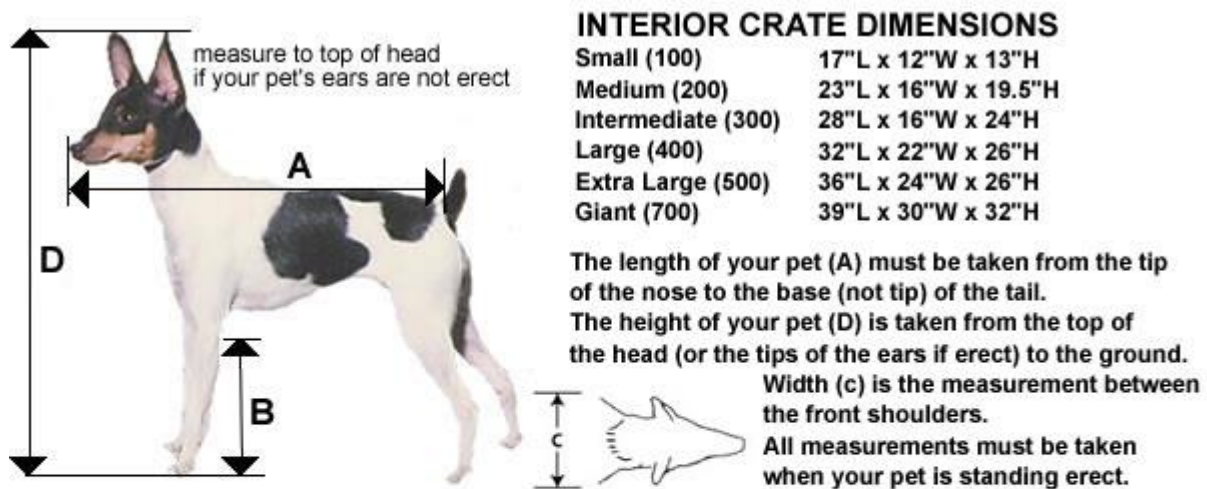


## PREPARING YOUR PET FOR TRAVEL AS CHECKED BAGGAGE OR AIR CARGO

### SIZING YOUR CRATE

Be sure and follow these guidelines when selecting the size of crate that your pet will need. The INTERIOR CRATE DIMENSIONS as shown are for Petmate Sky Kennel crates.



IATA requires the following minimums: Kennel Length =  $A + [1/2 \times B]$ , Kennel Width =  $C \times 2$ , Kennel Height = D

**NOTE:** These are minimums specified by IATA. Individual airlines can increase these measurements. As an example, on international flights, United Cargo requires Length =  $A+B$ , Width =  $[C+1] \times 2$  and Height =  $D + 3"$ . Pet owners are encouraged to verify crate requirements with their airlines if traveling internationally.

Snub-nosed pets need a minimum of 10% additional dimensions.

### PRETRIP PLANNING

When your pet crate arrives, unpack it and wipe it out with a mild solution of soap and water. Do NOT assemble the crate unless your travel is immediate.

### ACCLIMATING YOUR PET

The time it will take to acclimate your pet to its crate depends on your pet's personality. The important thing is to be consistent and do not give up. These steps offer suggestions as to starting the process.

**STEP #1:** Place the bottom half of the crate in an accessible place. Put a few items your pet is familiar with in the bottom portion of the crate. Get your pet used to the smell and feel of the crate. If your pet has its own bed, put it in the crate. Give your pet a few treats while in the crate so that your pet has a positive association with it. Putting a well-used t-shirt with your scent on it is also an incentive for your pet to use its crate.

**STEP #2:** When you feel that your pet is comfortable with the crate, assemble the crate and place the pet inside for a few minutes at a time while praising your pet. Leave the crate accessible to the pet with the *door always open* so that your pet can come and go as they please.

**STEP #3:** After your pet starts using its crate without your intervention, try taking it in its crate by car to a park or someplace where they can play (ex dog parks, a friend or relative's house, out to eat with you). We want your pet to associate the pet crate with a fun experience. Do not use the pet crate to take your pet to the veterinarian or the groomer at this point. Start with short trips and lengthen them. Always praise your pet for their good behavior when you come home.

### **PREPARE THE CRATE FOR TRAVEL**

- Make sure that the crate is properly assembled. Use crate hardware to fasten the upper and lower halves of the crate and zip tie each corner.
- Attach the Live Animal stickers to the outside of the crate. Fill out the Declaration sticker and put it on the top of the crate.
- Attach a vinyl sleeve containing copies of your pet's veterinary certificates and your contact information with a zip tie or tape it to the top of the crate with heavy tape. Mark the sleeve with ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS – DO NOT REMOVE.
- Place an absorbent pad in the bottom of the crate. Do not use kitty litter or wood chips as they will cause problems with customs clearance at your destination.
- Fill the plastic bowl provided with the crate, or included in the accessory kit, with water and freeze it. **Don't forget to take it out of the freezer and attach it to the inside of the crate door on the day you travel.**
- If you need crate accessories, Live Animal stickers or cable ties for your crate, we have them at [PetTravelStore.com](http://PetTravelStore.com). We even have the option to add just what you need to update your crate to IATA standards in our Update Your Pet Crate kit.

### **DAY OF TRAVEL**

Shortly before you are ready to check your pet with the airline, take it for one more walk on airport grounds. Attach the frozen water bowl to the inside of the crate door. Attach a small bag of your pet's food in a zip lock bag to the top of the crate. This will be used by the airline personnel if the flight is delayed. Make sure you complete the Shippers Declaration label and attach it to the top of the crate.

Make sure that your pet's identification papers and veterinary certificates are secured in a plastic bag or vinyl sleeve to the outside of the pet crate.

Do NOT give your pet a medical tranquilizer. There are natural pet calming products available which will calm your pet and make it easier for them to sleep but will not affect their breathing.

Check your pet in according to your airline's requirements. Usually this is 1 1/2 to 2 hours for checked baggage, but it may be up to 4 hours prior to take off for cargo transport. After boarding, ask the flight attendant to inform the Captain that there is a pet traveling in cargo and confirm it has been loaded.

## **ON ARRIVAL**

The location you will pick up your pet will vary by airline and whether you are traveling nationally or internationally. Some countries may take the pet to a special holding area where it will clear customs. Normally, pets traveling as checked baggage will be in the crate in the baggage area against a wall where they have placed oversized bags such as golf clubs or skis. Your airline will advise you. If your pet is traveling as air cargo, you will claim it at the cargo facility of your airline.

Your pet may seem a bit disoriented and perhaps out of sorts after the long flight. A few treats, a hug, and a long walk with you will make everything much better.

The first trip may be harder than any succeeding ones. Aside from the separation and unfamiliar surroundings, your pet will be much happier with you on your vacation than waiting for you at home.

Everything mentioned here is available at <https://www.pettravelstore.com> at great prices. We only stock the best products for pet travel and we almost always ship same day for orders placed before 4:00 PM EST. We also ship internationally, for all products except larger crate sizes.