

Fly with Me

*Traveling Abroad with a
Furry Family Member*



PREFACE

This book was written for the many friends we have made and helped over the years. Several we only met after they experienced great difficulties. Some were faced with abandoning their beloved pets and others with abandoning their travel commitments in a moment of panic.

We have witnessed countless devoted pet owners in distress or faced with some type of hardship that could have been avoided with the proper guidance. Our purpose for writing this book is to educate and hopefully stop these issues from occurring in the future.

You will read several true stories of families that were ill-advised by airline representatives, consulates, various websites and well-meaning friends. What really happens when proper planning doesn't take place? What about misunderstanding the import or export country requirements for pets traveling internationally? It may look hopeless in the moment, but in the majority of cases there is a solution.

It is possible to transition, without incident, to a new home with pets whether it is around the corner or

around the world. These stories and examples of what to do and what not to do when transporting a beloved pet (family member) we hope to help you in all of your pet moving ventures.

The information given has been used by our Company since the beginning of our journey in 1998 and has allowed us to ensure safe and stress-free moves for our own pets as well as those of our friends, family and clients.

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FAMILY OF FIVE

Today is the big move for Tara, Tony, Jaxon, Harley, and Munchkin. Tony has accepted a new job in another country. The family plans to leave together just in time for Jaxon to start preschool. They are overjoyed with the opportunity and promise of a bright future for their family in a different country.

Harley, the family's 5-year-old Golden Retriever and Munchkin, the 4-year-old cat, are loaded up in the taxi, along with Jaxon, who is beyond excited about the plane ride to his new home, overseas.

Confident that all the last-minute details have been completed, with passports and pets in tow, they head to the airport. Tara remembered the vaccination records for Jaxon, Harley and Munchkin, so all the little ones are ready for check in when they arrive at the airport. The airline representative assured Tara and Tony, several days ago that there would be no problem for them to all fly together to their destination.

They arrive at the airport in preparation for departure and Tony unloads all the suitcases, Jaxon, and pets from the taxi. The house and cars are sold, so they

were staying in a hotel for a few days until the visas were in order and the final arrangements for flights could be made by Tony's new employer.

After unloading they all eagerly head up to the airline representative, passports in hand. When Tony reached the ticket counter and began presenting documents to the airline representative he was stopped almost immediately. "Are these animals with you?" asked the ticket agent. "Yes ma'am, this is Harley and Munchkin, they are flying with us today." At this point Tara chimed in, "We have a reservation for them to fly on our same flight. It was confirmed a few days ago by a representative with your airline. We were told their reservation would be attached to our ours. I have their vaccination records all in order as I understood would be needed."

"Do you have their import permits that are required for them to enter the country?" asked the ticket agent. "We were not told there was an import permit requirement, by the representatives I spoke with." explained Tara. "Can we get these permits once we get there? What can we do? We don't have a home, a car, or anyone to keep Harley and Munchkin if we leave. What are we to do with them?" cried Tara. Although, Jaxon is only 4 years old, he begins to realize, there is a problem. He suspects that his

lifelong friends, Harley and Munchkin, might not be able to go with him and he starts crying.

Sadly, the airline representative replied, "If they don't have a permit to enter the country they cannot fly today. Just as you could not go without your visas, they must have one as well."

Tony is angry and frustrated at this point because he was never notified of this requirement and now his wife and child are upset. In addition to these feelings they are in terrible position now and unclear on what to do with Harley and Munchkin.

This is no longer a happy day or the way any new job assignment should start.

OBSTACLES

Stories like Tony and Tara's, arriving at the airport with pets (Harley and Munchkin), with intentions to fly together, has become less realistic in our world today. Complex airline rules and import/export travel requirements that differ from country to country, make planning months in advance the key to a successful move.

Many animals cannot fly when owners would like due to size, breed or temperature restrictions. Others without special routing, documentation, testing or permits required for their country of destination.

During the heaviest travel season (summer), it is almost impossible to transport a large percentage of dog or cat breeds by air. Also, some countries require up to 7 months of preparation with stringent timelines for testing and treatments, before a beloved pet can join their family in the new home.

Unfortunately, most pet owners are not aware of the possible complications like Tara and Tony experienced until it is too late.

