



# Pet-friendly holidays on wanted list

**R**ETIRING baby boomers are boosting the market for pet-friendly holiday destinations as they take to Australia's roads in search of the perfect holiday.

Research from Tourism Australia shows that between 2000 and 2004, the number of mature-aged Australians travelling increased at a faster rate compared to the number of younger travellers.

And a Newspoll report shows that the older the traveller, the more likely they are to take their pet.

"For this age group, maintaining an active social life and enjoying healthy activities like playing golf or walking their dog are part of what they are looking for from their road trip," Dr Lisa Wood from the University of Western Australia said.

"And with our research showing that pets stimulate social networks, there is every reason for older

travellers to take their pets with them."

Alan Wood, self-confessed "grey nomad" said Bonnie, his 7-year-old kelpie was a great travel companion and was happy to fit in with whatever plans he made.

"She enjoys the beach as much as I do and it just wouldn't be a holiday without her."

The Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) agrees that it can be beneficial for both pets and people to enjoy a holiday together.

"Pets are very much part a part of the Australian family, with over 53 per cent of households having a dog and/or a cat," Susie Chaseline from PIAS said.

"Pets provide companionship and are a way of getting to meet other people so - for older people - it is particularly important to maintain these benefits.

"In the past it was common for cats and dogs to be sent to boarding kennels when the family went away

on holiday, whereas people are now recognising that pets can adapt well to travel and there are increasing options for people wishing to take their four legged friend on holiday.

"Our advice is to do your research before you leave home.

"There are many websites that have information on pet-friendly accommodation, with everything from caravan parks to luxury hotels."

PIAS also recommends that before taking to the road with your pet, you should consider these tips:

- Make sure your pet is wearing identification that will allow you to be contacted wherever you are.

A mobile number on your pet's tag is a good option.

- Remember to pack for your pet.

It's a good idea to bring a portable bowl, your pet's favourite toys or blankets for familiarity and a supply of special treats.

- Many places welcome pets and you can research the options on websites before

you embark on your journey.

- It is a good idea to take a harness or carrier box as there may be times on your travels when you need to secure your pet within the vehicle.

- Some cats enjoy travel but they should always be confined whenever travelling to avoid any mishaps.

- Dogs love the open air from a moving car's window but it can be unsafe for your best friend.

It is better to keep the dog inside the car and let it enjoy the fresh air when you get to your destination.

- It is a good idea to take a simple pet first-aid kit containing

bandages, antiseptic cream, tweezers (to remove foreign objects from fur) and pet travel medication.

Websites that have useful information on travelling with pets include: [www.drkatrina.com.au](http://www.drkatrina.com.au), [www.thegreynomads.com.au](http://www.thegreynomads.com.au) and [www.grey-nomads.com.au](http://www.grey-nomads.com.au)



**Mildura Midweek**  
**16/10/2007**  
Page: 20  
General News  
Region: Mildura VIC Circulation: 16667  
Type: Regional  
Size: 373.08 sq.cms  
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● Family pets are on the move as their owners take them on holiday