

BLUF: Pet travel is not a reimbursable expense IAW the JFTR, Para. U5810. Pet travel is not a valid reason for omission from AMC flights IAW the Defense Transportation Regulation-Part I, Appendix G. The issues with pet travel are not with PE but with commercial air carrier policies for transporting animals during the summer months. The information below is an analysis of the pet transportation issue. It is important to remember that costs for follow-on flights for pets from BWI have countless variants when calculating cost such as pet weight, size, breed, destination etc. Unfortunately, some will pay more than others based on their individual situation.

Concerns from the USAREUR community concerning pet travel have been raised since the implementation of Patriot Express flights. Travelers with pets have always had to coordinate pet travel from Frankfurt International Airport (FRA) to CONUS and then ensure onward movement to their final destination. The onward CONUS movement has not changed with PE flights. The main difference with PE flights vs. FRA flights is that there are 10 pet spaces available on every PE Flight. There are currently 4 channel missions per week which equates to at least 40 pet allocations per week through PE.

Pet travel costs on PE are generally cheaper when compared to commercial carriers. According to AMC Passenger Policy Branch, there is a minimum fee of \$112 for up to 70 pounds and a max fee of \$336 for a 150 pound dog to fly on PE. This calculation is based on the pet and kennel's combined weight and is broken down into three weight increments.¹ Commercial carriers calculate pet shipping cost based on cubic feet of cargo space taken up by the kennel and air space around the kennel for proper ventilation. This calculation can cost anywhere from \$395 for an average kennel to over \$1,160 for the largest commercial kennel to support 150 pound dog for the same itinerary.²

Other expressed concerns for pet travel have existed prior to implementation of PE such as air temperature during time of travel. Pets will not be accepted by most US airlines when the current or forecasted temperature at the arrival or departure airport is above 84F (29C) at either location on the itinerary (75 degrees for snub-nosed dogs and cats).³ During the summer months, May through September, most airlines may impose a Summer Heat Embargo and will not allow individuals to transport pets in the cargo department. Currently, Lufthansa is the only international carrier that will transport pets over the summer embargo at an average rate of 850 Euro.⁴ Patriot Express flights are climate controlled and can fly year round without restrictions on breeds, or air temperature.

Options for Travelers with Pets:

While Government funded pet transportation is not authorized, travelers are entitled to reimbursement for transportation expenses incurred between their old Primary Duty Station (PDS) and their new PDS, to include the portion of travel in between. Additionally, when performing official travel from one PDS to the next PDS, per diem is authorized for the official portion of the travel. Per diem consists of lodging,

¹ Passenger Policy Branch HQ AMC, Pet brochure dtd. SEP 11

² Delta Airlines quoted fee for largest standard commercial crate for a 150 pound dog from FRA to BWI.

³ Some examples of restricted snub-nosed dogs and cats: American Bulldog, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Brussels Griffon, Bulldog, Chinese Pug, Chow Chow, Dutch Pug, English Bulldog, English Toy Spaniel, French Bulldog, Lhasa Apso, Japanese Boxer, Japanese Pug, Japanese Spaniel (Chin), Mastiff (all breeds), Pekinese, Pit Bull, Pug, Shar Pei, Shih Tzu, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Tibetan Spaniel, Burmese, Exotic, Himalayan, Persian.

⁴ Source: SATO Travel Office.

meals, and incidental expenses. If there is no space available on the PE flight the traveler still has the option to ship the pet via commercial carrier or through air cargo (both unaccompanied). Some additional options to off-set the cost of pet shipping include, but are not limited to:

- Ship a POV to the port of Baltimore in advance of official travel and drive to PDS or leave address. This option requires coordination with the local transportation office. Source specific guidance is the JFTR, Chapter 5, U5435.
- IAW JFTR para U5105, travelers may rent a car from BWI to PDS (Non-Reimbursable, except for the mileage @ \$.555 per mile).
- Transport pet via commercial or Govt. air (PE) in advance of travel (non-reimbursable).

Conclusion:

PE flights have provided additional benefits to travelers who book their flights with enough time to reserve one of the 10 pet travel spaces available on AMC flights. If travelers fail to secure one of the 10 pet allocations they must ensure they properly account for, and transport their pet during their PCS. Pet care and responsibility is the owner's duty, not the unit or US government, and is therefore not justification for delaying official travel.