

travelling with pets as accompanied/excess baggage from the uae

Nice long title... but WHAT *exactly* does it mean?!

What follows is an accompanied/excess baggage primer for the uninitiated... and the brave. :-)

In a nutshell, relocating your pet as accompanied/excess baggage is when your pet is travelling with you as part of your own passenger flight booking/ticket, and then, when it's time for your flight, he or she is checked-in at the counter with you, at the same time as you. (You can read more about the different ways in which your pet can travel ~ do you want to read more? really? ~ in our document [Pet Flight Options](#), which can also be found here: [DKC Pet Exports](#).)

After a security screening, an airport porter will then take your pet to a holding area until close to the flight departure time, when she/he will be loaded onto the aircraft. At your final destination airport, a porter on that end should then bring your pet out to the baggage reclaim area for your happy, highly anticipated reunion.

In most cases, due to size, weight and airline regulations, your pet will be travelling in the aircraft hold, which is pressurised and climate-controlled (in fact, the hold is the same place on the aircraft where pets travelling as manifest cargo are put as well). There are, however, a few airlines that allow very small cats and dogs to travel in the cabin with you. In this case, they have to travel in a soft pet carrier which has to be stowed under your chair for take-off and landing... so not a lot of height allowance there!

And that's it! Pretty easy, right?

Uhhh... not quite. :-) Read on.

which airline?

Some airlines will accept pets as accompanied baggage, some will not ~ and those that do each have their own set of specific rules and regulations. Here are the ones that do:

Aeroflot, Air Astana, Air Canada, Air France, Air India, Egypt Air, Emirates, KLM, Lufthansa, Middle East Airlines, Oman Air*, Royal Jordanian, Singapore Airlines, Swiss, Thai Airways and Turkish Airlines.

** about Oman Air: Be aware that it is nigh on impossible to speak to anyone at this airline; they cannot accept pets as accompanied baggage on all of their flights; do not publish any information and also require full travel documentation before advising whether or not they will accept a pet. On this basis the service with them is unreliable and not guaranteed.*

And here are the airlines which will not accept pets as accompanied baggage:

Air Arabia, British Airways, Cebu Pacific Air, Etihad Airways, FlyDubai, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Pakistan International Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Sri Lankan Airlines.

which country?

As with the airlines, countries themselves also have restrictions. So, here's a list of what DKC find to be the most common countries to which our customers relocate **from the UAE** but which will not permit the entry of pets as accompanied baggage:

Australia, UK, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa.

(Is this list too unhappy? Well, think of it the other way round: although this list is not exhaustive and is about NOT allowing accompanied baggage for your pet, it is a pretty small list... so think of the opportunities!)



the regulations, the questions, the process

So, what is the process with the airline and what are all the details you'll need in order to make a booking for your pet to travel with you as accompanied/excess baggage?

We SOOOOOO wish we could give you a straightforward five-point plan to follow. You've heard the expression "one size fits all", right? Well, when it comes to the airlines accepting our pets as accompanied baggage, it is not like that at all... at all... AT ALL!!! BUT... don't be put off! You see, although dealing with the airlines is always hassle-free NOT, if you get through the process in one piece (which you will), then your pet will fly accompanied baggage (if with an accepting airline, of course) and you'll save a bit of cash and some relief on other forms of bureaucracy along the way too.

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As you can see, both airlines and countries decide independently whether or not to permit the arrival of animals as accompanied baggage. Each is their own island (so to speak!).

For the airlines that do accept pets as accompanied baggage (and which are also, naturally, flying into countries that also accept this), each have their own rules and regulations covering which species and breeds they'll accept. Then there's the subjects of: maximum weight; maximum travel box size; whether or not they accept in the hold only, or whether (and what) they'll accept in the cabin; how many pets they'll accept per person; how they charge, how much they charge and how you can make the payment to them. Then there's how long (and easy! or difficult!) their booking approval/acceptance process is and what they'll require for that approval process. And that's just for starters!! (Still with us?)

So, if you are looking to travel with your pet as accompanied baggage, the first question is: which country are you going to and does that country indeed allow pets to enter as accompanied baggage? We can of course assist you with this information, but to get you started we've provided a list in the previous section of the most common countries you might be considering which do not permit this.

Now, if you are indeed relocating to a country which permits the arrival of pets as accompanied baggage, what are your airline options (remembering that they'll be travelling as part of your own flight ticket of course!)? And then, which of these airlines accept pets as accompanied baggage? Will they accept your type of pet (species, breed, size, weight)? This is when it's time to speak to the airline(s) (some airlines have a lot of information on their respective websites) in order to determine whether or not it is an option to take your pet with you as accompanied baggage.

In cases where it is possible, when is the right time to book your pet's flight? Well, the safest time is when making the booking for your own ticket to ensure that there's availability for you all on your desired date of travel. However, it's also possible for you, or someone on your behalf, to add your pet(s) to your ticket *after* you've made your booking. Do be aware, however, that in adding your pets onto your existing booking, there is a real risk that the airline will not have availability for your pet to travel with you on your date of travel due to other pets pre-booked and travelling on your particular flight/travel date. Aaaaannnd... it is also possible that following a provisional airline acceptance of your booking request, the airline may subsequently reject the booking for any number of reasons.

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Does it all seemed doomed for failure? Doom for your sanity? No, don't fret.

The purpose of this document is to help you be aware of the overriding issues in this process should you choose to take on this mission entirely on your own ~ and yes, there are lots and Lots and LOTS of pet owners out there who have indeed successfully completed this mission.

Believe it.

dkc can do it for you

Buuuuuuuuut... we can help. We'll charge you criminally for our services, of course (joking!), but we can help... in these ways:

- Veterinary requirements (where applicable).
- Booking your pet onto your flight ticket.
- Travel document requirements (country-dependent).
- IATA-compliant travel boxes.
- Pre-travel boarding.
- Delivery to the airport and hand-over of your pet to you on your day of travel.
- Accompanied baggage check-in assistance.
- ...and whatever else you might need from us which we can provide.

All you need to do is call or email us to ask for further detail on all this; then we'll talk through with you the process, the requirements, and our charges based on the services you'd like and your destination country.