Enclosure Requirements for Dogs and Cats in Air Cargo Transport



1 Number Allowed
Limit is only one dog or cat. Two puppies or kittens are allowed in a single enclosure IF they are under 6 months old, each under 20 pounds, AND similarly sized. Littermates may be transported to research facilities in the same enclosure with their dam.

2 Safe and Secure
Animal(s) cannot place any part of its body outside the enclosure or through raised flooring. Eliminate sharp points and edges inside that could cause injury.

3 Food and Water
Attach food and water dishes securely inside the enclosure. Fill from outside.

4 Clean
Bottom is solid and leak-proof, or has a removable, leak-proof tray with raised floor. Use enough clean litter to absorb and cover excreta if animals are not on a raised floor.

5 Space
The animal can stand and sit upright, turn around normally while standing, and lie in a natural position.

6 Label
One-inch letters and directional arrow on the top and side of the enclosure. Food and water certification and instructions securely attached.

7 Ventilation
At least 14% wall area is open with one-third of openings on upper half. Rim is at least 3/4" to keep airflow. Openings on two or more opposing walls.

8 Handling
Enclosure can be lifted without tilting or coming into contact with the animal(s).

QUESTIONS? www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-care

Source: Animal Welfare Act, Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR Part 3, Subpart A (§3.15–§3.20)

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