How to Safely Travel with Your Pet This Summer

May 25, 2011 — This coming weekend is Memorial Day – the unofficial kick-off to summer! For those planning on traveling with pets this season, the International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA), the non-profit organization dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport, offers advice on how best to prepare.

IPATA member PetRelocation.com released its second annual Summer Pet Travel Survey of more than 10,000 pet owners worldwide, which found that 58 percent of pet owners plan on traveling with their pets this summer. Though dogs are the most popular travel companion (58%), the survey found that pet owners are also taking along their cats (22%), birds (8%), horses (6%) and other animals (6%).

“Pet travel is exceptionally safe. But extreme heat during the summer months can affect your pet,” says Sally Smith, IPATA President. “For their safety, airlines may have restrictions on transporting pets during this time. I advise everyone to check with their airline ahead of time and ask about their heat embargos.”

Before traveling, it is also important to:

- Visit a veterinarian and get the appropriate shots and refills for any medication.
- Get an updated health certificate for your pet.
- Prepare your pet by getting them accustomed to their crate.

For those families who don’t want to handle all of the logistics such as domestic/international documentation and health requirements, professional pet shippers work closely with the airlines to provide a safe environment for the pet during transport. Pet shippers have expertise dealing with airlines, flight regulations, flight container requirements, pickup and delivery arrangements, quarantine, boarding, import and export arrangements and proper identification.

“After all, the safety of the pet is the most important,” continues Smith.

IPATA members are registered with the applicable organizations within their own country and adhere to the rules and regulations of the Live Animals Regulations of the International Air Transport Association. All U.S. Active IPATA members are registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and adhere to the rules and regulations of the USDA's Animal Welfare Act.

About IPATA
The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA) is a non-profit, worldwide trade association for animal handlers, pet moving providers, kennel operators, veterinarians and others who are dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport. The organization, founded in 1979, now has more than 325 members in 69 countries. IPATA serves its members, the pet transport industry, and the public at large. For more information, or to find a professional pet shipper, visit www.ipata.com.

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