

What is Air Canada Pet-in-Cabin Policy? A Comprehensive Guide for Travelers

Planning a trip with your furry companion can be an exciting experience, but navigating airline regulations requires careful preparation. If you are flying with Canada's flag carrier, understanding the ins and outs of the **Air Canada pet-in-cabin policy** is essential to ensure a smooth journey. Whether you are taking a quick domestic hop or heading on an international getaway, knowing the size limitations, carrier requirements, fees, and booking procedures will save you from last-minute stress at the airport.

For immediate booking assistance, schedule modifications, or expert guidance regarding your itinerary, you can reach out to travel specialists anytime at **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)**.

Overview of Air Canada's In-Cabin Pet Program

Air Canada welcomes small cats and dogs to travel inside the passenger cabin on most of its flights, including those operated by Air Canada Rouge and Air Canada Express. However, space is strictly limited on each aircraft, and animals are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

To guarantee that your companion can board the flight with you, it is vital to secure your pet reservation well in advance. Because policies, aircraft configurations, and capacity limits can change, travelers often find it helpful to speak directly with an agent by calling **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)** to verify space availability before finalizing secondary arrangements.

Key Requirements for In-Cabin Pet Travel

Before packing your bags, verify that your animal meets all mandatory criteria established by Air Canada:

- **Eligible Animals:** Only cats and small dogs are permitted to travel in the cabin. Other species, such as rabbits, rodents, or reptiles, are not allowed in the passenger cabin.

- **Age Requirement:** Pets must be at least 10 weeks old and fully weaned to ensure they are healthy enough for air travel.
- **Weight Limits:** The combined weight of your pet and its carrier must not exceed **10 kg (22 lbs)**. If you are close to this threshold, it is recommended to weigh them on a reliable scale at home, as airport enforcement is strict.
- **Behavior:** Pets must be clean, harmless, odorless, and harmlessly behaved. Animals that display aggressive tendencies or excessive distress may be refused.

If you have questions about whether your specific animal qualifies under these regulations, support is available around the clock at **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)**.

Carrier Specifications and Soft-Sided Mandates

The container holding your pet plays a critical role in whether they will be allowed onboard. Air Canada enforces specific rules regarding pet carriers:

- **Soft-Sided Only:** All pets traveling in the cabin must be housed in a flexible, soft-sided carrier. Hard-sided kennels are no longer accepted for in-cabin travel. Backpack carriers featuring hard plastic windows are also prohibited.
- **Under-Seat Stowage:** The carrier must be small enough to fit completely underneath the seat in front of you. Because exact dimensions vary depending on the aircraft model and seat selection, you should cross-reference your flight layout or call **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)** for precise dimensions.

- **Comfort and Movement:** The carrier must provide enough room for your pet to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably in a natural position. No part of the animal may extend outside the carrier at any time.
- **Ventilation:** The enclosure must feature adequate mesh ventilation on multiple sides to ensure proper airflow.

Seating Restrictions and Exceptions

Not every seat on an Air Canada aircraft is compatible with in-cabin pet travel. When planning your seating arrangement, keep the following restrictions in mind:

- **No Bulkhead or Exit Rows:** Passengers traveling with pets cannot sit in emergency exit rows or bulkhead rows.
- **Exclusion in Premium Economy:** Pets are not permitted in the Premium Economy cabin because the seat design and layout do not allow for safe under-seat stowage of a pet carrier.
- **Unaccompanied Minors:** Children traveling as unaccompanied minors are not permitted to travel with an in-cabin pet.
- **Medical Devices:** If your seat assignment requires a medical device to be stowed under the seat in front of you, you cannot bring an in-cabin pet.

To secure a compliant seat assignment alongside your pet, expert assistance is just a phone call away at **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)**.

Fees and Pricing Structure

Traveling with a pet incurs an additional one-way service fee, which varies depending on your destination and itinerary:

- **Domestic and U.S. Routes:** One-way fees for travel within Canada and between Canada and the United States typically range from **\$50 to \$60 CAD/USD** (plus applicable taxes) when booked in advance.
- **International Routes:** For international flights outside North America, one-way fees generally range from **\$100 to \$120 CAD/USD** to account for complex handling and documentation checks.

*Note: Pet fees apply per one-way direction, meaning return trips are billed separately. If you need help calculating the total cost for a multi-city journey, feel free to contact **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)** for a clear breakdown.*

Step-by-Step Booking Guide

Securing a spot for your four-legged family member requires a proactive approach:

1. **Book Your Passenger Ticket First:** Secure your own flight reservation before attempting to add a pet. Keep your booking reference locator handy.
2. **Reserve Pet Space Immediately:** Because aircraft have strict caps on the number of animals allowed onboard, contact the airline or your booking agent right away. You can call **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)** for immediate assistance with adding your pet to the reservation.
3. **Provide Animal Details:** Be ready to supply your pet's breed, age, total weight (including the carrier), and the exact dimensions of the soft-sided carrier.

4. **Complete Payment:** Pay the pet service fee ahead of time to lock in your space.

Essential Tips for a Smooth Travel Day

- **Arrive Early:** Give yourself extra time at the airport. You will need to check in at the counter so agents can verify your pet's carrier, check documentation, and weigh the animal.
- **Acclimate Your Pet:** Get your pet accustomed to their soft-sided carrier weeks before departure by placing treats and familiar blankets inside.
- **Health and Import Documentation:** If you are crossing international borders (such as flying into the United States), ensure you carry up-to-date rabies vaccination certificates, veterinary health clearances, and any required entry form receipts.

For any last-minute questions or itinerary adjustments regarding your upcoming trip, travel support professionals are available anytime at **1-888-374-4490 (OTA)**.