

## Too Hot To Fly: Summer Airline Pet Embargoes



by Kim Salerno

If you're traveling with your pet this summer and plan to fly to your destination, make sure you familiarize yourself with the airline's pet embargo policy before you book your flight. During the summer, many airlines don't allow pets aboard flights-as checked baggage or as cargo-when temperatures are high. Airline pet embargoes are in the best interest of your pet and play a vital role in ensuring his or her safety.

Not only is air travel stressful for your pet, but it can also pose serious health risks. Being confined in his carrier for long periods of time during the hottest months of the year is potentially dangerous for your pet and may lead to dehydration and heatstroke. In addition, certain breeds, such as brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs and cats, are susceptible to pulmonary distress when temperatures are extreme.

According to the International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA), embargoes protect pets from exposure to extreme heat while they're in the holding areas and terminal facilities, while moving them between terminals and aircraft, or while they're on an aircraft awaiting departure.

"Heat embargoes are critical during the summer months," says Sally Smith, past president of IPATA. "They protect our pets and keep them safe and comfortable while traveling."

Since airlines impose embargoes to ensure your pet's safety, there are no exceptions. However, if an embargo is in effect on the day of your flight, the airline will work with you to re-route your flight, if possible, or schedule your flight for another day.

Although each airline establishes its own policies for pet embargoes, the following are a few commercial airlines and some of their regulations.

**Alaska Airlines**—Although Alaska Airlines doesn't have any embargoes scheduled this summer, if temperatures are too high for pets to travel safely, they may place an embargo. However, your pet may travel with you in the cabin if he fits in an approved carrier that can be placed under your seat.

**American Airlines**—To ensure your pet isn't exposed to extreme heat, American Airlines imposes an embargo any time the current or forecasted temperature is above 85 degrees Fahrenheit at any location on the itinerary. However, if your pet fits in an approved carrier that can

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be placed under your seat, he can travel with you in the cabin.

**Delta Air Lines**—To ensure the safety of your pet, Delta places an embargo on pets as checked baggage from May 15 through September 15. If at any point—origin, transit, destination—the temperature is forecast to be above 85 degrees Fahrenheit—or 75 degrees Fahrenheit for brachycephalic pets—your pet can't travel. However, your pet may be able to fly as cargo via the Summer Live Animal Program. (Restrictions apply, particularly for brachycephalic pets.) Launched in 2011, the program, which is in effect from May 15 through October 15, lifts temperature restrictions and provides safe transportation of your pet in select cities. Delta Cargo uses climate-controlled vans to pick up and deliver your pet to or from the plane, holding areas, and cargo facilities. Your pet is also loaded or unloaded according to specific time frames. In addition, your pet may travel with you in the cabin if he fits in an approved carrier that can be placed under your seat.

**Southwest Airlines**—Since Southwest Airlines doesn't allow pets to travel as checked baggage or in the cargo hold, they don't impose pet embargoes. Your small cat or dog can travel with you in the cabin in an approved carrier that is small enough to fit under your seat.

Since each airline has a different summer pet embargo policy, visit [TripsWithPets.com](http://TripsWithPets.com) and review our Airline Pet Policies. And don't forget to review our Pet Travel Tips for Flying and check out the airline-approved carriers at the TWP Store.

Your pet's safety is your top priority. Choosing an airline that fits your needs can help ensure the flight is a positive experience for both you and your pet.

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*About the Author:* Kim Salerno is the president and founder of [TripsWithPets.com](http://TripsWithPets.com). She founded the pet travel site in 2003 and is an expert in the field of pet travel. Her popular website features pet friendly hotels and accommodations across the US and Canada, along with other helpful pet travel resources. Her mission is to ensure that pets are welcome, happy, and safe in their travels. □



## Summer Safety For Your Pet

by Jenna Stregowski, RVT,  
About.com Guide

Summer can be wonderful time for you and your dog to spend time outdoors exercising and having fun. However, it is important to understand that hot temperatures can be very dangerous, too, and you must keep your dog cool. The most common warm weather hazards include heat stroke, dehydration and sunburn—all of which can be prevented.

Watch your dog for signs of illness, and call your vet right away if any problems arise. In order to keep your dog safe, here are some important things you need to know about summer time hazards and prevention.

### Automobiles

Never leave your dog in the car unattended. Despite the many warnings about this, each summer brings numerous accounts of dogs that become sick or even die of heat stroke because they were left in a car. Even if it does not seem that hot outside, the temperature inside the car can rise to dangerous levels within minutes. If you absolutely must bring your dog with you on errands, make sure you bring another person who can stay in the running, air-conditioned car with your dog. Otherwise, do your dog a favor—leave your pet at home.

