



PetAssist®

Companion's Corner

Important Tips for Traveling with Pets

Most airlines allow pets to travel in one of three ways:

- Small pets, that may fit underneath of the seat in front of you in a carrier may be carried onto a plane.
- Many animals can be accepted as checked baggage, so long as they are traveling in the proper kennels and meet certain breed requirements.
- If your pet needs to travel without you, some airlines will allow them to travel as cargo.

Some important tips to keep in mind:

- Book your trip early. Most airlines limit how many pets they will allow on each flight, so if you're traveling during a peak travel time, there may be lots of other critters looking to travel.
- Consider the weather. Most airlines will not allow pets to fly in extreme conditions as they may be exposed to the elements while on the tarmac. This includes heat and cold. Some airlines will make exceptions with a note from a veterinarian, so be sure to call your airline if you're traveling in the summer or winter and ask what their policy is.
- Look your pet in the nose. Many airlines have restrictions for brachycephalic breeds, or pets with squished-looking noses, as they may have more difficulty breathing while flying.
- Before traveling, take your pet to the veterinarian for a check up to make sure they are fit to fly and up to date on their vaccinations. While you're there, make sure to get a health certificate to provide to the airline and customs. Keep in mind, this health certificate needs to be dated no more than 10 days prior to departure.
- Look for a strong, sturdy kennel for your pet to travel in, with plenty of ventilation. It should provide enough room for him to turn around and stand comfortably.
- Label your kennel with the words "Live Animal," as well as arrows so your pet doesn't get turned upside down. Also, tape a picture of your pet to the top of their kennel, and make sure to carry a picture of your pet on you.
- Give your pet a "peticure." You want her nails are trimmed, so they don't get caught in their kennel.
- Layovers can be just as stressful for pets as they are for you, so try to book a direct flight when possible.
- To help comfort your pet, place one of your used t-shirts in it's crate so he can smell a familiar human.

To learn more about how to safely travel with your pet, contact Global Pet Plus. Every airline has different rules, and there may be special considerations for your type of pet and breed. Global Pet Plus can help answer any questions you have, to help you travel confidently with your furry friend.

Sources include but are not limited to: Delta Airlines, ASPCA, and the American Kennel Club.

