

Pet in Cargo Checklist

(22 Feb 2012 mb)

Note: Check your airline website for any other requirements; these are for American Airlines.

The Crate

- Separate food & water dishes must be attached inside the crate and accessible from the outside
- A bag of food – enough for a 24-hour period. This must be securely attached to the top of the crate
- Releasable/re-usable cable ties must be secured to all four corners of the door. Airlines are supposed to supply them, but sometimes (cough, often) don't. So buy them before you go. If releasable ties aren't available, get the regular kind. Either way, bring extras, especially since they need to be cut off for any Customs inspection; that will be followed by re-crating. We'd bring at least a **dozen**.
- Take a set of those small nail clippers with you to cut the plastic cable ties if they aren't the releasable kind. Those should be allowed with you on board
- Live Animal signage, taped on crate (available from AARF)
- Attach itinerary, pet's name, people's name and contact information
- Federal regulations require written certification from the customer that dogs/cats have been offered food and water within 4 hours (with the specific time noted) before delivery to the carrier. This certification must be securely attached to the outside of the kennel so that it may be easily noticed and read and have the customer's signature with the date and time it was signed.
- Feeding and watering instructions for a 24-hour period must also be provided. Instructions of "No food or water" are not acceptable unless directed by the attending veterinarian.
- Crate must be approved by your airline, especially with regard to size limits. Check your airline's web site or agent for requirements and restrictions. This includes **cargo** crate sizes as well as in-cabin (under the seat) dimensions! Try and find out the type of airplane that will be used on your flight. A 757 may accommodate a larger crate/kennel than, say a 737, and airlines will change equipment based on seasonality and economics

Documentation

- Health certificate (prepared by Morlens) – 2 copies
- Rabies Confinement Agreement form from CDC (for US Customs) – available at the shelter or get from the AARF website
- Contact information and itinerary, airline reservation number

Other

- Food in baggie (bring with you in addition to the food taped to the crate)
- One or two small plastic bowls for food & water (Ace has inexpensive double ones) – for when you arrive at destination
- Treats
- Paper towels for accident clean up
- Plastic bags to contain any accident clean up – for when you arrive at destination airport
- Baby wipes & hand disinfectant may be handy
- Leash
- Collar on dog

Low temperature acclimation certificate/statement/form must include the following:

- Name & address of the passenger
- Name of the animal
- Name and signature of licensed vet
- Vet's accreditation date and number
- Temperature which the animal is acclimated
- The letter must be dated within 10 days of the first flight
- When temperatures fall below 20 degrees, pets may not be checked even with a statement from vet

Note: aircraft cargo areas are kept at 50-70 degrees