INCREASE IN PET OWNERSHIP

For many people, our pets are akin to our children. Further confirmed in several recent studies, many single professionals are delaying parenthood and demanding more flexible work arrangements. All of which translates to higher rates of pet ownership.

The number of U.S. households that own a pet has increased substantially over the past two years. Confirming nearly three-quarters, of all homes are occupied by at least one furry family member. It's no secret that many pet owners consider their fluffy ones more of a surrogate child than an animal.

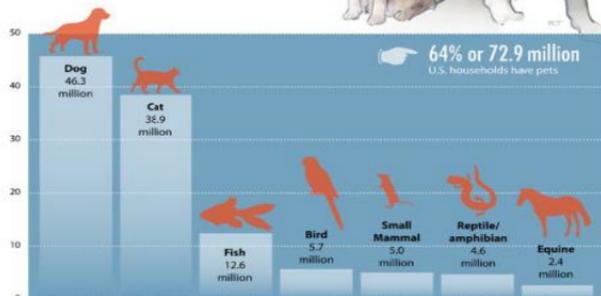
When offered a new job opportunity whether it is around the corner or the around the world, the well-being and safety of the pet gives pause to the prospective employee. Regardless of the package details, it can be the determining factor, in whether this new assignment will be considered a success, by both the employee and employer.

Pet Ownership in the U.S.

The number of U.S. households that own a pet has increased by 2.1% to an all-time high of 72.9 million with dogs and cats accounting for nearly three-quarters of all households that own a pet, according to the recent National Pet Owners Survey.



Number of U.S. households that own a pet



DOGS
78.2 million

39%
of U.S. households
own at least one dog

CATS
86.4 million

33%
of U.S. households
own at least one cat

While pet ownership is lower in other countries than in the United States, it is still at an all-time high historically.



ARE PETS PEOPLE TOO?

A study published in Business Insider suggested that people are more empathetic towards dogs than fellow humans.

Some dog owner's love their four-legged friends so much that they treat them like they would a child — and sometimes even say they prefer them to some friends and family.

In an experiment, 240 students were presented with fake newspaper clippings of a police report either about an attack on a person, or a dog.

In the fake report, the victim was attacked "with a baseball bat by an unknown assailant." They were left unconscious, "with one broken leg and "multiple lacerations."

The Participants were each given the same report with the victim either being a one-year-old baby, a 30-year-old adult, a puppy, or a six-year-old dog. Then they were asked about how they felt using questions to measure their levels of empathy.

The team hypothesized that the vulnerability of the victims — determined by age, rather than species — would be the most important factor in participants' levels of distress and concern.

In fact, the empathy levels for the puppy, older dog, and human baby were on similar levels, while the adult person came last. The adult dog only received a lower score of empathies when compared to the infant human victim.

"Subjects did not view their dogs as animals, but rather as 'fur babies,' or family members alongside human children." In conclusion, the researchers, showed how people often think of their pets as part of the family.

I CAN DO IT ALL

Pet owners are rarely able to fully comprehend all of the requirements that must be met before their pet can travel as the processes are all new to them. We've been told, by many, it is comparable to learning a new language. Many of the emergency calls we receive are for these reasons.

Laura had taken a new job assignment in Beijing, China and wanted to take Deuce, her small Yorkshire Terrier, in the cabin with her to save on costs in the relocation process.

When Laura contracted a pet transportation company, less than two weeks before her move, she stated she had everything ready to go for Deuce. She only wanted Deuce's paperwork reviewed for compliance and customs clearance upon arrival in Beijing.

China, like many other countries, can be very particular in their requirements for documentation. For example; all documents must show the exact same name (including middle name or initial) as listed

in the owner's passport. Their strict nature comes on the cusp of recently lifted quarantine requirements.

Deuce was flying in cabin, so different rules apply than when one flies as manifest cargo (on their own ticket). All documents were sent to China for review each time Laura submitted one to the company.

Managing an international move is complicated and stressful when pets are not involved. So, it's not surprising that when a pet is added to the relocation, it is easy to become overwhelmed with the process.

In trying to manage an international move for both herself and her 11-year-old dog, Laura became frustrated with the endless requirements. Sadly, she decided to leave Deuce in the United States because it was too much for her to handle last minute.

