

# AIRLINE ADVICE

REFERENCE GUIDE OF TIPS FOR FLYING RABBITS & CAVIES

**GET SET TO JET  
SET WITH YOUR  
RABBITS OR  
CAVIES!**

Use this guide as a quick reference when embarking on the task of flying rabbits or cavies on airlines. We know sending rabbits and cavies via air is not always easy, so hopefully these tips from those who have done it before will be helpful in preparing and executing your animals' trip. These general tips apply to most airlines, but since airline rules and regulations are continually changing, please be sure to also review individual airline regulations as well.

- *Carefully research all options for airlines and get quotes on pricing. Rules, restrictions, and pricing with airline carriers all tend to vary greatly and change continuously, so the more informed you are the better off you will be in making your final flight choices.*
- *As a general guideline, if you are flying a small amount of animals (such as 6 or less), sending them as checked baggage may be a good option for you if the airline offers it. If you are sending a larger number of animals, however, it is most likely more cost-effective and easier to ship them via air cargo.*
- *Make your flight reservations as early as possible to ensure availability. If you are flying animals checked baggage, make reservations for yourself and the animals at the same time if at all possible. If you are sending animals via air cargo, make the reservation as soon as they allow you to - which is usually a week or so before the scheduled flight, depending on the airline.*
- *If flying checked baggage, try to pay for the animals at the time you make your reservation if the airline will allow that. It will save you time and hassle at the airport.*
- *Monitor weather reports and airline temperature restrictions for the times of your animals' flight. Many airlines will not fly rabbits/cavies if temperatures are too high or low at any point on the flight plan. If you see that this may be a problem ahead of time, you can call in and reschedule, saving a trip to the airport or cargo facility.*

- *Be sure to use kennels/carriers that are airline-approved and meet the individual regulations of the airline you are flying on. Generally, the carriers need to be designed such that they have solid tops, absorbent bedding in the bottom, the animals can stand up and turn around freely, have proper ventilation, are labeled with "live animals" and directional stickers, and are made of sturdy material. Rabbit/cavy carriers modified with solid tops and locked together will work in most cases. It is even better to place carriers into a large plastic dog kennel/crate for shipping them either air cargo or checked baggage for extra protection.*
- *If the airline requires a veterinary health certificate, be sure to secure this within the time frame needed, usually within 10 days of the flight. It also works well to place the certificate inside a manilla envelope labeled "Health Certificate" and secure that envelope to the top of the kennel. This makes it secure and easily accessible to airline personnel.*
- *Make sure your animals have food and water available to them in the carriers/kennel.*
- *Arrive early at the airport or cargo facility. The extra time will help you to make your own flights and/or the animals' flights on time for sure, even in the event that things take longer than anticipated to get off the ground.*
- *When working with and speaking with airline personnel, always be courteous, cooperative, calm, and confident. If you show them that you are confident in what you are doing, they will be more likely to work with you in expediting the process and you will be serving as a good representative of our rabbit hobby.*

**HAPPY FLYING!!!**

*Compiled October 2009 by:*

*ARBA Airlines Committee*

*Jennifer Whaley, Chairperson*