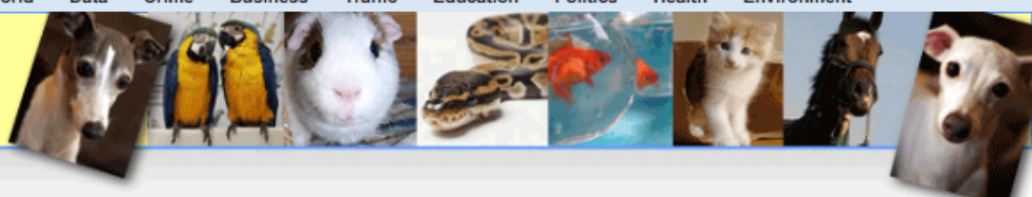


## Paws 'n' Claws

THE PLACE FOR PETS, AND THEIR OWNERS



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#### ABOUT THIS BLOG

For most animal lovers, pets are members of the family. They carry around pictures in their wallets and schedule vacations with pets in mind. This blog takes a look into the world of a pet owner: the good, the bad and the just plain obsessive.

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## News you can use: vet care and travel tips

JULY  
21

Got these two very long press releases, so I'll just let you sort through. First is about a "Low Cost Vet Mobile" that will be in Manhattan on Saturday. The second is about international travel with your pet. Enjoy.

1) Animal Care & Control of NYC: On Saturday, July 25, New Yorkers will get their first glimpse of the "Low Cost Vet Mobile" – a new mobile veterinary clinic created to help cash-strapped New Yorkers at risk of having to give up their companion animals because they can no longer afford their veterinary care. The program, developed by Garo Alexanian of Companion Animal Network and staffed by local veterinarians, will provide pet owners with affordable, preventive veterinary care and also a first step in developing relationships with veterinarians within their community.

The Low Cost Vet Mobile will make its debut at the Animal Care & Control (AC&C) Manhattan shelter, located at 326 East 110th Street, on Saturday, July 25 at 12:00 noon. A press conference will take place between noon and 1:00 pm. To celebrate the launch, AC&C will host a special pet adoption promotion from noon until 7:00 pm, where dozens of wonderful dogs and cats will be available for adoption both inside the shelter and on a North Shore Animal League America adoption van parked curbside. Adoption fees for adult cats (over one year old) will be waived. In addition, vaccinations for dogs and cats will be available for \$10 on the Vet Mobile, and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals will offer extra-low-cost (\$10) microchipping for cats and dogs between noon and 6:00 pm.

For info: [www.AnimalAllianceNYC.org](http://www.AnimalAllianceNYC.org)

And 2) Thousands of jet-setting New Yorkers don't leave home without them, year after year. But while the idea of traveling abroad with a beloved pet might seem ultra appealing, many pet parents may not realize the international pet travel process is a time consuming and challenging ordeal. The good news is, travel accredited veterinarians exist and help pet owners navigate through strict pet health requirements, lengthy documentation requirements and waiting periods that can frustrate any would be traveler.

"People are often completely surprised to learn getting a pet from one country to another is far from an overnight process. Allowing for plenty of prep time and thorough planning, as well as working with an accredited veterinarian, are the keys to making this process a much simpler one," says American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Accredited veterinarian Dr. Michael Farber of West Chelsea Veterinary in Manhattan. "We help countless pets travel all over the world every year."

"Along with accredited veterinarians like Dr. Farber, PetTravel.com helped over three thousand New Yorkers, and their pets, travel internationally in 2008," says Jerry Hatfield, International Pet Travel Expert and founder of PetTravel.com. "In fact, we expect that number to be much higher in 2009." Fourteen year-old PetTravel.com offers free international travel advice to pet owners.

For those thinking of packing their pets' suitcases, Dr. Farber and his practice manager Liz Luboja created the following top five must-know travel tips:



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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

##### Laurel Babcock

is the Community Life editor for The Journal News, Express Publications and LoHud.com. She grew up with a beloved mutt and was surrounded by dogs into young adulthood. She liked cats enough, but didn't really think of them as true pets. That changed when her brother brought an abandoned 4-week-old kitty into the family, dooming us all. Laurel currently serves as staff for two completely adored cats, Stanley and Cup, both girls.

#### LINKS

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1. Know a Pet's Health Requirements: "Pet owners should make sure to research the pet import protocols for the country they'll be traveling to, well in advance. While some countries have very reasonable entry requirements, others, like the UK and Japan, have six month waiting periods before pets can enter," advises Dr. Farber.

2. Prep for Getting In and Out: "Like people, pets also need additional, certified documentation in order to enter another country," explains Liz. "Having valid documentation of a pet's health status is essential. Internationally accredited veterinarians, like West Chelsea Veterinary, can prepare and process this paperwork for travelers. Though after processing, these documents will still need the official stamp of the United States Veterinary Services Office, prior to travel."

3. Contact the Airline: "Travelers should be sure to ask questions to help them assess if pet travel is a safe idea for their pet. Determining factors can be breed, size, age, personality and the pet's overall physical condition. Airlines reserve a limited number of spots on flights for pets, so making a reservation well in advance is critical."

4. Get Packed: According to Liz, "It's so important to bring a first aid kit, proper flea and tick control, some familiar toys and enough of their pet's regular food to last for the entire trip."

5. Play it Safe without Sedation: "As for using tranquilizers, the American Humane Association, along with the AVMA strongly advise against it. They say tranquilizers can alter an animal's ability to balance or brace itself during movement. The AVMA also states that during air travel, animals are exposed to increased altitude pressures, which can create some issues if sedatives are used," warns Dr. Farber.

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