

Carriage of Pets by Air



Shippers Responsibilities

Attention of shippers is drawn to the airlines general conditions of carriage referred to on the reverse of the Air Waybill for consignments offered for carriage. These are available on the website and you must confirm that you have read and accept them prior to us confirming your booking. The carrier does not assume any obligation to carry the goods by any particular aircraft or other conveyance. The carrier is authorised to select and to deviate from or change, the route of the shipment, notwithstanding the same as stated on the Air Waybill without any liability therefore.

In-flight environment

The height at which aircraft operate varies considerably, depending upon the nature of the flight and type of aircraft used. It is usual for aircraft cabins and cargo holds to be pressurised at an altitude equivalent to 2,440 metres (8,000 feet) regardless of the actual flight level. This may have an effect on the animal's behaviour and physiology.

General

The shipper or its authorised agent is responsible for and must:

- Finalise the route and any special care required by the shipment upon reservation and prior acceptance;
- Advise the carrier if the female animals are in oestrus "heat";
- Advise the carrier of the gender of the mammals being shipped;
- Obtain all documents and correct information for the Shippers Certification;
- Comply with national, carrier and IATA regulations as applicable;
- **Provide containers that conform to the IATA Live Animals Regulations latest edition;**
- Provide suitable bedding and food for the species that does not contravene any regulations;
- Affix special feeding and watering instructions, the date and time that food and water was last given to the animal, prior to acceptance;
- Declare the condition of animals when pregnant or has given birth in the last 48 hours;
- Record of any medication given, ie drug, dosage, time given and route. This information must accompany the documents and a copy be affixed to the container.

Before preparing a Pet consignment for carriage by air, shippers must always obtain full information well in advance concerning export/import, in transit permit, veterinary health certificate, for cites species - Cites export permit and a copy of the Cites import permit where required, veterinary examination, quarantine, transshipment requirements or prohibition restrictions, which may also include the food provided for the animal. Such regulations are subject to frequent change and depend upon the species being shipped. Therefore, the shipper must obtain current requirements from the local Consulate or national authority concerned.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ascertain what national legislation regarding the protection of animals during transport by air is in force to, through and from the countries to which the animals are being shipped. The shipper must provide a 24-hour phone number from where the carrier can obtain instructions from the shipper or his agent, in the event of an emergency and this number is written on the Air Waybill.

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1. Young Mammals

Mammals with newborn young, newborn animals and newly weaned animals are not accepted for carriage.

2. Animal Health

Only animals, which appear to be in good health and condition and fit to travel to the final destination, should be tendered for carriage by air. The shipper is required to declare when animals are pregnant, or have given birth in the last 48-hours. Mammals which are declared to be pregnant will not be tendered for transport unless accompanied by a veterinary certificate certifying that the animal is fit to travel and there is no risk of birth occurring during the journey.

3. Travel Arrangements

It is a requirement that a confirmed booking with Thomsonfly Cargo is obtained prior to delivery to the airport. The animals and containers must be delivered to the nominated handling company at the airport of departure, no earlier than 4-hours and no later than 2-hours before the published departure time of the flight. Handling company details will be sent on confirmation of booking and are available on the website.

4. Container Construction

All containers must meet the general container requirements detailed (Container Requirement) and the specific minimum requirements.

5. Marking & Labelling

Thomsonfly will ensure that IATA labels are applied on each live animal container. Each container must be of a size that there is adequate space to affix all required marking and labels. You should affix special feeding and watering instructions and contact and address details to the container.

6. Carrier's Liability

Carrier will not be liable for any loss, damage or expense arising from death due to natural causes or death or injury of any animal caused by the conduct or acts of the animal itself or of other animals such as biting, kicking, goring or smothering, nor for that caused or contributed to by the condition, nature of propensities of the animal, or by defective packaging of the animal, or by the inability of the animal to withstand unavoidable changes in its physical environment inherent to the carriage by air.



Container Requirement

The illustration shown in here is an example only. Containers that conform to the principle of written guidelines but look slightly different will still meet the IATA standards

Materials

Fibreglass, metal, rigid plastics, weld metal mesh, solid wood or plywood.

Principles of design

The following principles of design must be met.

Containers made entirely of welded-mesh or wire-mesh are not suitable for air transport.

Rigid plastic containers (except collapsible types) are suitable for most breeds of dog but their carriage is at the discretion of the carrier. Larger plastic containers must have at least two secure door fasteners. If a container has wheels, they must be removed or rendered inoperable.

Rigid plastic containers are not suitable for dogs over 40 kilos or breeds of dogs that are aggressive. Specially constructed containers of hardwood, metal, plywood or similar material with two secure door fasteners on each side must be used.

Size

Each animal contained in the container must have enough space to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position.

Frame

Rigid plastic or solid wood with joints screwed or bolted depending on the weight of the animal. For dogs over 40 kilos it is advisable that a solid wooden outer frame with additional cross members is used.

