

# 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. Use the [Facilities page](#) to verify the hourly temperatures.
- ☐ 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. Here's how to [measure your pet](#) for the right kennel.

## Once booked, prepare the documentation and other requirements

- ☐ Obtain a health and rabies certification:
  - For **domestic** pet travel, obtain a Health Certificate signed by a USDA-licensed veterinarian. The service date of the Health Certificate must be within ten (10) calendar days of the travel date.
  - For **international** pet travel, obtain a Health Certificate issued in English by a veterinarian with a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the country of export. The service date of the Health Certificate must be within ten (10) calendar days of the travel date.
  - A Rabies Vaccination Certificate is not required by American Airlines Cargo. However, regulations vary by state. If the Rabies Vaccination Certificate is not included on your health certificate, please obtain a copy from your veterinarian.
- ☐ 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 then determine [how early you should arrive](#).
- ☐ 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 the American Airlines Cargo PetEmbark Desk at 1-800-227-4622 or [PetEmbark@aa.com](mailto:PetEmbark@aa.com)