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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.

Current as of: 12 July 2024

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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 traveling 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 <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners>.**
  
- 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.
- 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**.
- **Effective 01 August 2024, all dogs to include service dogs entering or returning to the United States from an overseas location must adhere to new, specific requirements based on the location of the animal 6 months prior to entering the United States and where the canine received their Rabies vaccinations, if required.** U.S. canine importation requirements and timelines can be found on the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs-entering-us-after-august-1.html#current-vaccination>
- Talk with your veterinarian if you have ANY concerns about your pet's health.
- Owners should exercise pets before arriving at the terminal. Carry a leash to walk pets before check-in and after arrival at destination.
- Keep strangers, especially children, at a safe distance from pets. Even the most gentle pet can be provoked into growling or snapping.
- Mark the kennel with your pet's name, your name, destination or unit address, and phone number (if available). An ID tag for your pet is also recommended.
- A familiar article of clothing or toy in the kennel may help placate your pet.
- More helpful tips and links can be found on the [AMC Pet Travel](#), [USDA APHIS Pet Travel](#), [USDA APHIS Pets on Planes](#), [AVMA](#) pages.

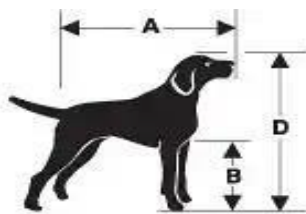
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# PET KENNEL REQUIREMENTS

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>

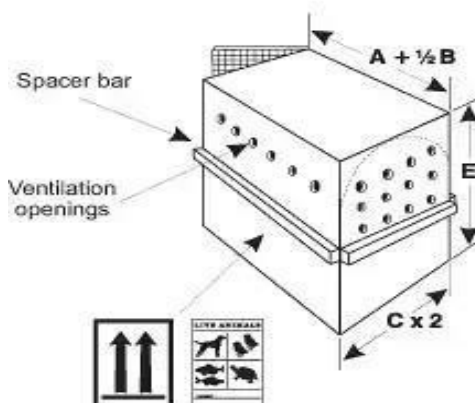
- Passengers are responsible for providing an authorized kennel/carrier and ensuring your pet is transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.
- Ventilation must be provided on all 4 sides. The whole of one end of the kennel must be ventilated (can be the door).
- All openings of the kennel must be nose and paw-proof to prevent injury to the animal or handler. A welded wire mesh insert must cover the ventilated areas and be securely fixed to the kennel so the animal cannot dislodge it.
- Ventilation openings must be a maximum of 1" x 1" for dogs and ¾" x ¾" for cats.
- Ventilation openings may be required to be smaller to be nose and paw proof.
- Absorbent bedding that is suitable for the species will be provided in the kennel. Do not use any, hay, grass, wood shavings, sand or soil.



- 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  $E = D +$  bedding
- Two animals:  $C \times 3$



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- 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.
- A maximum of two animals may be kenneled together provided they are of comparable size, up to 31 pounds (14 kg), and used to cohabitating.
- Female pets that are in heat will not be shipped due to possible distress to other pets and/or may result in injury.
- Weaned puppies younger than 8 weeks old will not be accepted for air shipment due to the possibility of dehydration.
- Pet owners must provide a separate food and water supply source attached to the inside of the kennel. Water containers must be capable to be replenished without opening kennel doors.
  - Food and water containers must allow the pet unrestricted access during transportation and must be secured so they can’t be dislodged.
  - Water bottles or similar dispensers attached either inside or outside the kennel are not considered a replenishable water supply source.

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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 (Soft-Sided) 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 four vertical sides.
- Be marked with the "Live Animal" label that does not cover any of the ventilated area.
- Only one in-cabin pet space per ticketed traveler can be booked. This is to not exceed two total pets per family.



