

Top 5 Most Pet-Friendly Airlines of 2009



Are you planning your next vacation with your beloved pet and need to fly? What airlines allow large dogs, rabbits, or birds? What are the costlier ones and what are budget-friendly? Petfinder.com named the top five pet-friendliest airlines of 2009.

1. Continental - Safety First

Continental is proud of its PetSafe program, which has a 24-hour Live Animal Desk (1-800-575-3335) that tracks the pets from origin to destination. It's pricier than other programs, but it's climate-controlled, allows roomy carriers and has designated cargo staff. Travelers using PetSafe can even earn miles. The airline also allows small cats, dogs, pet rabbits and household birds to be carried in the cabin on most domestic flights for \$125 each way.

Pets allowed in cabin: Small dogs, cats, rabbits and birds

Pets allowed as checked baggage: No

Pets allowed in cargo: Yes, all pets that are checked travel in climate-controlled cargo, not as checked baggage



2. JetBlue Airways - Full-Service Pet Love

JetBlue really embraced pet-toting travelers when it launched JetPaws in summer 2008. For no

additional cost, JetBlue provides a pet carrier bag tag, two TrueBlue points each way, a welcome e-mail and a free pet-travel guide. However, like other airlines, JetBlue has hiked its in-cabin pet charge: one-way fees range from \$75 to \$100.

Pets allowed in cabin: Small cats and dogs

Pets allowed as checked baggage: No

Pets allowed in cargo: No

3. Airtran - Budget-Friendly

Airtran won't make you break the bank to fly with your pet beside you (well, technically, under your seat). It's currently the least-expensive airline to fly with your small pet: just \$69 each way.

Pets allowed in cabin: Small dogs, cats and birds

Pets allowed as checked baggage: No

Pets allowed in cargo: No

4. American Airlines - Zoo-Trusted

American Airlines' animal-trained staff has assisted in transporting animals from popular zoos in cargo. While they only allow a limited number of pets in the cabin, they ask pet parents to make special notes for their animal companions flying in cargo and promise to abide by all requests.

Pets allowed in cabin: Small dogs and cats

Pets allowed as checked baggage: Yes, larger dogs and cats

Pets allowed in cargo: Yes



5. United Airlines - Non-Discriminating

United Airlines loves animals of all kinds. They accept small cats, dogs and birds in the cabin; rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs as checked baggage and other animals including parrots, cockatiels and ferrets in United Cargo. (Shipping by cargo is for items, like some pets, that you can't check as baggage. Your pet may or may not be on the aircraft with you.) Have a short-nosed dog that you can't bring in the cabin? Check your date of flight; some breeds and mixes are not allowed in cargo or as checked baggage from June 1 through September 30 of each year.

Pets allowed in cabin: Small cats, dogs and birds

Pets allowed as checked baggage: Depends on the aircraft

Pets allowed in cargo: Yes; however, the type of animal allowed depends on destination and arrival locations.

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