Know before you go

We want to ensure your pet’s safety throughout their journey. We’ve put together this checklist to help make sure they’re prepared for take-off.

Prior to booking
- Review all American Airlines Cargo acceptance policies and pet travel guidelines
- Confirm your pet is acceptable for travel (over 8 weeks old, not a restricted breed and healthy enough to fly)
- Confirm the trip length is 12 hours or less
- Confirm that the temperature of every airport code in your pet’s flight plan is between 45°F and 85°F (7°C and 29°C). If not, review guidelines for receiving an acclimation letter
- Confirm your travel kennel is airline-approved and meets all guidelines and requirements, including that your pet is able to sit, stand and move around within its closed kennel without touching the sides

Once booked, prepare the documentation and other requirements
- Obtain a health certificate signed by a USDA-licensed veterinarian within 10 days of travel and obtain a rabies vaccination certificate if it is not included on the health certificate
- Request signature from veterinarian confirming compliance to breed restrictions
- If necessary, request an acclimation letter from your veterinarian
- If flying international, complete documentation as required by destination country or contact a pet shipper for assistance

On the day of flight, make final preparations
- Reconfirm that the temperature of every airport in your pet’s flight plan is between 45°F and 85°F (7°C and 29°C) and if not, review guidelines for an acclimation letter
- Confirm the drop-off location and time
- Ensure you bring all required documents and that they’re signed by a licensed veterinarian:
  - Original and copy of the health certificate and rabies certificate (if not on the health certificate)
  - Breed verification form
  - Acclimation letter (if necessary)
  - Additional documents as required by the destination country (if necessary)
- Offer your pet a light meal and water within four hours prior to drop-off
  - Attach supplementary food on top of the kennel and approved food and water containers inside kennel, ensure that only acceptable items are placed inside kennel
- Each person dropping off and picking up your pet should bring two (2) forms of identification (one valid, government-issued photo ID and a second ID of any type with first and last name)

Need help? Don’t hesitate to ask
For further questions, contact our Live Animal Desk at 1-800-227-4622 or liveanimals.cargo@aa.com.