

## 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) 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>

**Additional Information:** 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 of check luggage. Pet(s) and kennel with combined weight from 71-140 pounds will be charged as two pieces of checked luggage, and pet(s) and kennel weighing from 141-150 pounds will be charged as three pieces of checked luggage. Pet(s) and kennel weighing in excess of 150 pounds will not be accepted for shipment under any circumstances.

If the ground time exceeds 2 hours, pets will be off-loaded and owners will be provided an 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.

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 un-weaned 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

## HQ AMC Pet Brochure Dec 2012



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for America . . . ALWAYS!*

# Shipping Your Pet



This brochure is designed to aid you, the Department of Defense (DOD) traveler, in preparing your pet for shipment aboard AMC Patriot Express flights, in conjunction with your permanent change of station (PCS). Pets are defined as dogs and cats only. Commercial carrier restrictions and regulations may differ, therefore, prior to travel, it is recommended that you confirm this information with your local transportation office. Your pet's health and well being is our utmost concern.

## Pet Shipment Guidelines

DOD regulations limit pet shipment to passengers in PCS status only. Pet space is limited on all AMC Patriot Express flights, therefore pet spaces are booked on a first come, first serve basis. You are limited to two pets per family. Pets must be accompanied by their owner and shipment is at owners expense. If you have a 3rd pet see below for information on our Space Available program.

## Space-Available Pet Program

If you have a 3rd pet, fifteen days prior to your AMC flight departure, contact your transportation office to determine if any pet spaces are available. If there is extra space for your third pet, your transportation office will secure a reservation for your pet. A confirmation will be provided to you which you will need to present upon request at the Passenger Service counter as authority to move more than two pets per family.

## Prior To Check-In And Flight Departure

Since pet space is very limited, we highly recommend you contact your local transportation office as early as possible to book your pet space. **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 (or civilian equivalent), Veterinary Health Certificate), for proof of ownership and be prepared to defray additional associated costs.**

Check-in time for the AMC Terminal at **Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport** is no later than 2 hours and 20 minutes prior to flight departure and the AMC Terminal at **Seattle/Tacoma International Airport** is 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.



**Note:** The commercial airline industry currently imposes a 100 pound weight restriction per pet with kennel. They also impose a restriction on pet shipments during seasonal hot/cold conditions. These industry restrictions should be considered when making pet travel plans. AMC does not impose a seasonal hot/cold embargo on pet shipments. AMC's weight limit is 150 pounds per pet with kennel. Kennels are not pre-approved by any airline, IATA, IPATA or USDA even if stated on the labels.

## Kennel/Shipping Container Information

Again, your pet's health and well being is our utmost concern. You are responsible to ensure pets are shipped in the strongest and most secure kennel you can find. To prevent potential delays in your travel on major air carriers, two piece kennels will be bolted together with **metal bolts and nuts** (slides, clips or nylon screws/bolts are not recommended).

Kennels are available at most exchanges, retail stores and commercial airports. 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. Kennels must provide adequate ventilation and be large enough for your pet to stand-up, turn around, and lie down with normal posture and body movement. 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 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 not exceed 20"L x16"Wx8 1/2"H to ensure it will fit under the seat in front of you. Several layers of newspaper, shredded paper, or absorbent material should be placed in the bottom of all kennels. 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, you will be placed in a duty stand-by status under administrative hold until pet is travel ready.**