Laura thought she could manage and pull everything together in a couple of weeks. Unfortunately for both this was not the case. Although, this assignment is only one year, Laura and Deuce will be separated due to lack of advance planning.

Because pet import/export rules for international transportation have the potential of unexpected changes, even the internet has difficulty keeping up to date on important details. For this reason, when a

pet is moving to another country it is best to begin planning, months in advance, not weeks.

The more time there is to properly plan a pet move, the less issues there are likely to be. Rush moves are always the ones that cause trouble for everyone. One transposed number or overlooked detail in the pet's documentation can result in heartbreaking results as well as unexpected expense.

CURRENT VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations that are accepted or satisfactory for one country may not be sufficient for another.

- In the United States, a three-year rabies vaccination is acceptable for travel from state to state. However, when traveling to another country, this is not always the case.
- Microchips are recommended for identification purposes only, but not required in the USA; however, they are mandatory for numerous countries around the world. There is also an order required for most that a microchip be inserted before a primary rabies vaccine is given.
- Testing for different diseases is compulsory in certain regions of the world and often requires a significant amount of time between testing and import. A handful of countries require up to 7 months of testing and treatment for a variety of diseases before a pet is granted permission to enter the country.

MILITARY ORDERS

Peter just received his military orders to move to Germany. Sarah and their new baby, Jacob, (only a few months old), will be traveling on a direct flight into Frankfurt. They intend for Max, (5yr old German Shepherd) to fly with them on the same flight.

They arrived at the airport several hours before their flight, as instructed by the airlines. They had passports in hand, along with all the documents prepared by their military veterinarian for Max; everything appeared to be in order.

Upon arriving at the ticket counter Peter hands over all their documentation to the airline representative. The airline agent issues Peter and Sarah their boarding passes, takes their bags and tags them. The agent, then states, "I'm sorry but it is too hot for your pet to fly today. You will have to send him later when it cools off a bit. There is a heat embargo!"

Sarah, holding baby Jacob, cries out, "What do you mean send him later because it's too hot? He is on our reservation and must fly with us today. We just drove four hours in a rental car to get here. What are we

supposed to do with him?” The agent replies, “I would suggest you call this company to help you. They have helped multiple people in your situation.”

Peter immediately reached out to us at the advice of the airline attendant. While Max was not able to leave that day, he and his family were reunited in Germany only three days later.

TAUBI WAS SCARED

Many pets have never seen the inside of a travel kennel, so they need time to acclimate to this new container to assure their safety during flight. Taking a pet out of their “safe” environment and putting them in a travel kennel without proper time to adjust to their environment doesn’t often fare well for anyone.

Taubi was a classic example of a pet that had not been properly introduced or acclimated to his travel kennel before his flight. Taubi was a 150-pound Akita, so quite the big boy. Akita’s are not known to be aggressive, but they are quite strong. Taubi was an unusually friendly Akita and got along with everyone. In fact, he had the demeanor more of a Labrador than an Akita. For this reason, no one thought he would have a problem being so docile and laid back about everything.

When the cargo door was opened, after a three-and-a-half-hour flight, from Central America to the USA, the airline representative was quite surprised to find Taubi looking straight at him from the cargo door opening. Thankfully, Taubi was a good boy and didn’t

get into the plane's fuselage that he had easy access to from his new self-appointed seat on the plane.

Unlike Taubi, other pets have done a tremendous amount of damage to an airplane, while still in the air, once they found a way out of their kennel.

One of the most important steps you can take to ease the stress of travel for your pet is to make sure it is comfortable inside its kennel. Since your pet must be as relaxed as possible during the flight, familiarization with the kennel is essential. Time needs to be taken to get all dogs and/or cats comfortable with being in contained within this closed space for long periods of time prior to their actual plane ride.

Had the training process been used with Taubi, he would likely have still been in his crate upon arrival at his destination.

AIRLINE APPROVED?

Many styles and variations of pet transportation kennels, found in local pet stores and online, are labeled as “airline approved”. However, many of these designs are not accepted by any airline.

