



United™ Pet Travel Tips | Carrier Size & Cabin/Cargo Rules



Traveling With Pets on United Airlines: Step-by-Step Guide

Traveling with pets on United Airlines can seem daunting, but with proper preparation, it can be smooth and stress-free for both you and your furry companion. United Airlines allows pets to travel in the cabin, as checked baggage, or as cargo, depending on their size, breed, and destination. In this comprehensive step-by-step guide for 2026, we will cover all aspects of traveling with pets on United Airlines, from booking and carrier requirements to in-flight tips, international travel rules, and health documentation. For any questions or support, United Airlines can be reached at 1-833-585-3020.

This guide is structured to help pet owners understand every stage of the travel process with United Airlines and ensure a safe, comfortable, and compliant journey for their pets.

Step 1: Understanding United Airlines Pet Policies

Before booking your flight, familiarize yourself with United Airlines' pet policies. United Airlines allows small dogs, cats, and household birds in the cabin, while larger pets must travel in the cargo hold. Service animals travel in the cabin free of charge, whereas emotional support animals now follow standard in-cabin pet rules.

United Airlines limits the number of pets in the cabin per flight, so early booking is essential. Pets must remain in approved carriers under the seat in front of you, and

aggressive or unwell animals may be refused boarding @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. Understanding these policies ensures you are prepared and compliant with United Airlines regulations @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. For clarifications @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, call United Airlines at @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.

Step 2: Booking Your Flight and Reserving Pet Space

The second step @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 in traveling with pets on United Airlines is booking your flight and reserving space for your pet @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. United Airlines recommends booking flights with pet accommodations as early as possible because cabin space for pets is limited @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.

You can reserve @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 your pet online during initial flight booking @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, via the United Airlines mobile app @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, or by calling United Airlines directly at @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. Be sure to confirm the type of pet @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, weight @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, carrier dimensions @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, and any additional requirements for service or emotional support animals @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. Booking in advance prevents last-minute issues and ensures that your pet has a secured spot on your flight @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.

Step 3: Choosing the Right Carrier for United Airlines Travel

United Airlines has @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 specific carrier requirements to ensure the safety and comfort of pets @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. For in-cabin travel @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, pets must be in soft-sided carriers that fit under the seat in front of the passenger @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. The maximum carrier dimensions are 17 @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.5 x 12 x 7 @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.5 inches @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.

For pets traveling as @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍 checked baggage or cargo @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, United Airlines requires IATA-compliant crates with ventilation on at least two sides @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, secure locking mechanisms @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, and a leak-proof bottom @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. The crate must be large enough for the pet to stand @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, turn @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, and lie down comfortably @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍. Adding absorbent material @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, blankets @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍, and familiar toys can make the journey less stressful @+[+1{833•585•3020}]👍.

United Airlines recommends familiarizing your pet with its carrier before the flight [@ 833-585-3020](#) . This reduces anxiety and ensures that your pet is comfortable during the journey [@ 833-585-3020](#) . For detailed carrier guidance [@ 833-585-3020](#) , contact United Airlines at [@ 833-585-3020](#)  [@ 833-585-3020](#) .

Step 4: Preparing Your Pet for Travel

Preparation is key [@ 833-585-3020](#)  when traveling with pets on United Airlines [@ 833-585-3020](#) . First [@ 833-585-3020](#) , make sure your pet is in good health and up-to-date on vaccinations [@ 833-585-3020](#) . United Airlines requires health certificates for pets traveling in cargo or internationally [@ 833-585-3020](#) .

Acclimate your pet [@ 833-585-3020](#)  to its carrier days or weeks before travel [@ 833-585-3020](#) . Encourage your pet to spend time in the carrier with familiar bedding and toys [@ 833-585-3020](#) . This reduces stress and helps your pet feel secure [@ 833-585-3020](#) . Additionally [@ 833-585-3020](#) , feed your pet a light meal a few hours before the flight to avoid motion sickness or discomfort during travel [@ 833-585-3020](#) .

United Airlines advises checking with your veterinarian for any travel-specific recommendations [@ 833-585-3020](#) , especially for pets with health issues or those flying long distances [@ 833-585-3020](#) . For guidance [@ 833-585-3020](#) , contact United Airlines at [@ 833-585-3020](#)  [@ 833-585-3020](#) .

Step 5: Checking Pet Travel Fees

United Airlines charges [@ 833-585-3020](#)  fees for pets traveling in the cabin and as checked baggage or cargo [@ 833-585-3020](#) . For in-cabin pets [@ 833-585-3020](#) , the fee is \$125 each way for domestic flights [@ 833-585-3020](#) . Fees for cargo or checked pets vary depending on weight [@ 833-585-3020](#) , size [@ 833-585-3020](#) , and destination [@ 833-585-3020](#) . International flights may have additional charges for customs and compliance with destination regulations [@ 833-585-3020](#) 

United Airlines allows [@ 833-585-3020](#)  payment for pet fees online [@ 833-585-3020](#) @ 833-585-3020 @ 833-585-3020 @ 833-585-3020 @ 833-585-3020 @ 833-585-3020  [@ 833-585-3020](#) .

