
HQ AMC

PET TRAVEL PAMPHLET



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: 05 May 2026

PET TRAVEL RISKS

- **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?

PET TRAVEL TIPS

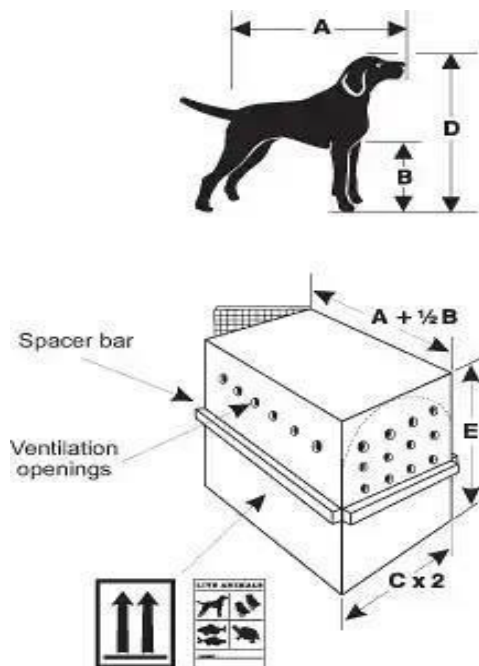
- Pet space is very limited on AMC Patriot Express flights due to the limited space within the pressurized cargo hold.
- Pet reservations are booked on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Typically, a flight's pet spaces are available for reservation 90-120 days prior to the departure month of the flight.
 - 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**.
- **Bringing *any* dog—including service dogs—into the United States from overseas will require meeting new, specific entry criteria. These requirements will depend on two key factors: the dog's location during the six months leading up to entry and, if rabies vaccination is required, the location where the vaccination was administered.** U.S. canine importation requirements and timelines can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/index.html>.
- 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 calm 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.

PET KENNEL REQUIREMENTS

To help your pet travel comfortably, allow them to get accustomed to their kennel well before your flight. Avoid making the day of travel their first experience with the kennel for an extended period. We recommend introducing your pet to the kennel at least a week prior to travel, giving them time to become familiar and 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 3/4" x 3/4" 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: $C \times 3$

Current as of: 05 May 2026



- 2-piece kennels must be bolted together with metal nuts/bolts (metal insert in a plastic nut or wingnut is authorized). 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, use hard or non-rigid kennel (soft-sided). Containers 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.
- Requires a minimum of three ventilated 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 not to exceed two total pets per family.