- There is also a common misconception that a kennel is acceptable if the pet can stand up and turnaround inside. Though, the unknown caveat to this regulation is that the kennel must also be large enough for each pet to sit and stand comfortably with its head erect.
- The pet must be able to turn around and lie down in a normal position without their head or body touching the sides of the kennel when standing. The pet’s head or tips of their ears, whichever is higher, must not touch the top of the crate. If they do not meet these airline specifications a larger travel kennel is required for acceptance by any airline. This is for the safety and well-being of each pet. Select dog breeds require transport in a reinforced crate.

- Cramped quarters do not allow adequate airflow within the travel kennel. Dogs and puppies or cats and kittens cannot travel together in the same container, in accordance with IATA Live Animal Regulations and the Animal Welfare Act.
- Kennels are to be made of hard plastic, in excellent condition, without signs of rust or weathering. All kennel hardware must be secure and in good working condition. Metal nuts and bolts must be used to connect the top and bottom of the kennel.
- Snap-sided kennels or kennels with plastic side latches are not acceptable, unless holes are drilled in the sides and metal nuts and bolts are added to secure the snap or latch closures. Kennels with plastic doors, openings on the top and those with side plastic latches, are prohibited. These are not considered strong enough to protect animals, during normal handling. Each kennel is required to be outfitted with two dishes, one for food and one for water. They must be attached to the door and accessible from the outside of the kennel without opening the door.

15 DIGITS

Slade and Danielle arrived at the airport with Titan, (4-year-old Labrador) and Taz, (8-year-old Terrier mix) ready to roll. Slade had been offered a fabulous job in Europe. He thought this would be a great adventure and wonderful opportunity for him and his new bride to see Europe as a resident for a couple of years.

The company that offered Slade the fabulous job did not include any assistance for moving Titan and Taz in their relocation package. If Titan and Taz were to make the trip it would be their dime.

Slade and Danielle thought this would be a piece of cake as they had a veterinarian (family friend) that could help with Titan's and Taz's paperwork. They also knew people that had moved overseas with their pets so thought it was something they could handle alone and save the personal expense of hiring a "professional." Moving was already much more of a cost factor in their budget than they had ever imagined it would be.

The day of departure rolled around; everything was perfect for the flight. Airline checked paperwork,

crates were good, off they went without a hitch or so they thought.

When Taz and Titan landed at the first port of entry into Europe they were offloaded from the plane and taken to the animal reception center where every animal must be checked for compliance with European laws for entry.

The EU veterinarian went from one pet to the next of the four that had been unloaded from the aircraft. These veterinarians are responsible for verifying every pet has the proper microchip and confirm the chip matches the pet's health records.

PROBLEM... The microchip that is written on Titan's documentation does not match the microchip scanned by the EU veterinarian. The numbers on his documents show 14 digits, but the scan read 15 digits. Microchips are only made 9, 10 or 15 digits in length so, it appears the veterinarian left one digit off the health documentation. Because this was not caught prior to departure, Titan cannot enter or transit through the country.

Slade and Danielle have a big decision to make. Are they going to send both Taz and Titan home or only Titan and start the process all over again? Either way, it was a huge unexpected expense and crazy amount

of stress added to an already stressful international move.

Relocation did not start well for this family. However, Danielle, at the suggestion of a friend back home, reached out immediately for help. Meanwhile Titan waited patiently in quarantine for his corrected documentation to arrive. A few days later, the new documents were completed and on a flight to Europe. After several days and an incredible unexpected expense, the family was reunited.

NO FLY LIST

Medication cannot accompany any pet for airline travel. It is best to work with your veterinarian to determine how best to accommodate your pet's needs during travel if he/she is dependent on any type of medication. Veterinarians can help in preparing these little ones to go for a short period of time without this medication. Other accommodations can be made if layovers are required in some situations.

Sedatives and Tranquilizers are prohibited in pets traveling by air. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA) warn that sedation can lead to injury. For example, if your dog's crate moves during the flight and your dog is not able to brace itself, it can be injured. The increased altitude intensifies the effects of such drugs and may cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems for treated animals.

Overstuffed beds and toys are not allowed inside a travel kennel. Collapsible kennels, wheels and wicker kennels is also prohibited. They are not strong enough to protect animals during normal handling.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

Pets cannot fly without a document from a licensed veterinarian stating pet is in good health. A “fit to fly” certificate, also known as “health certificate,” is required by all airlines before taking off. Airlines further require this certificate is dated no more than 10 days before the date of departure.

