

## **Pet Travel Information**

**Disclaimer:** *We have compiled the following information from various sources. However, as formalities and regulations can be changed by carriers and countries, EMRO cannot be held responsible for any changes which result in this information being incorrect.*

1. You should commence paperwork\* for flying your pet overseas well in advance of your projected flight as there are forms to be completed in Egypt for the export of your pet, as well as the different requirements for importation into the destination country.
2. Most usually, vaccination certificates for rabies are required, a veterinarian's certificate certifying that the animal has been in one place for a certain period of time, blood tests for the EU which must be carried out within the EU, and micro-chipping (the United States does not require the latter).
3. When you book your ticket, ensure that your pet is also included on it and if you are changing flights, ensure that the pet is also shown on the ensuing flight.

\*EMRO offers a service covering all the paperwork, blood tests and any needed vaccinations for export from Egypt for a fee.

### **General Documents in Egypt**

- 1) Vaccination records
- 2) Health certificate (for Egypt within a week ahead of travelling; give vet flight details, date of flight, destination, etc. plus copy of owner's passport)
- 3) Department of Agriculture certificate for export of live animal

**Links to help you find out just what paperwork is required in the destination country.**

Forms required in most countries around the world can be found on:

<http://www.pettravelstore.com/store-pet-immigration-forms1.html> or check with the embassy of the destination country.

Airlines have different policies on carrying pets, some are more expensive and others have restrictions, so you need to check before you book your ticket. For information about airline policies for 100 carriers check: [http://www.pettravel.com/airline\\_rules.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/airline_rules.cfm)

### **Your household pets can travel:**

#### **1. CABIN - SMALL PETS IN-CABIN**

If your pet is small enough to fit in a carrier, which goes beneath your seat this is your best bet for a safe worry free trip.

On flights of less than 6 hours most airlines\* will allow pets to be taken with the passenger in the cabin (except travel to the UK). Generally speaking the airline will only allow one pet per passenger and a maximum of two pets per cabin. The container for the pet must fit under the seat in front of you and must have a waterproof bottom.

**\*\*Not all airlines, especially those in the Middle East area, permit animals in the cabin. So you will need to check this procedure, or any additional restrictions, with the carrier.**

## 2. CARGO - LARGER PETS

Larger pets must be sent as "cargo". On the major airlines this section is fully pressurized and heated.

### Helpful Hints:

1. Fly a reputable airline
2. Don't travel during peak holiday times
3. Unless you absolutely have no choice, only take a direct flight. If you must change flights, be sure you can collect and then re-check your dog at the layover airport. Try to give yourself a long enough layover to take him out for a walk
4. In the summer, travel early or late in the day to avoid heat; in winter, travel mid-day to avoid severe cold. (This has nothing to do with the temperature in the cargo compartment, which is pressurized and kept between 50-70 degrees by law, but with the temperature in exposed loading areas)
5. Make sure you are carrying a veterinarian certificate showing that your pet is in good health and their shots are current. Check both locally and with the destination country the acceptable date prior to travel when these should be issued as it can vary.
6. If the flight is over 3 hours be sure the pet has water in the crate. There are devices that are relatively spill proof
7. Last feed your pet at least three hours before the flight
8. For small animals, place a large disposable nappy/diaper on the bottom of the container and put another one in a plastic bag attached to the outside of the kennel in case the animal gets delayed and holding staff can then easily clear the container and replace it
9. Put some dried food in a plastic bag attached to the kennel, if the flight gets delayed or the pet is held in transit for longer than expected he or she may get hungry.
10. Cover your crate, using stickers or paint or permanent marker, with notices that say: "HI! My name is XX. Please be NICE to me. Thanks!" and "I'm traveling from XX to XX on Flight # XX" and "My Owner's name is XXX. Phone: XXX. Mobile/Cell: XXX"
11. Carry a photograph of your dog that you can use to help find him if you're separated.
12. Get to airport at least a half hour earlier than usual, check in, but don't let them take your pet away until the last moment (usually 30 minutes before departure)
13. Be ABSOLUTELY certain that the door of the kennel is SECURE, really secure-but do not lock it (in an emergency it may need to be opened). Just above the door, write: "DO NOT open this door without the permission of owner or a licensed veterinarian!"
14. Don't leave your pet before a baggage handler actually comes to collect him. Give the baggage handler a US \$5 tip (or local currency equivalent)
15. Be sure not to leave anything in the crate that your pet can rip to shreds, might get sick from, or choke on. However a favorite toy or a piece of your clothing will help soothe the animal
16. Don't give your pet sedatives unless you have to, and only then on the advice of your vet. Sedatives make it difficult for your pet to adjust to temperature changes and turbulence, and they may impede his breathing
17. At the gate, if you can look out the window and watch baggage being boarded, watch for your pet. If you can't see him being loaded, wait until all the other passengers have boarded then ask the gate attendant to radio the baggage area to make sure your pet has been loaded. Refuse to board unless they confirm that your pet is on the plane
18. As you board the plane, talk to the flight attendant and say, very politely, "I just wanted to let you know my pet is on this flight, in cargo. It's his first time flying so I'd really appreciate you making sure he's ok and double-checking that he's in the right compartment."

These common sense steps will help to ensure a safe trip for your pet when he cannot travel with you in the cabin.

### **3. UNACCOMPANIED CARGO - Points 1 through 18 apply**

#### **IMPORTANT**

- Once the animal leaves Cairo it is out of the jurisdiction of the local airline staff and EMRO. So try to arrange for the flight to arrive during working hours and inform the person collecting the pet to alert the relevant department at the airport to have an official available to clear the pet's importation into the country. If the flight arrives after hours, ask the person collecting the pet to alert the airport authorities to arrange a suitable holding place where the animal can be watered and fed and have its cage cleaned. You should be given a tracking number at the time of handing over the pet at the airport so you can track the pet and where it is at any given time.

#### **Airline Pet Container Requirements**

The rules regarding approved types of containers for cats, dogs, and birds flying in cabin and as cargo were created by IATA and for the most part have been accepted by the world's airlines. See link: [http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live\\_animals/Pages/pets.aspx](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals/Pages/pets.aspx)

#### **Airline Temperature Restrictions for Pets in Cargo**

Temperature Restrictions have been established by some airlines to ensure animals are not exposed to extreme heat or cold in the animal holding areas, terminal facilities, when moving the animals between terminal and aircraft or on an aircraft awaiting departure.

**Heat Restriction:** Pets will not be accepted by some airlines when the current or forecasted temperature at the arrival or departure airport is above 84F (29C) at either location on the itinerary (75 degrees for snub-nosed dogs – bulldogs, pugs, etc. and snub-nosed cats - Persians).  
The Airline Summer Heat Embargo

**During the summer months**, mid-May to mid-September your airline will not allow you to transport your pet in the cargo department from Egypt and in the GCC area. This rule can also apply in other countries. Some airlines seem to take the position that they will not accept any pets in cargo during these months while others take a more flexible approach.

**Choose a flight that leaves after dark** and arrives early in the morning before the runway begins to heat up. If you talk with the airline they will likely take your pet in cargo on such a flight although "technically" their embargo is in effect. Try more than one airline - some are more flexible with the rule than are others. Or use a different departure or arrival city where the weather may be cooler. You might have to drive 100 miles or more on departure or arrival to reach the airport but this can be a solution.