### Outdoor Play

Steer clear of long walks and strenuous exercise on hot, sunny days. Avoid prolonged sun exposure. Not only is there a risk of heat stroke—dogs can get sunburns, too. Consider sunscreen for your dog (compare prices). If you are planning to spend time outdoors with your dog, find a shady spot and provide plenty of fresh, cool water. Try to take leisurely walks during the cooler times of the day, like the morning or evening hours. Remember to protect your dog's feet from getting scorched by hot pavement. Sunscreen for dogs can help protect your dog as well.

### Events

It might be best to leave your dog at home when going to large outdoor festivals or parties. A large crowd can be overwhelming and it increases the chances of injury, dehydration and exhaustion. Plus, there's bound to be a lot of unhealthy or even toxic food and trash on the ground that your dog might try to eat. Also remember that fireworks and other loud noises can frighten dogs into running away or otherwise injuring themselves. If you do bring your dog to events, keep her close by and watch out for potential hazards.

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### Swimming and Water Activities

Stay near your dog while playing or swimming in a lake, river or the ocean. Contrary to common belief, not all dogs are skilled swimmers. Also remember that even the most experienced swimmer can become a victim of an undertow, jellyfish or other hazard. Also, prevent your dog from drinking the water. Salt water can cause dehydration, vomiting and diarrhea. Water in lakes, ponds and rivers may contain parasites and bacteria that can infect your dog. Always provide plenty of fresh, clean water for drinking.

If you bring your dog on a boat or canoe, a life jacket is just as important for your dog as it is for you. Falling or jumping overboard is always possible. Any dog that spends time near water should have her very own pet life vest.

### Parasites and Pests

Spending time outdoors means more exposure to various parasites and pests. Always check your dog for ticks after spending time outside. Keep your dog on flea prevention to avoid flea-related issues. Because mosquitoes carry heartworm disease, your dog must be on heartworm prevention if you live in an area where mosquitoes are present. Also remember that an encounter with a skunk can be quite a hassle. More dangerous are snake bites, which commonly occur in spring and summer. Stings and bites from insects such as bees, wasps, scorpions and spiders are also risks.

### Keeping Your Dog Safe

Bottom line: keep an eye on your dog. Don't leave her unattended. It's important to always exercise common sense and proceed with caution to help keep your dog safe, regardless of the season. Summertime comes with its own set of hazards, so make sure you are familiar with the risks. Learn what warning signs mean trouble. When in doubt, call your vet right away. When all is said and done, it will be much easier for you and your dog to enjoy the summer. ☐



## July 4th Pet Safety Tips

The Fourth of July is one of the most stressful and potentially dangerous times of the year for pets. While you and your family, friends, and neighbors are celebrating the holiday with fireworks, pets are finding these festive activities anything but celebratory.

Many pet parents assume that if their pet is not afraid of thunder or other loud noises, they will not be bothered by fireworks. This is not necessarily true. Even pets who normally are not bothered by thunder and other loud noises are often frightened and panicked by the cumulative effects of the fireworks, the excited voices outside, and being left alone inside the house.

If pets are left outside and unattended, the noise and raucous often drives them to run away. In fact, the July 4th



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holiday is a very busy time for animal shelters across the U.S. They report taking in a higher number dogs that run off during firework festivities. In addition, many police stations log higher volumes of stray dog calls and barking complaints on July 4th compared to any other day of the year.

By planning ahead and taking some common sense precautions, you can help ensure your pet is happy and safe this Fourth of July.

- Do not take your pet to fireworks displays.
- Do not leave your pet alone in the car. With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects even death in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but they do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen. However, if your pet is most comfortable in the car, some pet parents find that driving around with their pet in the car helps to calm their pet.
- Keep your pets in your home in a comfortable and quiet area with the shades drawn. If your pet is crate trained, then their crate is a great choice. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep your pet company while you're attending Fourth of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations.
- If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways

to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.

- If your pet seeks comfort in a bath tub, under a bed or other small space...let them. Do not try to lure them out. If the space is safe and it makes them feel more secure, let them be.
- Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.
- Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

*Here's to you and your pet having a happy and safe Independence Day!*

The author, Kim Salerno, is the president and founder of Trips-WithPets.com. She founded the pet travel site in 2003 and is an expert in the field of pet travel. Her popular website features pet friendly hotels and accommodations across the US and Canada, along with other helpful pet travel resources. Her mission is to ensure that pets are welcome, happy, and safe in their travels. TripsWithPets.com is the #1 online resource for pet travel. It was named best pet travel site by Consumer Reports! □

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