

Traveling with Pets

*Note: Keep your receipt, as you may be able to claim the cost on your taxes

**Note: During COVID times, many major airlines are enacting a pet embargo.

There are no quarantine restrictions when moving a pet to Puerto Rico. Airlines will require a clean bill of health and a health certificate signed by a USDA certified veterinarian within 10 days of your flight. Dogs must also be proven to be up to date on rabies vaccines (having had the shot at least 30 days in advance of the flight). Most airlines will have a list of all required documentation, and many have specific helplines to discuss pet transport. It is highly recommended to check with your airline early on in the process to ensure you have the correct documentation and supplies needed. Certain, smaller pets are allowed to fly in the cabin as a carry-on item (for a fee). Check with your airlines in advance to ensure your pet meets these standards in size and species.

You can use a pet shipping company to ensure full travel arrangements from door-to-door. Some that have been used in the past are [PetAir](#), and [Airlpets International](#).

Many airlines also have dedicated pet travel programs. The [United Pet Safe](#) program has been used in the past and is the only major airline offering temperature controlled cabin spaces (PetAir also does this). Cargo airlines can also be used, such as Amerijets – who has been used in the past with good results.

Temperature Regulations: If your pet will be flying as cargo, it is advisable to look into those airlines that have dedicated, temperature-controlled cabins. Otherwise, the airlines will not allow many pets, such as cats and dogs, to fly unless predicted ground temperatures in all cities (origin, destination, and any connections) are between 40-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Some species, such as dogs, are able to travel in temperatures as low as 20 degrees, as long as they have a note from their veterinarian stating they are cold-weather acclimated. As you will be traveling to San Juan, this is a very important piece to monitor and will make shipping a pet here quite challenging, especially in summer months. If you must travel on a particular day and your pet will be flying as cargo and not climate controlled, have a friend on standby who can come pick up the pet at the airport of origin and ship the pet to you so you can make your flight and your pet can be cared for as well.

You may not need to fly on the same flight as your pet if they are flying cargo. Be sure to know how long the airline will hold your pet for you to pick them up. Most pets shipped via cargo will require being picked up at a separate location from baggage claim, and typically will not allow pickup for an hour or more after the flight has landed.

If you will be bringing your pet in the cabin (e.g., under the seat), it is recommended that you ask, when your booking your flight, how many pets are on that flight because certain airlines only allow 4 pets in the cabin at once.

As always, check with the airline and make accommodations as early as possible. You will need specific crates, paperwork, food/water dishes, and more so we encourage you to be as proactive as possible.