

The Pet Travel Checklist (Canada)

Everything to do, in order, for a calm pet move from Canada. It covers both moves within Canada and international moves; sections marked international apply only when your pet is leaving the country. Print it, stick it on the fridge, and check things off. Questions at any step: call us or request a quote at ca.pettraveladvisors.com.

3 to 6 months before travel (international moves only)

- [] Look up your destination's entry rules and note every waiting period. The EU and UK require 21 days after the rabies vaccination; Japan requires 180 days after a passing rabies titer draw; Australia needs a permit and quarantine booked months ahead.
- [] Confirm your pet's microchip is a 15 digit ISO chip, implanted before the rabies vaccination that counts.
- [] Book the rabies titer test early if your destination needs one. No Canadian lab runs this test: the sample travels by courier to an approved US lab, usually Kansas State, so build in shipping time. Lab fee runs USD \$79 to \$90.
- [] Apply for the import permit where one is required (Australia, New Zealand, and others).
- [] Buy the IATA crate now (USD \$65 to \$378 at retail by size) and start acclimation: feed meals in it, door open, never use it for time outs.

Crate size drives the airline bill more than your pet's weight does. Air Canada and WestJet charge \$50 CAD each way for in-cabin pets on domestic flights.

6 to 8 weeks before travel

- [] Book the flight or ground transport. Winter cold embargoes stop cargo acceptance in the deepest weeks; summer heat rules narrow midday departures. Shoulder seasons book easiest.
- [] Schedule the vet appointments backwards from your travel date so every document lands inside its validity window.
- [] Confirm your airline's crate and breed rules. Snub-nosed breeds have extra restrictions.
- [] If a pro is coordinating your move, get the written quote now. Ours itemises every third party cost.

10 days before travel

- [] Vet visit for the health certificate and any final checks.
- [] Book the CFIA endorsement appointment at least 3 days ahead; it is non-refundable once booked. The fee is a flat CAD \$24.64 per certificate plus GST/HST, and two pets on one certificate share it.
- [] Moving to the US? No US import fee for pets arriving from Canada, and the CDC dog import form is filed online at no charge.
- [] Confirm pickup and delivery windows in writing.

3 to 5 days before travel

- ☐ Print two copies of everything: rabies certificate, health certificate, titer report, permits, your contact details.
- ☐ Attach documents, LIVE ANIMAL labels, and a photo of your pet to the crate.
- ☐ Freeze water for the crate bowl so it does not spill during loading.
- ☐ Keep the routine deliberately boring: usual food, usual walks.

Travel day

- ☐ Long walk before departure.
- ☐ Light meal at least 4 hours before travel; water available right up to loading.
- ☐ Familiar smelling item in the crate: a worn t-shirt beats a new toy.
- ☐ No sedation unless your vet has specifically prescribed it for travel; airlines can refuse sedated pets.
- ☐ In-cabin pets clear CATSA screening: your pet comes out of the carrier, the empty carrier goes through the scanner.
- ☐ Carry your document folder; do not pack it in luggage.

After arrival

- ☐ Set up one quiet room before your pet explores anything else.
- ☐ Keep feeding times and walk routes consistent for the first 72 hours.
- ☐ Register with a local vet within the first two weeks.

Your move notes