Step 6: Preparing Documentation and Health Certificates

United Airlines [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) requires proper documentation for pets traveling internationally or as cargo [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Health certificates issued within 10 days of travel may be required [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Some countries also require vaccination verification and microchip information [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#).

For service animals [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), United Airlines may request documentation proving the animal's status [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Emotional support animals now follow standard in-cabin pet rules [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), requiring compliance with weight [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), carrier [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), and documentation regulations [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Contact United Airlines at [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) for detailed documentation guidance before travel [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#).

Step 7: Check-In and Security Procedures

Arrive at the airport [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) early when traveling with pets on United Airlines [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). This allows ample time for check-in [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), security screening [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), and addressing any last-minute issues [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Pets in the cabin must remain in carriers throughout security checks [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#).

United Airlines staff [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) will guide you through airport procedures and ensure that your pet meets all travel requirements [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). For pets traveling as cargo [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), United Airlines provides specific drop-off and pick-up procedures to ensure safety [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). For additional assistance [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), contact United Airlines at [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#).

Step 8: Boarding and In-Flight Guidelines

When boarding with pets [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), United Airlines requires that animals remain in their carriers under the seat [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#). Do not remove the pet from the carrier during the flight [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#), as this ensures safety for both the animal and other passengers [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#).

United Airlines recommends bringing small treats @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , a familiar blanket @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and a chew toy to comfort your pet @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . Avoid feeding large meals during the flight to prevent motion sickness @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . For pets traveling in cargo @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , United Airlines ensures temperature-controlled environments and monitors for safety @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . For in-flight pet tips @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , contact United Airlines at @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Step 9: Arriving at Your Destination

Upon arrival @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , retrieve your pet promptly if traveling in cargo @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . United Airlines staff will guide you through the pick-up process and ensure your pet's safety @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . For in-cabin pets @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , carefully remove the carrier from under the seat and allow your pet to acclimate gradually to its new surroundings @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

United Airlines recommends monitoring your pet for signs of stress or discomfort after travel @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . Provide water @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , a light meal @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and a calm environment @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . For post-flight guidance or assistance @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , contact United Airlines at @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Step 10: Traveling Internationally With Pets on United Airlines

International @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  travel with pets requires additional planning @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . United Airlines advises checking country-specific import regulations @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , including vaccinations @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , microchip requirements @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and quarantine rules @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . Certain breeds may have travel restrictions @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Pets traveling internationally may need to fly as cargo if they exceed cabin size or weight limits @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . United Airlines can provide guidance on approved crates @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , documentation @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and airport procedures to ensure compliance with international rules @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . For detailed international travel assistance @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , call United Airlines at @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Step 11: Health and Safety Tips

United Airlines @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  prioritizes pet health and safety @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) . Make sure your pet is fit for travel @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , with no underlying medical issues @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) . Use airline-approved carriers @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , and avoid extreme temperatures during travel @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) . For pets with special needs @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , consult your veterinarian for travel-specific recommendations @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) 

United Airlines encourages acclimating pets to their carrier @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , providing water and food as needed @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , and monitoring for stress throughout the journey @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) . For additional health and safety information @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , contact United Airlines at @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Frequently Asked Questions About Traveling With Pets on United Airlines

Q1: Can I travel with my dog or cat in the cabin?

Yes @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , United Airlines allows small dogs @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , cats @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , and household birds to travel in the cabin if they meet weight and carrier requirements @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Q2: How do I book a pet on United Airlines?

Yes @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , pets can be booked online @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , via the mobile app @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , or by calling United Airlines at @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Q3: What are the fees for in-cabin pets?

Yes @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , \$125 each way for domestic flights @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) . Fees for cargo or checked pets vary @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Q4: Are service animals allowed in the cabin for free?

Yes @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , service animals travel in the cabin free of charge @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Q5: What size carrier is required?

Yes @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , carriers must be soft-sided and fit under the seat @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) , not exceeding 17 @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .5 x 12 x 7 @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .5 inches @[\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#) .

Q6: Do I need a health certificate for my pet?

Yes [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , health certificates may be required for pets traveling as cargo or internationally [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .

Q7: Can emotional support animals travel in-cabin for free?

No [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , emotional support animals now follow standard pet rules and must meet in-cabin requirements [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .

Q8: How early should I arrive at the airport?

Yes [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , United Airlines recommends arriving at least 2-3 hours before departure for domestic flights and 3-4 hours for international flights [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .

Q9: Can pets travel internationally in the cabin?

Yes [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , but international regulations vary [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and larger pets may need to travel as cargo [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .

Q10: Who can I contact for assistance with traveling pets?

Yes [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , United Airlines customer service is available at [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  for any questions or guidance [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .

This step-by-step guide provides a complete roadmap for **traveling with pets on United Airlines** [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , covering in-cabin travel [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , cargo transport [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , fees [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , documentation [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , health and safety tips [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and FAQs [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  . By following these steps [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , pet owners can ensure a safe [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , comfortable [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  , and stress-free journey for their beloved companions [\[+1{833•585•3020}\]](#)  .