If traveling internationally and the health certificate needs to be endorsed by a government entity, the date the pet was originally seen by its veterinarian is when the 10-day count begins. The ten days does NOT start the date of the endorsement by the government agency.

A partnership between you and your veterinarian is essential to the proper planning for your move. If you are considering international travel any time soon, you should seek the advice of a properly accredited veterinarian to prepare any travel documents.

It is important when moving to a new area or looking for a new veterinarian, to schedule a new patient appointment. Don’t wait until there is an emergency to get your furry family member set up in the new place of residence.

HAPPY ENDINGS-CHECK, CHECK!

Ronan has accepted a new job in the United States, along with his lifelong pal, Willow. He is determined that she will not be abandoned or left behind as a result of this career choice. Willow (11-year-old Pug) is more of a child to Ronan than a pet as; she has been a part of his family for so many years. Even though Ronan has a very important role in his company, he still has a soft spot for little Willow and cannot imagine life without her.

The company that offered Ronan this great new opportunity contacted World Pet Travel to assist in Willow's journey from Paris to Houston. To avoid any possible issues for Ronan accepting the new assignment extreme measures were taken. They knew that leaving Ronan to try and figure out alone would possibly cost them this outstanding candidate and that was not an option. Experience had shown they would not have his attention or commitment until all was settled with Willows transportation details, so we forged ahead. It was a small investment to guarantee Ronan's success and therefore a victory for the company.

So, the journey began.... WPT contacted Ronan, (in Paris), to get pictures and all details necessary to access Willow's medical status. WPT noticed that Willow was a bit of a chunky monkey and needed to lose a few kilos before she could relocate to Texas. Ronan was immediately referred to a cardio-specialist in Paris to have Willow assessed in her condition to travel safely at the advice of WPT.

A combination of Willow's age, breed, and excess of love handles, we were all concerned whether or not she could make the trip without incident. The pounds had to come off and come off fast so that she could move to her new home in Houston with Ronan.

Because of the record heat in Europe and the constant heat issues in Texas, there was another roadblock that had to be dealt with as a result of Willow being a Pug.

Thankfully there was sufficient time to make a plan for this girl. With two months to prepare for Willow's journey she was able to pull off 5 kilos' as well as spend a little time getting acclimated to her new personal den (travel kennel).

Willow was picked up from her caretaker on Friday and headed to the veterinarian off for her export exam. **Check, Check!** All went well, and she received

her clean bill of health to travel. She spent the weekend resting and relaxing while her documents were prepared for her flight and in no time, Willow was in the air! **Check, Check!**

Due to the special routing that had to take place for Willow, she stops briefly in Frankfurt Germany for another health check. The documents were reviewed by the veterinarians at the animal reception area.

Check, Check! Documents match microchip, little Willow is good to go forward on another flight. She arrived in San Francisco mid-afternoon. Upon arrival in San Francisco, customs clearance is completed, and Willow is released. "WAIT, wasn't she supposed to go to Houston?" you ask. Yes, she was and still is but in a roundabout manner due to her breed.

Ronan is sent pictures of Willow as she comes out of her den and stretches her legs after the long journey. He is elated that Willow is now in the US and will be reunited with him in only a few days.

On the road again.... Willow is finally headed to Texas. Because Willow, is a Pug (brachiocephalic, more commonly referred to as a snub-nose breed), any routing where temperatures are above 80 degrees, cannot be considered when planning travel. To clarify, ground temperatures, at any point of the journey,

cannot exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit. As you can imagine, this makes conventional summer travel almost impossible for many breeds. Experience and fancy footwork are required for these special creatures to travel successfully. Willow's journey is a great example of this in motion.

In order to get Willow to Ronan, she must take a road trip. So, loaded into her own private coach she's heading south after a night to rest up from her flight. This journey takes a couple of days because every time we stop for fuel, Willow gets a potty break too. She also gets to run off some steam during those stops. This little girl has moves we don't normally see from an 11-year-old pug. She is like a little engine that could and never stops moving. We believe in anticipation of seeing Ronan soon. Willow somehow knows she is going to see her family soon and reacts a bit like the Tasmanian devil in action, the whole journey.

