

LIVE ANIMAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS

You must use a kennel that meets USDA regulations. You may use your own kennel or purchase an approved kennel at most pet supply stores.

All dog and cat kennels must meet the following guidelines:

Construction

The kennel must be of rigid construction with a solid top and ventilation openings on at least three sides. For snub nosed breeds, regulations require the kennel to have ventilation openings on all four sides. Kennels with doors or ventilation openings on top are not permitted.

The kennel door must be made of metal. Plastic or Fiberglass™ doors, including side plastic latches, are prohibited because they lack sufficient strength to protect animals during normal handling.

All hardware (nuts, bolts, rivets, latches, clamps, locking mechanisms, etc.) must be secure and in good repair. A metal nut and bolt must be secured in each hole provided on kennels.

Airline agents will apply releasable cable ties to the kennel door to prevent escapes. Do not put a lock on the kennel door. In accordance with federal regulations, animals must be accessible in the event of an emergency.

Regulations require that wheels, if any, be locked or otherwise rendered inoperable. If your kennel has wheels they must either be removed or taped to prevent the kennel from rolling in transit.

Size

Regulations require the kennel to be large enough to permit your dog or cat to stand and sit erect, to turn around, and to lie in a natural position. Kennels that prohibit the animal from turning around are prohibited.

Your dog's or cat's head (including its ears) must not touch the top while it sits or stands inside the kennel. A good rule-of-thumb is to stand the animal next to the kennel's exterior. If its head or ears extend beyond the top of the kennel, then a larger kennel will be required.

Prohibited/Restricted Kennels

Kennels made entirely of welded mesh, wire mesh, wicker, cardboard, or collapsible materials are strictly prohibited as they do not meet applicable regulations.

Kennels with dual opening doors (e.g. one top and one side) are not permitted.

Kennels with plastic front doors and/or plastic side latches securing the top and bottom halves together without metal hardware are prohibited.

Knockdown or folding kennels are prohibited due to the risk of collapse during transport.

Food and Water Dishes

Your kennel must have two empty dishes (one for food and one for water) securely fastened to the inside of the kennel, yet accessible from the outside without opening the door. In the event of unforeseen delays, food supplied by the shipper is dispensed to the animal. All airlines comply with federal regulations which state animals must be offered food: for dogs/cats less than 16 weeks of age every 12 hours and every 24 hours for those over 16 weeks of age. Water receptacles are filled at stopover locations.

A one piece dish is permitted provided it is divided into two separate compartments.

Water bottles are permitted provided they are firmly secured to the outside of the kennel and are refillable without opening the door. A separate dish for food as described above is also required.

Absorbent Material

The kennel must contain absorbent material or bedding. We suggest shredded copier paper. Shredded black and white newspaper works also, do not use any colored newspaper, these can become toxic to the animals when it gets wet.

Please note that straw, hay or wood shavings are prohibited.