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# HQ AMC

## PET TRAVEL PAMPHLET

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This pamphlet assists you in preparing to transport your pets aboard AMC Patriot Express (PE) flights in conjunction with permanent change of station (PCS). The Department of Defense (DOD) defines **pets as dogs and cats only**. Commercial carrier restrictions and regulations may differ, therefore if you have a commercial flight prior to, or following your PE flight, contact the airline to determine any additional requirements.

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# PET TRAVEL RISKS

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- **All pets are susceptible to the risk of heat stroke, respiratory problems, and the possibility of death during travel.**
- **Pets will experience altitude changes and extreme temperatures. AMC will limit the amount of time your pets are exposed to extreme temperatures, but we cannot prevent it. If your pet does not handle extreme temperatures at home, their risk might be higher in a kennel with the added stress of travel. Recommend you acclimate your pet: Suggest your pet be allowed to spend time outdoors to acclimate to extreme temperatures in a secure setting where you can monitor them.**
- **Pets with underlying health conditions, including obesity, are at increased risk during travel. Air travel may not be possible for some pets based on their age, health status or breed. Owners must carefully evaluate (with their veterinarian) their pet's health when making the decision to travel with their pet.**
- **Sedation during air travel is not recommended. Recommend speaking with your veterinarian regarding your pet's health and potential reactions or side effects of these medications and follow the prescribing information carefully.**
- **Pets may experience sensory overload during travel. Loud noises coupled with other animals and strangers near the kennel may lead to added stress and raise the risk of travel for your pet. Allowing your pet to experience these scenarios prior to travelling will assist in reducing stress to your pet.**

- **Brachycephalic (snub or pug nosed) breeds are more prone to medical emergencies while flying on planes than other types of dogs/cats. Their shortened airways make it difficult to breathe during normal circumstances, and the added heat, stress, and humidity and confinement in the kennel can make breathing even more difficult. This may lead to a respiratory emergency and even death. This risk applies to mixed breed animals as well. American Veterinary Medical Associations (AVMA) Air travel and short-nosed dogs FAQ can be found [here](#).**
  
- Your veterinarian can help advise you on your pet's current health condition and discuss risks of air travel with you. Questions to ask your veterinarian include, but not limited to:
  - What are the risks of air travel with my pet?
  - How can I prepare my pet for travel?
  - Is my pet considered a high-risk animal: (i.e., breed, age, weight, health, etc.)
    - If so, is travel appropriate, or what are some ways to decrease the risk?
  - What travel documentation should I have for my pet?
  - What is the appropriate kennel size for my pet?
  - Should I medicate my pet and what are the risks of doing so?

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# PET TRAVEL TIPS

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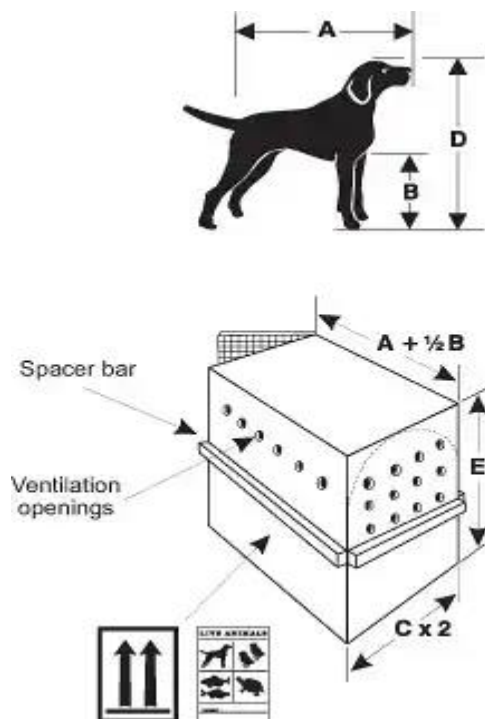
- Pet space is very limited on AMC Patriot Express flights due to the limited space within the pressurized cargo hold.
- Pet reservations are booked on a first come first served basis.
- Typically, a flight's pet spaces are available for reservation 90-120 days prior to the departure month of the flight.
  - These reservations are handled by the local base transportation office.
- Once notified of an assignment, contact the local transportation office to determine the documentation required and timeframe to submit for a reservation.
- Passengers are authorized to travel with two (2) pets per family.
- Pet transportation is at the owner's expense.
- **Note – Pets are not authorized on military organic aircraft.**
- All pets, including service animals are subject to country importation requirements, which may include quarantining. Contact your local veterinarian office for specific importation requirements to include pet **quarantine and detention.**
- Talk with your veterinarian if you have ANY concerns about your pet's health.
- More helpful tips and links can be found on the [AMC Pet Travel](#), [USDA APHIS Pet Travel](#), [USDA APHIS Pets on Planes](#), [AVMA](#) pages.

# PET KENNEL REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the flight day, allow your pet to spend some time getting used to the kennel. The day of your flight should not be the first time in the kennel for an extended duration. Recommend at least a week prior to the flight placing the animal in the kennel to allow them to become comfortable with the space.