# CDC Information Sheet for Importers of Dogs Arriving by Air

(includes private aircraft)



Effective August 1, 2024, entry requirements for ALL dogs (including service dogs) arriving in the United States by air must:

- Be at least 6 months of age or older;
- Appear healthy on arrival;
- Be accompanied by veterinary documentation with a microchip number included on the form;
- Be accompanied by a receipt of the *CDC Dog Import Form* receipt; and
- Have an air waybill (AWB) regardless of whether dogs were transported as cargo, checked baggage, or hand-carried baggage on all flights.



Scan here to find our dog importation homepage.

Additional entry requirements depend on which countries the dog has been in during the past 6 months and where the dog was vaccinated against rabies.

## Foreign-vaccinated dogs arriving from [high-risk countries](#) by air:

- Must arrive at a port with a [CDC-registered animal care facility \(ACF\)](#).
  - The ports are: ATL, IAD, JFK, LAX, MIA, and PHL.
- Must have a reservation at the ACF prior to arrival.

## U.S.-vaccinated dogs arriving from [high-risk countries](#) by air:

- Allowed to enter at any ports with one of the following:
  - *Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination* form with valid rabies vaccination date included on form
  - During the transition period: A USDA-endorsed export health certificate with a valid (not expired) U.S.-rabies vaccine listed on the form
    - The export health certificate must have been issued before August 1, 2024.
    - The export health certificate must be for the country where the dog's return itinerary originated.

## Dogs arriving from dog rabies-free or low-risk countries by air:

- Allowed to enter at any port with one of the following documents, provided they are valid (not expired):
  - *Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip* form completed in a dog rabies-free or low-risk country + titer, veterinary records, **OR** proof of veterinary payment for services completed in the exporting country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States **AND**
    - The initial rabies vaccine must be given at least 28 days before arrival **OR**
  - *Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination* form **OR**
  - A USDA-endorsed export health certificate
    - The export health certificate must be for the country where the dog's return itinerary originated **OR**
  - A foreign export health certificate from a dog rabies-free or low-risk country stating the dog is at least six months old and listing the microchip number.
    - The export health certificate must be certified by an official veterinarian in the exporting country **AND**
    - Foreign veterinary records (such as the EU Pet Passport) or proof of veterinary payment for services completed the exporting country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States must accompany the export certificate **OR**
  - A *Certification of dog arriving from rabies-free or low-risk country* form with attached foreign veterinary records **OR** proof of veterinary payment for services completed in a dog rabies-free or low-risk country at least six months prior to traveling to the United States.
    - The form must be certified by an official veterinarian in the exporting country **AND**
    - Documents must be from the same country where the dog's itinerary originated.



**Summary of requirements beginning August 1, 2024**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Dogs from dog rabies-free or low-risk countries</b>	<b>U.S.-vaccinated dogs</b>	<b>Foreign-vaccinated dogs from high-risk countries</b>
<b>Vaccination form</b>	<p>1. <i>Certification of dog arriving from DMRVV-free or low-risk country</i> form + titer or veterinary records</p> <p>2. Foreign-endorsed export health certificate + veterinary records;</p> <p>3. <i>Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination</i> form;</p> <p>4. USDA-endorsed export health certificate for country;</p> <p>5. <i>Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip</i> form + titer or veterinary records</p>	<p>1. <i>Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination</i> form</p> <p>2. USDA-endorsed export health certificate with age (<math>\geq 6</math> months), microchip and valid rabies vaccine</p>	<p>1. <i>Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip</i> form</p>
<b>Titer</b>	None (unless using <i>Certification of Foreign Rabies Vaccination and Microchip</i> form or <i>Certification of dog arriving from DMRVV-free or low-risk country</i> without veterinary records)	None	<p>One per dog, as long as vaccination coverage does not lapse</p> <p>*28-day wait before importation</p>
<b>Six months of age or older</b>	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
<b>Microchip</b>	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
<b>CDC Dog Import Form</b>	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
<b>Air waybill if arriving by air</b>	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
<b>Ports of Entry (POE)</b>	Any POE	Any POE	<p>POE with Animal Care Facility (air only)</p> <p>*Service dogs may enter via seaport with vaccination and titer documentation</p>