

The Pet Travel Checklist (USA)

Everything to do, in order, for a calm pet move from the United States. It covers both moves within the country and international moves; sections marked international apply only when your pet is leaving the country. Print it, stick it on the fridge, and check things off. Questions at any step: call us or request a quote at pettraveladvisors.com.

3 to 6 months before travel (international moves only)

- [] Look up your destination's entry rules and note every waiting period. The EU requires 21 days after the rabies vaccination; Japan requires 180 days after a passing rabies titer draw; Australia needs a permit and quarantine booked months ahead.
- [] Confirm your pet's microchip is a 15 digit ISO chip, implanted before the rabies vaccination that counts.
- [] Book the rabies titer test if your destination needs one (Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, the UAE). Lab fee runs \$79 to \$90.
- [] Apply for the import permit where one is required (Australia, New Zealand, the UAE, the Philippines, Thailand, South Africa).
- [] Buy the IATA crate now (\$65 to \$378 by size) and start acclimation: feed meals in it, door open, never use it for time outs.

Crate size drives the airline bill more than your pet's weight does. Size it right, not big for the sake of big.

6 to 8 weeks before travel

- [] Book the flight or ground transport. Cargo space is tighter than it used to be; summer heat embargoes and winter cold rules narrow the windows.
- [] Schedule the vet appointments backwards from your travel date so every document lands inside its validity window.
- [] Confirm your airline's crate and breed rules. Snub-nosed breeds have extra restrictions.
- [] If a pro is coordinating your move, get the written quote now. Ours itemises every third party cost.

10 days before travel

- [] Vet visit for the health certificate. Domestic moves: a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), valid 10 days, required by most states and airlines.
- [] International moves: the destination country's certificate, endorsed by USDA APHIS (\$101 per certificate with no lab tests, \$160 with 1 to 2 tests). The fee is per certificate, so two pets on one certificate share it.
- [] Confirm pickup and delivery windows in writing.

3 to 5 days before travel

- ☐ Print two copies of everything: rabies certificate, health certificate, titer report, permits, your contact details.
- ☐ Attach documents, LIVE ANIMAL labels, and a photo of your pet to the crate.
- ☐ Freeze water for the crate bowl so it does not spill during loading.
- ☐ Keep the routine deliberately boring: usual food, usual walks.

Travel day

- ☐ Long walk before departure.
- ☐ Light meal at least 4 hours before travel; water available right up to loading.
- ☐ Familiar smelling item in the crate: a worn t-shirt beats a new toy.
- ☐ No sedation unless your vet has specifically prescribed it for travel; airlines can refuse sedated pets.
- ☐ Carry your document folder; do not pack it in luggage.

After arrival

- ☐ Set up one quiet room before your pet explores anything else.
- ☐ Keep feeding times and walk routes consistent for the first 72 hours.
- ☐ Register with a local vet within the first two weeks.

Your move notes
