

# **HELPFUL HINTS FOR TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET**

## **48 hrs (2 Days) prior to the flight:**

Fill your pet's water dishes 2/3 full of water and freeze 48 hrs prior to flight. If you don't have the time or opportunity to freeze them, fill the dishes with ice cubes for your pet to lick for hydration as they slowly melt.

## **FEEDING Your Pet:**

- **The day/night BEFORE Departure:** Feed your pet ½ of his/her normal meal.
- **On the DAY OF flight: NO Food** – Give **Water ONLY**. Healthy adult pets should travel on an empty stomach (With the exception of young puppies or kittens – You should consult your veterinarian for feeding advice). (“Nothing in = Nothing out” Less chance for an upset stomach or need to soil the kennel)
- **On the DAY of ARRIVAL:** Once your pet arrives in your new home, you may provide some ice chips to lick and a small dry meal (1/4 serving). Please wait a few hours and monitor the pet before providing another small meal. It may take a couple of days to adjust to the new surroundings. If your pet is experiencing any abnormal behaviors, please contact a local veterinarian immediately.

## **Suggestions to offer a calming reassurance during flight for your pet:**

- Place an old T-Shirt or towel inside the flight kennel or Sherpa bag with your pet. Wear or sleep with the garment for several days prior to travel to assure your “personal body signature” is well saturated within. (Do Not put toys or leashes inside the kennel)
- For DOGS: may wear a **DAP** (Dog Appeasing Pheromone) collar
- For CATS: use **FELIWAY** (Pheromone) Spray on a towel

## **NO TRANQUILIZERS PLEASE!**

Tranquilizer drugs decrease respiratory function and breathing difficulties may occur. Adverse drug reactions may occur due to drug sensitivity. A pet given tranquilizers is more likely to develop respiratory problems. A pet who requires tranquilizers to fly – should not fly. Alternatives are available. The American Veterinary Medical Association strongly discourages the usage of tranquilizers or sedatives for scheduled airline animal transportation. Do not endanger your pet's safety, health, and welfare as you travel or relocate. Your pet's welfare is Air Animal's primary concern.

## **Q. What can I do to make my pet more comfortable?**

**A.** Pre-flight conditioning to the flight/travel container will reduce anxiety, apprehension and fear levels, making your pet's flight more comfortable. Acclimatize your pet to the flight kennel with several short trips around town prior to your flight date to help him/her become accustomed to the travel container. Driving through an automated car wash several times with your pet in its kennel will simulate the noise and minor turbulence experienced during flight.

## **Q. Where will my pet travel in the aircraft?**

**A.** If your pet will not accompany you in the cabin of the plane; then your pet will travel in a pressurized, climate controlled, ventilated cargo hold area of the aircraft, located just below the passenger compartments. Tie-down straps secure the travel container to the decking of the cargo compartments. Your pet will be just as comfortable as passengers in the cabin.

## **Q. What will my pet experience during flight?**

**A.** Pets experience travel in a similar way as passengers in the cabin of the airplane. During the plane's ascent your pet may be alert. Once the plane's flight has leveled off, pets tend to relax and settle down. Upon descent, pets may become alert as activity is anticipated.