Ronan is receiving pictures of Willow at every stop. The countdown has almost ended, and Willow is nearly home. Meanwhile, Ronan has been able to remain productive at his new assignment because this VERY important family member is being handled by professionals. He feels they have displayed, over the last two months, that they care as much about his Willow as he does.

Looks like we made it! Ronan and Willow are finally reunited. We just thought Willow had moves. When she saw dad, Ronan, she could not be contained. The two of them brought tears to our eyes.



This is why we do what we do!

PLANNING AHEAD

Careful planning and time to put our strategic plans in place, allow for a perfect outcome in every relocation. In 22 years, we have moved thousands of family pets all over the world. We have had hiccups and plans have had to change for multiple reasons.

- Upon scanning a pet's microchip at the airport of departure, we found the families trusted veterinarian did not double-check a microchip on documents, so numbers were transposed. As we scan all chips when the pet comes into our possession, this was caught the first time we met the pet in person on the day of departure. Documents had to be redone before the pet could leave so this family didn't experience a very expensive problem like Slade and Danielle.
- Last minute heat restrictions in place, like Peter and Sarah experienced, but we had a Plan B in place in anticipation of the heatwave that was coming through. Our pet owner and pet flew the same day, but on different flights. Restrictions or embargoes

that are implemented are often not the same between airlines and most often handled differently with each one.

- Country requirements changed a month before one family was to depart for their new assignment. This could have created a huge issue for everyone as well as a delay in the pet's departure date. Because we have representatives in every country around the world, we receive notice when changes are coming before the general public, so we had time to make the adjustments to documents and travel plans. These pets departed as scheduled without missing a beat.

Not every move will go exactly as planned, but we will always have a plan B (Backup plan). In Willow's situation, the trip to San Francisco was not our first choice for travel, nor the one that Ronan really wanted, as it would delay their reunion. It was however the right plan to ensure Willow made it to her new home safely. Planning allows time to implement a backup plan if the first one falls through.

TRAVEL TIPS

Every dog has a different energy level. A young Labrador runs on high octane and will need to expend this energy before being cooped up in his kennel for a long flight. An airport with an onsite dog area is a perfect place to play with your dog before placing him in his crate. This will also give him an opportunity to relieve himself before the flight.

- No toys or oversized bedding in the travel kennel.
- Give your pet more than a puppy pad to sit on when traveling. They deserve a comfortable seat on the plane just as much as the passengers.
- Taking the extra time to become mentally and practically prepared for a trip involving extra logistics will make all the difference to you and your dog.
- Pre-conditioning your pet before airline travel by allowing them to spend a good amount of time in their travel crate/carrier as soon as possible.

- Ensure your pet is healthy and is seen by his or her vet before traveling.
- Each country has different entry requirements so verify regulations with country of destination before starting or preparing any documentation.
- If a pet is on medications for a condition, be sure the pet is well stabilized before air travel. Airlines will not allow medications to be transported with the pets, so planning is crucial for those dependent on medicine.
- An elderly pet will do fine as long as they are healthy and have comfortable bedding in their crate or carrier.
- Water is essential before, during, and after the flight for hydration. Freeze the water in the cups so it lasts longer during the flight. Use caution when giving water upon arrival at destination. Water and food should be given in smaller increments over the first 24 hours following air transportation.
- Keep copies of your pet's vaccination record and any other health records you may have.

All original documentation must fly with the pet.

CHOICES

When taking a new job assignment, families are faced with several choices that must be made. These choices range from family portraits, and furniture to how many family members will be relocating.

Transferee's should not have to give up their pets to when making a career decision, but it is happening every day around the world because no guidance or financial assistance are offered at the time of negotiations.

We have already established that three quarters of all US households have at least one pet, this translates to three-quarters of the transferee's being moved, or offered a position which requires they relocate, have at least one pet.

These assignee's mentioned, tried to do the right thing for their families and their long-time pets, but in the end, some of these pets were left behind. Over the years we have heard multiple stories of longtime family pets left behind, surrendered or given away due to the unexpected expense and/or logistical issues.

Whether spoken or not, it frequently comes down to a choice between accepting the new opportunity or giving up the furry four-legged children.