From IATA Pet Travel Corner <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals/pets/#tab-1>

- Passengers are responsible for providing an authorized kennel/carrier and ensuring your pet is transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.
- Ventilation openings must be small enough to be nose and paw proof to avoid injury to pets and handlers, but cannot exceed 1 inch x 1 inch for dogs and 3/4 inch x 3/4 inch for cats. If this requirement cannot be met, a layer of wire mesh should be applied over the affected area. In the case of smaller pets, openings may have to be covered with a second layer of wire mesh.
- Ventilation must be provided on all 4 sides. The whole of one end of the kennel must be ventilated (can be the door).
- Absorbent bedding that is suitable for the species will be provided in the kennel.



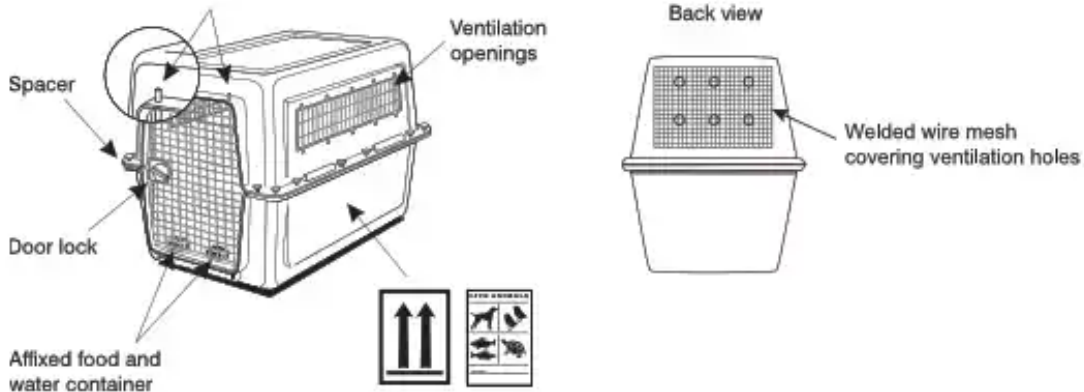
- Kennels must be large enough for your pet to stand-up, turn around, and lie down with normal posture and body movement. **Snub-nosed breeds will require 10% larger kennel to allow more airflow.** Pets will not be accepted if containers are too small.

- Minimum internal container dimensions for a single animal:

- Container length =  $A + \frac{1}{2} B$
- Container width =  $C \times 2$
- Container height  $E = D + \text{bedding}$
- Two animals:  $C \times 3$
- Three animals:  $C \times 4$

### TYPICAL RIGID PLASTIC CONTAINER

Locking pins must engage the container beyond the extrusions by at least 1.6 cm (5/8 in)



- 2-piece kennels must be bolted together with metal nuts/bolts. Plastic/nylon slides, clips, or screws/bolts are not authorized.
- Securing kennel door with a zip tie is recommended for additional safety but not required.
- Soft-sided pet carriers may be accepted for in-cabin movement only.
- Combined weight of your pet and kennel will not exceed 150 pounds.
- All kennels will have one green “Live Animals” and at least two “This Way Up” labels on opposite sides of the kennel.
- If a sedative is used, the name of the drug, the time and type of administration must be clearly marked on the kennel.

**In accordance with FAA & AMC Pet Travel Policy, In-cabin pet kennels/carriers are treated like carry-on baggage and will be stowed under the passenger seat in front of you and pets must remain in container for the duration of the flight.**

For animals traveling in-cabin the non-rigid kennel will:

- Not exceed 18"L x 11" W x 10.5" H in size
- Allow the animal stand-up, turn around, and lie down with normal posture and body movement.
- Have a ventilated area on all 4 sides.
- Be marked with the “Live Animal” label that does not cover any of the ventilated area.

Pets will be individually kenneled; however, weaned puppies or kittens may be kenneled together provided:

- They are from the same litter
- Not older than 6 months
- Weight no more than 31 pounds (14 kg)
- No more than 3 per kennel

A maximum of two adult animals may be kenneled together provided they are of comparable size, up to 31 pounds (14 kg), and used to cohabiting.

Animals over 31 pounds (14 kg) must be kennelled individually.

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# SERVICE ANIMALS

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- Passengers may travel with no more than two (2) properly trained service animals **(dogs only)**.
- The service animal must fit on the handler's lap or within their foot space on the aircraft.
- Service animals must be harnessed, leashed or otherwise always tethered within the terminal and on board the aircraft.
- Service animal handlers must always keep service animals under control to include restraining service animal from relieving itself in air terminals or on aircraft.
- Service animal handlers may be required to pay a pet fee and transport service animals in a pet carrier or pay for damage from service animals that do not follow travel requirements.
- No later than 48 hours prior to aircraft departure, handlers must provide the AMC Passenger Terminal with a signed Statement of Assurance stating the following:
  - Service animal handler's name, email, and phone number.
  - Service animal user's name if different from the handler and phone number
  - Service animal name and description that includes appearance, height and weight.
  - Current service animal information
    - Rabies vaccination date and expiration
    - Other health, disease or conditions such as fleas, ticks or disease that could endanger people or other animals.
    - Veterinarian's name and phone number
    - Name and contact information of service animal trainer or training organization
  - Statement of assurance to comply with requirements in paragraphs 10.1.b. (1) to 10.1.b. (5) of DoDI 4515.13
- Statement of assurance example is provided on the [AMC Pet Travel](#) page.