Safety should be top of mind for everyone traveling by plane with a pet, as it is a process that can be fraught with peril for an animal and its owner. However, following these five simple travel tips will go a long way in ensuring that your trip goes smoothly and safely:

1. **USE A DIRECT FLIGHT**
   If possible, travel to your destination directly since layovers, transfers and delays can lead to mistakes and extra stress for you and your pet.

2. **SCHEDULE A PRE-TRAVEL VET VISIT**
   Before your trip, you’ll need to make sure your pet’s vaccinations are current and obtain a health certificate dated within 10 days of your departure from your veterinarian.

3. **PURCHASE AN AIRLINE APPROVED CARRIER OR CRATE**
   If your pet is traveling in cargo, be sure that the crate is sturdy with proper ventilation, a waterproof bottom, metal hardware and a secure door. You should also make sure your pet is accustomed to the carrier well before the trip to mitigate anxiety.

4. **LABEL EVERYTHING**
   Write your name and contact information clearly on the carrier and ensure your pet is wearing a tag with the same information. Also, carry a current picture of your pet for extra security.

5. **INFORM AIRLINE PERSONNEL THAT YOUR PET IS TRAVELING**
   Tell flight attendants and the pilots that your pet is in cargo (or in the cabin) so they can be prepared for additional considerations.
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