How many assignments are turned down for this reason? How many great employees struggle because they accepted a position and didn't realize what the sacrifices would be then have difficulties on their new assignment due to a split family situation?

We have all seen images from shelters across the USA that are at capacity but what you may not know is that there are also abandoned dogs and cats roaming the streets in many countries (where there are no shelters) because owners cannot afford to bring them back after living abroad.

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE PLEASE

Many feel the risk is too high or the incidence of death is too great to get involved in the movement of family pets. The challenge is for everyone to consider the facts before making decisions on moving pets, whether nationally or internationally.

Several years ago, we lost our, 12-year-old, Cairn terrier, Julie, in a minor car accident. Driving home from a grooming appointment we hit a patch of ice, striking a tree. Neither Julie nor Cooper were properly secured in the car. Cooper flew to the floor and safe from the airbags, Julie did not.

To the surprise of many, Julie had flown to and from Central America for our own international assignment and did just fine. Oddly enough, it was not air travel that caused her untimely death, but an automobile accident, only a few months after our return to the US.

Multiple pets have flown with successful results. Each time our pet parents get a new assignment; we get a call. Oggy traveled 8 times over several years before retiring to Oklahoma 2 years ago. Stella made her 5th trip recently. Josh has been to the United Arab

Emirates, Kuwait and now the Czech Republic, but never without Stella.

Do not be afraid of the elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about. Get ahead of the issue and by doing so you will have more, and no doubt, happier transferees. The happier they are, the better they will do, and this trickles down to your company in their ability to produce better results.

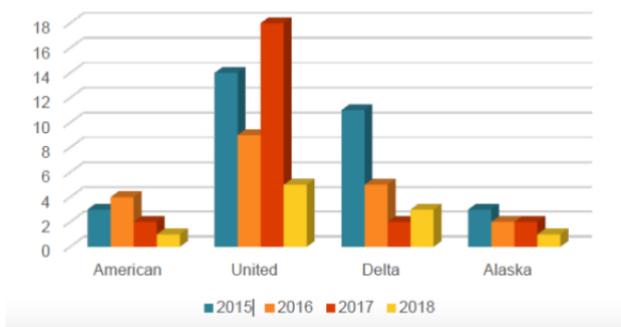
Now the Facts

According to the American Humane Society, an estimated 100,000 dogs die from riding in automobiles. These numbers do not include the dogs that die from jumping out of car windows or are unsecured in cars during a collision, like Julie.

Our shelters are already full. Approximately 7.6 million family pets enter animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, 2.7 million are euthanized because shelters are over capacity and homes cannot be found for these innocent animals.

Department of Transportation (DOT) reports all airline related incidents every year. These reports are available to the public.

In 2016, there were 26 incident reports submitted from the 523,743 animals that flew as manifest cargo (on their own ticket) with various airlines, such as: United, Delta, American and Alaska Airlines. In 2017, 24 incidents out of 506,994. These years were higher rates of incident than 2015, 2018 and 2019, but still nowhere near the number of animals that die on the ground every day.



These few airline incidents are sensationalized by local and national news, television and social media making people afraid of something that is not a real issue.

For clarification, DOT currently requires that these airlines report all incidents. Something as small as a dog breaking its nail or an unhappy cat scratching the airline handler must be included in these reports.

These reports are not meant to suggest that 26 animals perished in 2016 or 24 in 2017, only that there was an unusual “incident” which required reporting under their current policy.

Planning and allowing time for the unexpected changes are the keys to successful pet relocation.

“Without change, there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.”

-William Pollard

Ask how World Pet Travel can help
your family in their next move.

All the stories contained in this book are true. We hope to bring attention to the unfortunate situations that many families, with pets, must face when they accept national and international assignments.

Many feel the risk is too high or the incidence of death is too great to get involved in the movement of family pets. The challenge is for everyone to consider the facts before making a decision to help with the relocation of pets.

Nearly three-quarters, of all U.S. homes are occupied by at least one furry family member. Many pet owners consider their fluffy ones more of a surrogate child than an animal. For these pet owners, their furry creatures are family. Including relocation assistance for THESE children can be the deciding factor in whether or not they accept the new assignment and determining if the move is considered a success.



Angela & Cooper Passman
President of World Pet Travel



World Pet Travel

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