PETS ON BOARD: THE CALM, CLEAR WAY TO CROSS BORDERS TOGETHER

News / Business aviation



As more families refuse to consign their animals to a cargo hold, one corner of private aviation keeps growing: pet flights where dogs, cats- even birds - ride in the cabin, beside their people. The appeal is simple: fewer unknowns, less stress, and a journey planned around the animal's needs rather than airport congestion. That's the promise behind Charter-A's pet-friendly flights, which treat animals as passengers—not freight.

What changes when you fly this way? Boarding is unhurried; crews and ground teams are used to greeting four-legged travellers; and pets settle on the seat or floor by their owners. For UK arrivals, Charter-A routes flights through the correct gateways and handles paperwork in advance to keep ground time short. Many checks are completed planeside, so you're on your way quickly- no queues, no separation anxiety.

The rules, made easy. To enter or return to Great Britain, pets travel with one of: an **EU/Part-1 pet passport**, a **GB-issued Animal Health Certificate used for EU travel** (valid for re-entry for up to four months), or a **GB pet health certificate**. UK arrivals must use **DEFRA-approved airports** with operators approved to carry pets - part of why private charter is such a clean fit for

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these journeys.

Health timing matters. The UK requires microchipping and a valid **rabies vaccination** given after microchip placement and **at least 21–22 days before arrival**. Dogs also need **tapeworm treatment** administered **24–120 hours** before landing, recorded by a vet (with limited origin exceptions). For EU entries, pets are microchipped, rabies-vaccinated, and accompanied by an **Animal Health Certificate** confirming rabies antibody serology. Your vet handles the medicine; Charter-A orchestrates the timing and the clearances.

Why owners switch. Beyond comfort, it's predictability: pets are **pre-cleared**, can stretch their legs before boarding, and never ride in the hold—**ever**. The company's teams manage the route, the airport choice, and the documents, so the travel day feels like…a travel day, not a gauntlet.

Standards behind the service. Flights are arranged on **CAA or EASA-approved AOCs**, with fully insured, type-rated pilots; Charter-A is a member of the **Air Charter Association**. Phone lines are staffed **24/7**, which helps when plans evolve or a vet's appointment shifts vaccination dates. Aircraft are **deep-cleaned**, and processes refined since COVID remain in place for cabin hygiene and peace of mind.

A quick picture. Think: Geneva to London with an elderly Labrador who hates crowds. The car stops beside the aircraft; there's time for a short walk and a reassuring rub behind the ears. Ninety minutes later, the pet clearance happens right by the steps, and everyone goes home together. No crates. No conveyor belts. Just a good travel day for a very good dog.

Planning your own trip. Start with dates, route, number of passengers and pets, plus any vet notes. From there, Charter-A quotes the right aircraft and confirms the document path for your itinerary -UK, EU, or further afield. With the microchip in, vaccinations dated, and tapeworm treatment scheduled where required, you're set for a smooth crossing.

To discuss routes, airports and paperwork for your pet's journey, contact Charter-A's operations team and ask for a pet flight quote. More details available here: https://www.charter-a.com/pet-flights/

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