

Important rules and information about travelling with pets

How do I fly with a pet?

To ensure that your pet is comfortable on the journey please observe the following guidelines.

As every airline has its own policies regarding the transportation of pets, check with your airline what its requirements are.

Generally, dogs and cats weighing up to 6 kg can travel in the passenger cabin in a suitable carrier. Make sure that the transport container complies with the maximum dimensions and weight specified by the individual airline. Many airlines do not allow you to take certain animals such as birds or rodents with you in the cabin – they must be transported as air cargo in the hold. Please contact the airline well in advance of your journey to find out what is permitted. If the animal is to be transported in the aircraft hold, a sturdy wooden or plastic container lined with absorbent material and containing a water bowl must be used. The animal must be able to stand in a natural position, sit, lie down and turn around in the transport crate.

Animals need travel documents too – a pet passport is essential

To facilitate pets accompanying their owners on holiday for example, the regulations state that every animal must have a standardised pet passport. For full details, see

<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/reisen-mit-heimtieren.html>

In general, IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR) apply, see

www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/pages/index.aspx

Key points

Information:

If your pet is not permitted to travel in the aircraft cabin, provide the following information on the transport crate:

Name of the animal

Destination

Contact address and phone number

Adequate space:

The transport container must be big enough to allow the animal to stand in a natural position, turn around and lie down comfortably. The container must be leak-proof – e.g. lined with absorbent material such as newspaper, cardboard or blankets etc. We recommend shredded newspaper.

Escape-proof:

Containers must always be escape-proof. Cat carriers made of cane or cardboard are consequently not permitted as the animal could bite through them. We recommend containers made of sturdy plastic or wood which has not been treated with any harmful or toxic chemicals.

Interior:

To prevent injury to the animal, the interior of the container should not have any sharp corners, edges or nails. If the container has wheels, they must be removed beforehand for safety.

Reassurance:

Put your pet's favourite toy and any comfort blanket in the crate with them. The familiar smell will have a calming effect. Get your pet accustomed to the transport container at home ahead of the journey – close the door for one or two hours at a time and then give it a reward. Short car journeys also help to familiarise them with travelling.