

Cat lovers have little trouble putting up with normal bouts of feline finickiness. That trait may be part of why we love them. But there's nothing that brings out the worst in cats—and cat owners—as does traveling.

Some cats adapt nicely to travel, and even come to enjoy it. If that's your cat, you're lucky. If not, members of the Research Advisory Board at Lowe's Inc.

Don't like motion

According to Dr. Robert Stansbury, noted feline veterinarian, Long Beach, Calif., and a member of Lowe's Research Advisory Board, the primary reason cats dislike traveling is that they become disoriented by motion. "Cats do actually get motion sickness," Stansbury states, "and some become hyperactive to the point of hysteria. Plus, they're generally in a new environment, which adds to their insecurity. Therefore," he adds, "it is best to prepare your cat as well as you can for travel."

A good way to acclimate your cat to travel is to take it on short car trips. Your cat will learn to trust you and short jaunts will help reduce its anxiety. Also, consider the time of day and year you'll be traveling. For example, during the hot summer months, you may

On the road with your cat

want to travel during the cooler early-morning or evening hours.

Watch feeding

The key to your cat's traveling comfort is to make careful preparations before and during the trip. To reduce the chances of nausea, don't feed your cat for at least eight hours and withhold water approximately two hours before departure.

If your trip is longer than 24 hours, plan a stop so you can feed and exercise your cat. Take along its familiar feeding dishes, favorite food and provide fresh water. It is best to feed it at the end of the day, permitting time for proper digestion before taking off again. Never allow your cat to remain loose in a strange place; tuck in a leash for emergencies.

A disposable litter box, available in most pet-supply stores, and a bag of cat box filler are important travel supplies for your cat's toilet needs. If traveling by car, the litter box can be set on the floor of the back seat, or can be kept in the trunk for use during rest

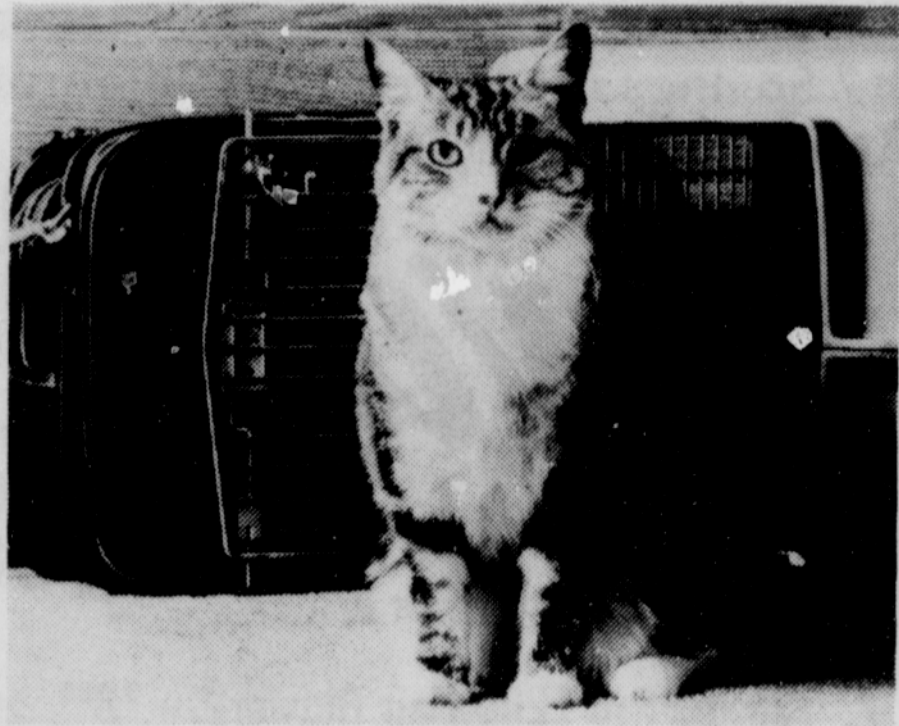
stops. Use a name brand cat box filler for maximum odor control.

Use carrier

Whether you're traveling by car, plane, train, bus or boat, the safest way to transport your cat is in a secure and well-ventilated basket or carrier. Prominently indicate on the carrier that there's a live cat inside, to avoid rough handling and reduce the possibility of curious people opening the cage. A traveling pet kennel with a top door makes it easier to place your cat inside and get it out again. If your cat has never ridden in a carrier, introduce it to your pet a week or two before the journey. Put in a few of your cat's favorite toys to make it feel at home.

Check with vet

If your cat continues to become hysterical upon traveling, you may find it necessary to use oral sedatives prescribed by your veterinarian. It is recommended that you give a trial dosage to your cat beforehand, to see how it reacts.



According to members of Lowe's Research Advisory Board, traveling with a cat can be a pleasant experience if you and your cat are adequately prepared for the trip. Carrying cases are provided by many airlines and make a comfortable temporary home for a pet.

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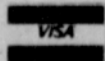


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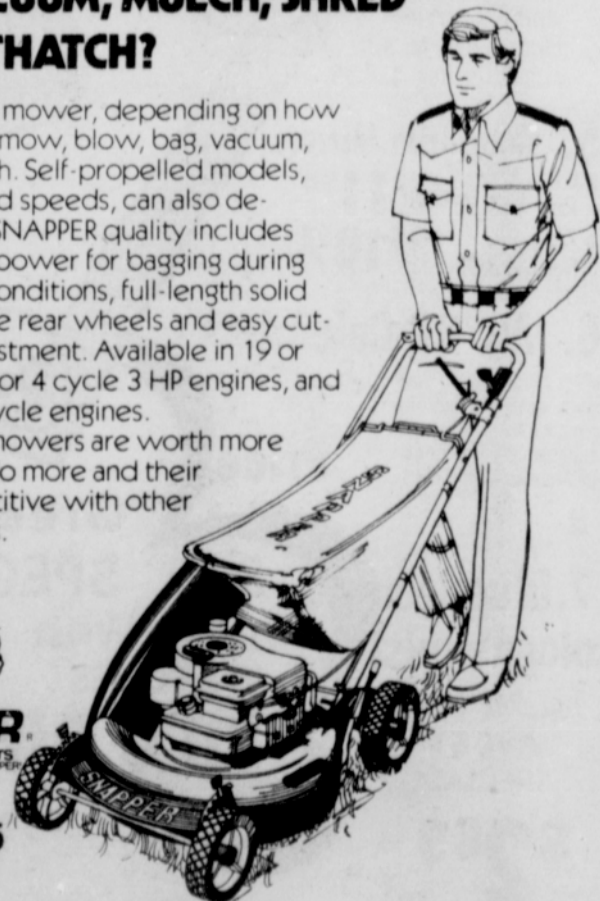
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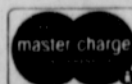


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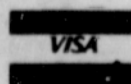
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