

INTERNATIONAL PET TRAVEL - THINGS TO KNOW AND FAQs

Specific information and transport procedures for individual countries can be detailed and confusing for the occasional traveller. We strongly recommend that you choose an IPATA agent such as German Veterinary Clinic to organize your pet's travel.

Members of this organization are familiar with frequently changing international animal transport requirements and procedures and liaise with each other to coordinate efforts from departure to arrival.



Some countries, such as UK, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Malta, Japan, Sweden and others require specific medical procedures and blood tests to be performed before an animal can enter them. Some of these tests must be performed well in advance of travel (sometimes up to 7 months) and we therefore urge you to allow this amount of time for planning or to be prepared should your circumstances change at short notice.

Here is some general information and points you should consider when arranging international pet travel for your pet:

1. What type and size of Travel Cage does my animal need ?

Use only IATA approved travel cages – (all travel cages supplied by GVC are IATA approved)

The size of cage your animal will need is calculated using a specific formula and your pet's dimensions. Feel free to contact us and we will help you make this calculation.

Please note: undersize cages will be declined by all major airlines !

2. Can my pet travel if she is pregnant ?

Animals in the last third of pregnancy may be barred from travelling.

3. Should I give my pet a sedative before it travels ?

The doctors at the GVC would not normally advise sedation for any pet travelling. Sedation can be dangerous as animals under sedation are unable to control their body temperature, their blood pressure may drop and their breathing can become shallow. If left unmonitored, this can cause serious harm to your pet. Animals under sedation are also unable to balance and if there

is turbulence they may not be able to stabilize themselves in their cage and could therefore be injured. Many airlines do not accept pets that have been sedated and may refuse to accept them on a flight.

4. Am I able to take my pet into the cabin with me ?

When entering the UAE, the ministry has stated that all pets must travel as manifest cargo. When leaving the UAE it is at the discretion of the airline as to whether or not an animal is allowed in the cabin. There are usually size and weight restrictions on animals travelling in the cabin.

5. What vaccinations does my pet need to travel ?

Most animals need a Rabies vaccination, which is between 30 and 365 days old in order to travel.

Other vaccinations are dependent on individual country regulations. Please contact us to find out more.

6. Does my pet need a microchip and what information is stored on the chip?

A microchip is required for travel to most countries and is recommended by the GVC team.

A microchip is smaller than a grain of rice and is inserted under the skin, usually between the shoulder blades. A needle is used to do this and takes only a few moments. The chip contains a unique identification number, which can be read only by a special scanner. The chip number is placed in the vaccination book and is proof that the vaccinations stated were given to that animal.

At present, no other information is stored on the chip itself, but we can enter all relevant data onto the national database so that if an animal is found, it can be re-united with its owner.

7. Are there any age or breed restrictions in pet travel ?

Some fighting dog breeds are banned from entry into certain countries. To view a list of dogs banned from entry into the UAE, please refer to the "Import" page.

Short or "snub" nosed breeds (brachycephalics) such as Boxers, Pekingese, Shi Tzus, Persian and other oriental cats are banned for transport by some airlines. Please contact us if you have such an animal and we can make inquiries for you with your preferred airline.

Many countries and airlines insist that travelling animals are no younger than 4 months.

8. When should I feed and water my pet before travel and what bedding does it need ?

Do not feed your pet for 6 hours pre-flight. Healthy pets can go up to 36 hours without food.

Do offer water until the time of departure and make sure that a water bowl is attached to the inside of the cage. You can secure a funnel with a small pipe to the outside of the cage so that water can be given easily from the outside without having to open the cage door.

If you wish, GVC can provide a watering device for you or give you some other ideas on how to supply water for your travelling pet.

Absorbent bedding material should be supplied in case of “accidents”. Please contact for more suggestions on bedding material.

9. How will my pet cope with the heat in the UAE when travelling ?

As a rule, we try to book evening or night flights for our animals in order to avoid the midday heat. Ensure that your cage is big enough for your animal and has adequate ventilation to avoid hot air collecting around your pet.

Do not use warm blankets such as fleece or wool blankets to line the cage. You can use cotton sheets or t-shirts on top of the absorbent bedding material in order to make your pet comfortable. Please contact us for more tips on how to keep your travelling pet cool !

10. Should I bring my dog to the UAE ?

This is a frequently asked question and really depends on the time you have to spend with your dog as well as your personal circumstances.

Most dogs adapt to the heat well just as we do and spend most of their time in the summer in air-conditioned rooms and exercise early in the morning or late at night. Many dogs are shaved by our professional groomer in the summer months in order to minimize the heat from their thick coats.

Consider the breed of your dog. A smaller or thin coated dog will cope more easily than a Husky or a St Bernhard. Having said that, many of our patients are big dogs such as German Shepherds or Retrievers who cope with the heat very well.

Consider the amount of free time you will have. If you are coming here alone and to a demanding job, you may not have enough time to give a dog. If you are coming to the UAE with the whole family, bringing your dog with you may make the transition to a new country easier for all of you.

Local attitudes towards dogs vary greatly and often depend on education, exposure and where people come from. It is inaccurate to say that people here don't like dogs, though you will hear many Western

people proclaiming this. Religious texts advocate kindness towards animals and though contact with dogs is not prohibited, washing afterwards and before prayer is mandatory.

Avoid busy streets and city areas; always keep your dog on a leash and under control in these areas and respect local views and religious customs.

With more people arriving in the country with their pets, education and awareness are growing and having your dog with you could mean a great enrichment to your and his life, especially if he likes swimming and running out in the desert in the winter!