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Pet Friendly Airlines

Need to fly with my cat. Any first hand experience flying with a cat?

What are the pet friendly airlines? Will I be able to keep him with me?

I have three former shelter cats that are now show cats and have flown twice with one of them to shows. They're really jacked the rates on flying with your pet and some airlines don't allow them at all. This is a list I made up by checking different airline's websites. These rates are for flying with you in the cabin:

Airline	Rate each way	Round Trip	Notes
Alaska	\$100.00	\$200.00	small hard carrier fits
American	\$100.00	\$200.00	
Continental	\$125.00	\$250.00	
Delta	\$150.00	\$300.00	counts as one carry-on - two bags can be checked free of charge
Frontier	\$0.00	\$0.00	not allowed in cabin
Northwest	\$150.00	\$300.00	
United	\$125.00	\$250.00	
USAir	\$100.00	\$200.00	counts as one carry-on AND airlines charges \$15 for first checked bag, \$25 for second
WestJet	\$50CDN	\$81.00US	need to be soft-sided carrier - two bags can be checked free of charge.

You MUST reserve a spot for your cat well in advance. Airlines only allow a certain number of animals in the cabin for each flight - so you can't just show up at the airport and expect to fly.

Most airlines also require a health certificate for your cat that's no less than 10 days from the date of flight - so check what the rules are and make sure you've done everything you're supposed to.

Do !!!NOT!!!! give your cat any sort of medication to calm it down for the flight. Cats can have adverse reactions to medications and should your cat get sick midflight there will be nothing you can do to save it. DO put a nice warm snuggly blanket or pad in the carrier.

I've flown Alaska and WestJet so far and both were just fine. WestJet's the most affordable but I really had to squeeze her airline-approved soft carrier under the seat to get it to fit. Poor Mocha must have felt like a wedge of cheese! Alaska there was plenty of room and we traveled with her in a small hard plastic cat carrier which fit under the seat with plenty of room to spare.

Make sure your cat is microchipped as well as wearing a harness with ID. You will have to take the cat out of the carrier when you go through the security checkpoint and the harness gives you a little extra something to hold onto in case anything frightens her. It went off for us because I had forgotten to take off my shoes and my cat actually didn't react at all. In fact, she seemed quite happy with all the attention she got from the security people wanting to pet her!

Pet Friendly Airlines - KLM Animal Hotel

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