A simple collar and neck tag with your cat's name and your mobile phone number on it will go a long way to help recover your cat if it goes missing."

Ms Statham also advises pet owners to be aware of their pets' capabilities around swimming pools and at the beach.

“Water can be dangerous for pets, especially if they fall in and are unable to get out again. If you own a pool, consider installing a pet ramp.”

“Don’t all go swimming and leave your dog on the beach, as they can easily become distressed and try to follow you into the water. Hot sand can be harsh on a dog’s paws, so if you find the sand too hot to walk on, then your dog will too,” she says.

Ms Statham also reminds pet owners never to leave a pet in a stationary car during summer, as heat stroke can be fatal.

She recommends keeping pets inside during the hottest part of the day and using pet sunscreen to protect delicate skin, such as noses and ears, especially if they are light in colour.

“If you’re not planning on taking your pet with you, be sure to book a kennel or cattery early, and always keep your pets vaccinations up to date.”

For in-depth information about maintaining optimal nutrition and care for cats, visit the Purina web site at [www.purina.co.nz](http://www.purina.co.nz)

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**For more information or interview requests, contact:**

Jane Finch  
Ogilvy PR  
jane.finch@ogilvy.co.nz  
Ph: +64 9 358 5752 ext 832  
Mobile: 021 666 035

**About Nestle Purina New Zealand**

- For over eighty years Purina has been a leader in the advancement of pet care and pet nutrition.
- Purina’s expert nutritionists, food scientists, vets, and animal behaviorists are constantly discovering new ways to help pets lead healthier, happier, longer lives.
- No one invests more in research and development, and as a result Purina has made more breakthroughs in the field than any other company.
- Today Purina is one of the world’s leading pet care companies, producing some of the best known pet food brands; many of which have served pet owners for generations. Each is the result of the very latest advances in quality, taste and nutrition.
- Purina products are designed to give pets and their owners the best possible choice of recipes and formats, for every life stage and lifestyle.
- Purina is also a committed member of the wider pet care community, supporting charitable organisations, working closely with the communities in which we work and operate, and promoting responsible pet ownership in New Zealand and worldwide.
- With over seventy per cent of New Zealand households owning pets, Nestlé Purina is servicing a growing market.
- Throughout the company’s long history in the pet care business, it has built strong brands such as TUX, FRISKIES and FANCY FEAST.
- In 2002 the company acquired Ralston Purina, which saw the introduction of brands such as Purina ONE, BENEFUL and PRO PLAN.