

Tips for Flying with Dogs

Make air travel as stress-free as possible for your dog.

Posted: June 11, 2007, 5 a.m. EST

Summer is finally here, and that means it's time to travel. Millions of Americans travel with their dogs. But, air travel can be particularly stressful for pets. Dogs can experience motion sickness, dehydration or anxiety while flying.

Susan Kerwin-Hagen, creator of Midwest Airlines' Premier Pet Program, a frequent flyer program for pets, is an American Kennel Club judge and owner of eight champion English Setters, and has been traveling with her dogs for more than 20 years. She is trying to revolutionize air travel for pets by making it more safe and comfortable for them and their owners.

She shares some tips to make flying a calmer and less stressful experience for your dog: Find out whether your dog will be transported with ordinary cargo or in a separate section of the plane that is temperature-controlled and away from engine noise. If your dog doesn't already have a carrier, get one at least a month before your trip so he can get used to it. Keep familiar objects (such as a favorite toy or a piece of clothing with your scent on it) in the carrier with your dog to make him feel comfortable. Try putting cotton balls in your dog's ears to minimize anxiety and changes in cabin pressure. Or, consider calming herbal remedies made for pets – make sure to try them out at home first. Put your contact information on your carrier along with your flight date, time, and number.

For more dog travel tips, [click here](#).