

Go-To Pet Gear

Pack these 10 dog and cat products the next time you hit the road.

BY MELISSA L. KAUFFMAN

My husband and I have traveled in our RV with our dogs and parrots for more than a decade. We’ve observed a variety of travel and campsite setups from our fellow RVers, always looking to uncover products that make “ruff-ing” it with pets easier. As someone who’s been testing pet products for more than 25 years, I know that the right stuff makes a difference.

Browse through my list of favorite dog and cat products to find the ones that you and your fur family travelers might just like to take on the road.

7 TRAVEL PRODUCTS FOR DOGS ON THE GO

A whole long drawer under a dining bench in our RV stores our dogs’ things. And there’s more stored under the bed and in the closet. OK, I admit it, our dogs need a lot of things. I’ve used all of these products, and they have made the bring-along-in-the-RV cut.

Dolce Moderno Food and Water Bowl Collection: I learned pretty quickly to travel with multiple water dishes. You need one or two in the RV and one or two outside at your campsite. This way your dog(s) can access water whether they are inside or outside, and you don’t have to keep moving the water bowl around. I use several of these Dolce Moderno bowls for water. Easy to clean and a great size for the large amounts of water your dog will go through, especially when they’re hot and active. I love their cute and modern designs, and they’re light weight, too. Starts at \$7.49. (Check out the designs and more at lovingpetsproducts.com.)



Wondercide Flea & Tick Spray for Pets and Home with Natural Essential Oils: No matter how big your RV is, it’s still a small environment. For our home away from home, I like safe and holistic solutions because we all breathe it in. This plant-powered spray helps to repel, prevent and kill fleas and ticks. They come in four scents from essential oils: rosemary, peppermint, cedarwood and lemongrass. These sprays are strong-smelling, so pick the scent that’s most pleasing to you. I tried and liked them all but picked the peppermint in the end. Safe for the house, cats and dogs, but always follow the directions when spraying directly on your pets. Starts at \$13.99 for a 4-oz. bottle. (wondercide.com)

Ruffwear Swamp Cooler Cooling Dog Vest: We’ve whisked our dogs off to some pretty hot places — the Florida Keys, Yellowstone National Park and cruising the Extraterrestrial Highway through Nevada. For hot road trips, a cooling vest like Ruffwear’s plays a key role in keeping dogs cool, especially as they get older. The fabric itself reflects solar radiation. To activate the Swamp Cooler Tech, soak the vest in water, then put it on your dog, and he’s ready to go. When the vest dries, just wet it again. Six sizes from XXS to



XL makes it easy to find one to fit your pup. Available in either Heliotrope Purple or Sage Green, the vest costs \$79.95. (ruffwear.com)
Boss Dog Tactical Nylon Dog Leash with Carabiner: Boss Dog Brand (bossnationbrands.com) creates some serious leashes to withstand the camping and traveling lifestyle. I



love this 20-foot leash for several reasons: It comes in hunter orange, which makes it easy to spot at your campsite or in the woods; it’s made of durable material that simplifies cleaning and air dries quickly (so no smelly dampness when you have to pack it); plus the sturdy carabiner and swivel clip keep it

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3 PURRFECT CAT TRAVEL PRODUCTS

Cats have come a long way from outdoor cats, to indoor and even travel cats. In fact, there's a new term for them — "adventure cats." Yearning for something more, these cats rule the house even when the house is on wheels. Enjoy this quick list of on-the-road products that your kitty will pounce on.

Sleepypod Martingale Walking Cat Harness: Let's kick it off with this adjustable mesh walking harness for those adventure kitties that like to safely get outside on a leash. It wraps firmly around the cat, securing with a wide berth of Velcro so your pet can't get loose. You can adjust it for fit at your cat's neck and chest. These harnesses look stylish so be prepared for people to stop and ask where you got it (and admire your cat on a leash!). The harness is easy to wash in cold water and just put it outside to dry. Comes in size large and lots of colors: Glacier Silver, Midnight Blue, Pink Peony, Jet Black and Strawberry Red. (Available for dogs, too.) Starts at \$39.59. (sleepypod.com)



Earthbath Hypoallergenic Cat Wipes: Wipes make every traveler's essential must list. I've been using Earthbath's dog wipes for years and was happy to see that they now make some just for cats. Earthbath's cat wipes are fragrance free with mild cleansers so you can easily and quickly clean and freshen up your kitty. The wipes include Hawaiian awapuhi to condition the coat and get it to shine, along with aloe vera and vitamin E. Each container has 100 wipes (for \$17), which is perfect for a road trip. Note: You should only use these wipes if your cat is over 6 weeks old. (earthbath.com)

Kitty Sift Eco-Friendly Litter Box: There's an easy solution to your cat's potty concerns when traveling in an RV — disposable litter boxes. Made of recycled cardboard, Kitty Sift litter boxes are durable and leak proof, plus they have a sifter so you clean the litter box in just 30 seconds. Just pour in your cat's favorite litter and watch him jump in. Throw out and replace the litter box every two or three weeks or as needed. I particularly like that Kitty Sift litter boxes come in a jumbo size, which makes it more comfortable for multiple cats, seniors or larger cats that need more room. The 5-pack large litter box costs \$27.99, the jumbo set is \$34.99. (furhaven.com)



attached and prevent tangles. We use it with our dogs at the campsite, allowing them to come in and out of the trailer as they wish or to safely hang out with us and enjoy the woods. Comes in .5- or 1-inch widths and costs \$43.99. (Buy at chewy.com.)



Pet Head Quick Fix Foam by Company of Animals: Sometimes dogs need a bath when traveling (OK, more than sometimes), but we don't have lots of water and a tub handy. It's simple and easy to keep them clean with this Pet Head no-rinse deodorizing foam from Company of Animals (companyofanimals.com/us). The peach scent smells great, too. I also use the Pet Head Quick Fix Wipes

and Quick Fix Spray (\$12.99 each) for easy grooming on the road. (Buy on amazon.com.)

Gou Gou Pets First Aid Ointment: None of us should forget our first aid supplies, especially when camping. Gou Gou Pet's health

products combine ancient Chinese philosophies to create holistic formulas, and I've liked every one I've tried so far. Herbs are the secret ingredient in this first-aid ointment that relieves swelling, alleviates skin infections and supports both cat and dog immune systems. Starts at \$16.99. (gougoupets.com)



ZippyPaws Hot Sauce Crusherz / Pubasco: No problem if your pup crushes this \$9.99 toy while you're on the road. Just replace the empty water bottle that goes inside the toy to get it back in fighting shape. The plush outside allows for lots of chewing and biting. I give these toys two paws up for repurposing plastic and having a reusable squeaky cap. (zippypaws.com). 🐾

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