

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

Pet and Kennel. Allow your pet to get accustomed to the kennel a few days before departure so he/she will be more comfortable in his/her temporary home during flight. Use the kennel as a bed or feed the pet in the kennel for several days.

Tranquilizers. Sedation is not advised since effects of tranquilizers on animals at high altitudes are unpredictable. Your veterinarian should decide whether or not to prescribe a tranquilizer for your pet. If you believe some form of sedation might be helpful, be sure to obtain expert medical advice.

Leash. Carry a leash with you on your trip so you can walk your pet before check-in and after arrival.

Animals in Public Areas. Do not take your pet out of its kennel inside the airport. In keeping with airport regulations and as a courtesy to other passengers, you should let your pet out only after you leave the terminal building.

Kennel and Pet Identification (ID). Mark the kennel with your pet's name and include your name, destination or unit address, and phone number if available. We also suggest you purchase an ID tag for your pet.

Pet Health. Have your pet evaluated by your personal veterinarian to be sure your pet is fit for air travel. Some species, (e.g. pug-nosed dogs) simply do not fly well because they have difficulty breathing even under normal conditions.

Pet Stress. Keep strangers, especially children, at a distance if your pet seems to be nervous. Even the most gentle pet can be provoked into growling or snapping.

Pet Immigration Requirements. Contact your local transportation office for specific immigration requirements for the country to which you are shipping your pet.

If ground time exceeds 2 hours, pets will be off-loaded and owners provided the opportunity to visit their pets. When passengers are allowed to disembark from an aircraft due to flight delay, pet owners will also be provided the opportunity to visit their pets in order to walk them and provide water.

Fees are charged on a per kennel basis. Your pet(s) and kennel with combined weight up to 70 pounds will be charged as one piece. Pet(s) and kennel with combined weight from 71-140 pounds will be charged as two pieces, and pet(s) and kennel weighing from 141-150 pounds will be charged as three pieces. Pet(s) and kennel weighing in excess of 150 pounds will not be accepted for shipment under any circumstances.

You should feed your pet very lightly and provide water before turning him/her in for shipment. You should also exercise your pet before coming to the terminal. Some pets with snub noses may experience respiratory difficulty in flight. Ensure your kennel has adequate ventilation and your pet is free of respiratory problems. If possible, because it causes great distress to other pets and may result in injury, do not ship female pets that are in heat (estrus). We cannot accept females with suckling young or unweaned animals. Weaned puppies younger than 8 weeks old should not be shipped due to possible dehydration. A familiar article or toy in the kennel may help placate your pet.

For additional information, contact one of the AMC commercial locations or your local Transportation Office /AMC Passenger Terminal.

AMC Commercial Location Telephone Numbers

Seattle Tacoma IAP (SEA) DSN 382-0555
Com (253)-982-0555, E-mail: eagle@mcchord.af.mil
Fax: Commercial (253)982-6815 or DSN 382-6815

Baltimore Washington IAP (BWI) DSN 243-6900
Com 410-918-6900 (877)-429-4262
Fax 410-918-6903 or DSN 243-6903
E-mail: det1305aps@mcguire.af.mil

HQ AMC/A4TP
Passenger Policy Branch
Phone: DSN 779-4593 COM'L (618) 229-4593

Passenger Policy Branch

**HQ AMC
Pet Brochure
March 2009**



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Shipping Your Pet



This brochure is designed to aid you, the Department of Defense (DOD) traveler, in preparing your pet for shipment in conjunction with your permanent change of station (PCS). Please keep in mind regulations and restrictions change, therefore we recommend you confirm this information with your local transportation office.

Shipment Guidelines

DOD regulations limit pet shipment to passengers in PCS status only. Pets are defined as dogs and cats only. You are limited to two pets per family, unless moving under the Space-Available Pet Program (see below).

Space-Available Pet Program: Fifteen days prior to AMC flight departure, open pet spaces are available to travelers that already have two pet spaces booked. Contact your local transportation office to arrange the additional space(s). If there is extra space available for your pet(s), your transportation office will secure a

reservation in the passenger/pet reservation system. A confirmation printout will be provided to you to present upon request as the authority to move more than two pets per family.

Note: The commercial airline industry currently imposes a 100-pound weight restriction per pet and kennel and does not allow pet shipments during seasonal hot/cold conditions. These industry restrictions should be considered when making pet travel plans. AMC does not impose seasonal hot/cold embargoes on pet shipments.



When you request reservations you must present DD Form 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate (or civilian equivalent), or DD Form 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate, to your local transportation office (as proof of ownership). Be aware that pet space is limited on all flights, so requests for reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Processing your pet is a simple process. You must arrive at the AMC commercial location no later than 2 hours and 20 minutes prior to flight departure with the exception of Seattle IAP (SEATAC). The required no later than show time at that location is 3 hours 20 minutes. Passengers on contract commercial flights (i.e., Patriot Express, Category B) may check in up to 6 hours prior to departure; but, due to limited pet storage space, you must retain custody of your pet until 45 minutes prior to boarding unless there is a suitable holding area available. All pets must remain in their container while in the terminal area.

Please remember you are responsible for obtaining all required documentation, immunization, and border clearance requirements and should be prepared to defray any associated costs.

Pet kennels (shipping containers) must be approved for air shipment and are available at most exchanges, retail stores, and commercial airports. You are responsible for following all USDA and IATA regulations regarding the size and type of kennels utilized. For pet safety, soft-sided or collapsible kennels will not be accepted for pets being transported in the cargo area of the aircraft. Several layers of newspaper, shredded paper, or absorbent material should be placed in the bottom of the kennel. Do not use straw, hay, grass, sawdust, sand, or soil. Normally, pets will be individually kenneled; however, two small animals (younger than 6-months old) of the same species and comparable size which are used to cohabitation, and weighing less than 20 pounds each, may be shipped in the same kennel as long as they can stand up, turn around, and lie down. If the pet will be traveling in-cabin, soft-sided (constructed of leak proof/water-repellent padded nylon with mesh ventilation on two (2) or more sides) and hard plastic kennels are allowed. Kennel size must not exceed 20"Lx16"Wx8"H to ensure it will fit under the seat in front of the passenger. All kennels must provide adequate ventilation and be large enough for your pet to stand up, turn around, and lie down with normal posture and body movements. Pets will not be accepted in kennels that are too small.