Sides

Sidewalls must be solid with smooth interior and with 25mm ventilation holes or meshed slits in the upper third of three sides. The interior of the container must be smooth with no protrusions that the animal can bite or scratch to cause damage to the integrity of the container in any way. For dogs over 40 kilos, plywood of a minimum 6mm or equivalent material must be used to line the outer framework.

The whole of one end of the container must be open, covered with bars, weld-mesh or smooth expanded metal that is securely fixed to the container so that the animal cannot dislodge it.

Handling Spacer Bars/Handles

Must be provided along the middle of both long sides of the container.

Floor

The floor must be solid and leak-proof.

Roof

The roof must be solid but ventilation holes are allowed over the whole surface provided that they do not reduce the integrity or strength of the roof itself.

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Door

The door must form the whole of one end of the container. It can be either sliding or hinged. There must be adequate means of fastening and sealing for those containers destined for where sealing is required. Large doors will require additional hinges and two or three secure means of fastening to be fully secure.

The door must be constructed of welded or cast metal of sufficient gauge or thickness to preclude the animal from bending or distorting the door. Doors made of plastic material are not allowed.

For rigid plastic containers, the door hinge and locking pins must engage the container by at least 16mm beyond the horizontal extrusions above and below the door opening where the pins are fitted.

The shipper must ensure that all hardware and fasteners are in place and serviceable.

Ventilation

Ventilation is provided by an open end to the container (which can be the door) and by ventilation openings of a minimum of 25mm over the upper two thirds of the opposite end and the remaining two sides, at a distance of 100mm from centre to centre of each opening.

In the case of specially constructed large dog containers, closely spaced metal bars or double weld-mesh must cover the open end with 10mm spacing between the meshes.

The total ventilated area must be at least 16% of the total surface of the four sides. The provision of additional holes on the roof or sides of the container or larger mesh covered holes in order to increase the ventilation is permitted.

All openings must be nose and paw-proof, in the case of cats and small dogs these may have to be covered with mesh. It is very important that no animal has any surface or edge at which it can gnaw or scratch.

Feed and Water Containers

Water container must be present within the container with outside access for filling. Food containers must be present either within the container, if sealed, or attached to it for use in cases of delay.

Forklift spaces

Must be provided for all containers where the combined weight of container and animal exceeds 60 kilos.

Labelling

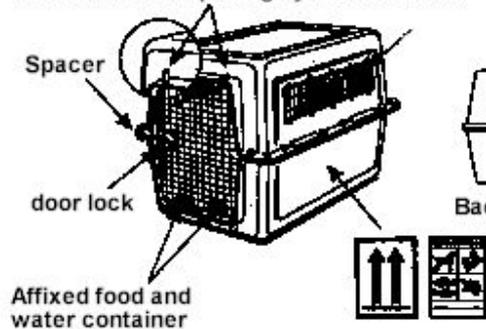
A green "Live Animals" label/tag is mandatory on all live animals consignments. "This Way Up" labels/tags are also mandatory and must be placed on all four sides of the container whenever possible. The label or tag can be imprinted on the container.

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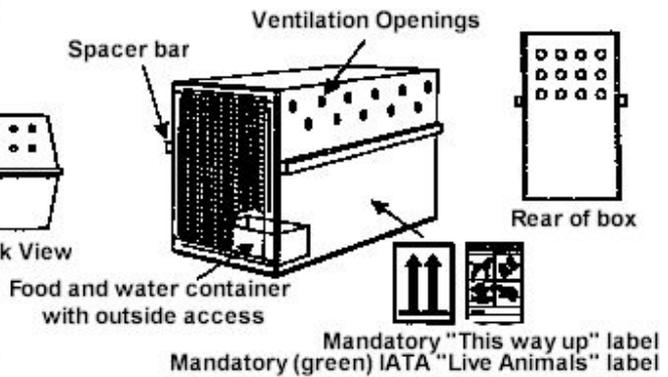


TYPICAL RIGID PLASTIC DOG CONTAINER

Door hinges and locking pins must extend beyond the horizontal extrusions above and below the door opening by at least 16mm



TYPICAL WOODEN/PLY CONSTRUCTION



Preparations before despatch

Tranquillisation of dogs and cats is not recommended.

Feed the animals only a light meal and a short drink approximately two hours before despatch and exercise the animal immediately before despatch.

Snub nose dogs, such as boxers, bulldogs, pekinese and pugs, are affected more than other breeds by rarefied atmosphere and care must be taken to ensure that the front of the containers has open bars from the top to the bottom of the box for ventilation. It is essential that the animal be free from respiratory troubles.

We do not accept animals less than 12 weeks old.

Weaned puppies and kittens may travel well together. The quantity must be related to the size and strength of the individual animal. Avoid shipping a weakling, which could be harmed by its companions. Certain national regulations require cats and dogs to be crated individually.

For pet animals, a familiar article in the container helps placate the animal. Animal's name must be marked on the outside of the container.