



Milsa Grant of New York holds her dog, Lulu Madonna, as she waits to check in at the Delta terminal at LaGuardia Airport in New York in 2005. Experts say owners should make sure pet carriers will fit under airline seats.

• **Pets**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

Most mishaps, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, stem not from mishandling or a panicked animal getting injured or lost but from sedation.

The veterinary association advises against giving tranquilizers to pets during air travel because the results are often unpredictable, even fatal.

"An animal's natural ability to balance and maintain equilibrium is altered under sedation," said Dr. Patricia Olson, director of veterinary affairs and studies for the American Humane Association. "When the kennel is moved, a sedated animal may not be able to brace and prevent injury."

Continental now requires passengers to sign a waiver saying their animal has not been sedated, but most airlines don't have that rule.

All these different policies can be confusing. "It seems like it all depends on the mood of the person you're dealing with at the airport that day," said Eric Buss, a magician from Los Angeles who has traveled by plane with the doves and rabbits he uses in his act.

But there are some rules that you and the airlines must follow. Here's what you need to know about flying with your pet:

- Federal officials began making the pet-related travel statistics public last year for the first time as part of regulations imposed by the Safe Air Travel for Animals Act, which was passed by Congress in 2000 under pressure from animal rights activists. Most air trips with pets are without incident.

There were 14 reported pet deaths, four injuries and six lost animals between May and September.

- Most airlines require pets to be considered healthy, under 100 pounds and at least 8 weeks old.
- Pets are never allowed out of their containers, and, of course, the airline assumes no responsibility for their health and well being. (Many even state on their Web sites that crew members cannot perform lifesaving measures on ailing pets.)

- Less traditional pets aren't allowed at all, such as potbellied pigs, primates and certain venomous reptiles. And that usually means no snakes on a plane.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates pet air-travel, requires a health certificate from a vet 10 days before traveling for animals flying as cargo, but not when flying as checked baggage or carry-on. Martz suggests carrying such certification in any case just in case you are asked for it.

- Many airlines, like Continental, United and American, suggest and apply the certification even for pets transported in the cabin because some states require it. (To learn which ones, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs) Health certification is also required on most international flights.

- Fees vary. JetBlue charges \$50 for a pet to fly in the cabin; Continental, \$95, American and Northwest, \$80. It's free on USAir Shuttle and Delta Shuttle.

- American Airlines, Delta and JetBlue allow pets in the cabin. Frontier and Champion only allow them as cargo. Southwest won't let pets fly at all.

- Some airlines only allow one animal in the cabin per flight. American allows up to seven. Sometimes certified service dogs count as a pet; sometimes they don't.

- Check in at least two hours before time, and have all paperwork ready.

- Tape a note on the pet container with all relevant information: name of the pet, age, destination and flight number.

- Familiarize your pet with its carrier before leaving home, and make sure the pet is wearing tags or is microchipped.

Of course, even when you take every precaution and follow all the rules, flying with pets can be challenging.

Jenn Fromm, an attorney from Los Angeles who recently flew her cats from Boston, still has scars from where her cat clawed her in a panicked escape attempt while going through a security checkpoint.

The cat didn't get away, but he cried during the entire five-hour flight.

She'll never do it again. "I would rather drive with my cat for five days than go through five more hours of that."

Mother cat adopts Rottweiler pup

Baby rejected by mother finds new feline family

By STEPHEN SINGER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MERIDEN, Conn.

Who says cats and dogs don't get along? Workers at the Meriden Humane Society are marveling at a short-haired mother cat that has adopted a 6-day-old Rottweiler puppy that was rejected by its mother.

The tiny pup, named Charlie by Humane Society volunteers, nurses alongside a jumble of black and gray kittens recently born to Satin, who was taken to the shelter by an owner unable to care for her.

Charlie's mother was found by the side of the road in Meriden a couple of months ago. She gave birth to two puppies, but one was stillborn. As sometimes happens with a still-born in the litter, the mother refused to accept Charlie.

Volunteers bottle-fed him every two hours, but the effort was exhausting for them and insufficient for the puppy, volunteer Chris Chorney said.

Research indicated that a suitable substitute could be Satin, who had given birth to four kittens that have quickly warmed to Charlie.

"The kittens scrum up with him, and the kittens treat him like one of their own,"



Charlie, a Rottweiler mix whose mother rejected him, snuggles with his substitute mother, Satin, and her babies at the Meriden Humane Society in Meriden, Conn. The cat had just had her kittens and took on Charlie in addition. "The kittens treat him like one of their own," volunteer Chris Chorney said.

Chorney said. "There's a certain social benefit of small animals being with each other."

Such relationships are not all that unusual in certain circumstances, said Deirdre Chiaramonte, a veterinarian at the Animal Medical Center, a specialty teaching hospital in New York.

The cozy arrangement between Charlie, Satin and the kittens will likely changes as

the pup grows. Full-grown male Rottweilers commonly weigh 100 pounds.

Volunteers are hoping that dog owners will volunteer their puppies to be Charlie's playmates.

"Dogs need to be with a litter of puppies to learn to play with other dogs," Chorney said. "He has to learn to be a well-socialized dog."

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• **Snow**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

White River Fire Chief Eric Brown added that he remembers getting out of school for days during the blizzard of 1978.

"The snow was over the fence posts, and they had to come in with pay-loaders to scoop up the snow and dump it," he said.

Brown recalled taking his sister and friends for rides as he

drove his grandpa's tractor with a sled behind it.

"Now I take my daughter around behind my golf cart," he said.

As I passed Royal Oak Golf Course at noon Tuesday, there were 40 children making their own snow-day memories.

Janet Hommel Mangas, the third of seven children, grew up on the east side of Greenwood. She now resides in the Center Grove area with her husband and three daughters.

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