

## HELPFUL HINTS

**Pet and Kennel.** Allow your pet to get accustomed to the kennel a few days before departure so he/she will be more comfortable in his/her temporary home during flight. Animals travel under less stress when they become accustomed to their shipping container before they travel. Use their kennel as a bed or feed your pet in the kennel for several days before your trip.

**Leash.** Carry a leash with you so you can walk your pet before you check-in and after arrival at your destination.

**Tranquilizers.** The American Veterinary Medical Association does not advise sedation since effects of tranquilizers on animals at high altitudes are unpredictable. If you plan to sedate your pet, you must have written consent from the pet's veterinarian.

**Animals in Public Areas.** Do not take your pet out of its kennel inside the airport. In keeping with airport regulations and as a courtesy to other passengers, only let your pet out of the kennel after you leave the terminal building.

**Kennel and Pet Identification (ID).** Mark kennel with your pet's name, your name, destination or unit address, and phone number if available. We also suggest you purchase an ID tag for your pet.

**Pet Health.** Have your pet evaluated by your personal veterinarian to be sure he/she is fit for air travel. Some species, (e.g. pug or snub nosed dogs and cats) do not thrive in warm temperatures because they have difficulty breathing even under normal conditions.

**Pet Stress.** Keep strangers, especially children, at a safe distance if your pet seems to be nervous. Even the most gentle pet can be provoked into growling or snapping.

**Pet Immigration Requirements.** Contact your local transportation office for specific immigration requirements for the country to which you are shipping your pet. Additional information can be found by accessing website: <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/query/country.do>

If the ground time exceeds 2 hours, pets will be off-loaded and owners will be provided the opportunity to visit their pets. When passengers are allowed to disembark from an aircraft due to flight delay, pet owners will also be provided an opportunity to visit their pets in order to walk them and provide water.

Fees are charged on a per kennel basis. Your pet (s) and kennel with combined weight up to 70 pounds will be charged as one piece. Pet (s) and kennel with combined weight from 71-140 pounds will be charged as two pieces, and pet (s) and kennel weighing from 141-150 pounds will be charged as three pieces. Pet (s) and kennel weighing in excess of 150 pounds will not be accepted for shipment under any circumstances.

You should feed your pet a very light meal and provide water before turning him/her in for shipment/travel. You should also exercise your pet before arriving at the terminal. Some pets with pug or snub noses may experience respiratory difficulty in flight. Ensure your kennel has adequate ventilation and your pet is free of respiratory problems. Female pets that are in heat (estrus) will not be shipped due to possible distress to other pets and/or may result in injury. We cannot accept females with suckling young or unweaned animals. Weaned puppies younger than 8 weeks old will not be accepted for air shipment due to the possibility of dehydration. A familiar article of clothing or toy in the kennel may help placate your pet.

**For more information, visit our AMC Travel Website <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index> or contact one of the AMC Commercial Airport locations, Local Transportation Office or AMC Passenger Terminal**

**AMC Commercial Airport Locations**  
Baltimore-Washington IAP (BWI) (877) 429-4262  
DSN 243-6900 Comm (410) 918-6900  
Fax (410) 918-6932 or DSN 243-6932  
E-mail: [bwipax@us.af.mil](mailto:bwipax@us.af.mil)

Seattle-Tacoma IAP (SEA-TAC) (253) 982-3504  
Flight Recording (253) 982-0555 or DSN 382-0555  
Fax (253) 982-3506 or DSN 382-3506  
E mail: [seattle.gateway@us.af.mil](mailto:seattle.gateway@us.af.mil)

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HQ AMC Passenger Policy Branch  
DSN 779-4593 or Comm (618) 229-4593  
E-mail: [amc.a4tp@scott.af.mil](mailto:amc.a4tp@scott.af.mil)

*Passenger Policy Branch*

**HQ AMC  
Pet Brochure  
May 2012**



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# Shipping Your Pet



This brochure is designed to aid you, the Department of Defense (DOD) traveler, in preparing your pet for shipment in conjunction with your permanent change of station (PCS). Please keep in mind regulations and restrictions change, therefore, prior to travel, it is recommended you confirm this information with your local transportation office.

## Shipment Guidelines

DOD regulations limit pet shipment to passengers in PCS status only. Pets are defined as dogs and cats only. You are limited to two pets per family, unless moving under the Space-Available Pet Program (see below).

## Space-Available Pet Program

Fifteen days prior to AMC flight departure, open pet spaces are available to travelers that already have two pet spaces booked. Contact your local transportation office to arrange additional space (s). If there is extra space available for your pet (s), your transportation office will secure a reservation in the passenger/pet reservation system. A paper confirmation will be provided for you to present upon request at the Passenger Service counter as authority to move more than two pets per family.

**Note:** The commercial airline industry currently imposes a 100-pound weight restriction per pet with kennel and does not allow pet shipments during seasonal hot/cold conditions. These industry restrictions should be considered when making pet travel plans. AMC does not impose seasonal hot/cold embargoes on pet shipments.



Be aware that pet space is limited on all flights, therefore, requests for reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. We highly recommend you contact your local Transportation Office as soon as possible. Check-in at AMC Commercial Gateway at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport no later than 2 hours and 20 minutes prior to flight departure and Seattle/Tacoma International Airport no later than 3 hours and 20 minutes prior to flight departure. Passengers on Patriot Express missions may check in up to 6 hours prior to departure; but, due to limited pet storage space, you must retain custody of your pet until 45 minutes prior to boarding unless there is a suitable holding area available. All pets must remain in their kennel or shipping container while in the terminal area. Please remember, YOU are responsible for obtaining all required documentation, immunization, and border clearance requirements (DD Form 2208, Rabies Vaccination Certificate (or civilian equivalent), or DD Form 2209, Veterinary Health Certificate), for proof of ownership and be prepared to defray additional associated costs.

You are responsible to ensure pets are shipped in kennels or shipping containers approved for air shipment in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines. Kennels are available at most exchanges, retail stores and commercial airports. Containers must provide adequate ventilation and be large enough for your pet to stand-up, turn around, and lie down with normal posture and body movements. Pets will not be accepted in containers that are too small. Additionally, soft-sided pet carriers may be accepted for in-cabin movement. In keeping with major airline published in-cabin kennel requirements, soft-sided kennels should be constructed of leak-proof/water repellent padded nylon with mesh ventilation on two (2) or more sides. Kennel size must be not exceed 20”L x 16”W x 8 1/2 ”H to ensure it will fit under the seat in front of you. For the safety of your pet, soft-sided or collapsible kennels will not be accepted for transport in the cargo hold area of the aircraft. Several layers of newspaper, shredded paper, or absorbent material should be placed in the bottom of the kennel. Do not use straw, hay, grass, wood shavings, sand or soil. Normally, pets will be individually kenneled however, two (2) small animals (older than 8 weeks and younger than 6 months old) of the same species and comparable size, that are used to cohabitation, weighing less than 20 pounds each may be shipped in the same kennel as long as both can stand up, turn-around, and lie down with normal posture and body movements. If the container does not meet requirements, passenger will be placed in a duty stand-by status under administrative hold until pet is travel ready

