



Cabin-Only-Pet-Policy – Does Southwest Airlines allow pets in the cabin?

Yes — **Southwest Airlines does allow pets in the cabin** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 but only under **specific cabin-only pet policy rules** that apply to **small +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)** → 🌐 **vaccinated domestic cats and dogs** that fit in approved carriers stowed beneath your seat || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **Pets are not permitted in checked baggage or cargo** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **they must remain in their carrier at all times** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and there are limits on the number of pets per flight and strict carrier size requirements you must follow || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || To book or confirm space for your pet +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 contact Southwest in advance at **@ 📞 [+1{833 } {275 } {60(17)}]** 📍 or through Southwest’s official reservation channels || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

📄 Introduction to the Southwest Airlines Cabin-Only Pet Policy

When planning air travel with a furry family member +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 one of the first and most important questions travelers ask is whether the **airline will allow pets in the cabin with them** || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || In the case of **Southwest Airlines** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 one of the largest low-cost carriers in the United States +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 pet travel is permitted under a **cabin-only policy** designed to balance the comfort and safety of all passengers with the needs of pet owners || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || This blog explores every facet of that policy — from eligibility requirements to booking advice +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 fees +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and expert tips — to help you prepare for your next journey with your beloved pet || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Before you book your ticket +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 it is crucial to understand Southwest’s **cabin-only approach** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 the associated **fees** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 the **carrier requirements** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 restrictions on international travel +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and how to make sure your pet travels comfortably and meets all airline rules || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || You’ll find all of this detailed here +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 along with the most updated guidance reflecting current standards || +1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Southwest Airlines Pet Policy Overview – What Pets Are Allowed

One of the most sought-after details for pet owners is **which pets Southwest Airlines allows on board** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Under the airline's **cabin-only pet policy** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 only **small +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 vaccinated domestic cats and dogs** are accepted in the aircraft cabin || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || These animals must be **at least 8 weeks old** and must travel in an **approved pet carrier** that fits entirely under the seat in front of you || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Any pets that are **larger than the carrier size** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 pets that are **not cats or dogs** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 or pets that require special handling or space cannot fly in the cabin || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Southwest explicitly **does not carry pets as checked baggage or in cargo compartments** — a distinction that sets it apart from some other carriers that may permit cargo pet transport || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Because pet spaces are limited +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 it is **essential to contact Southwest Airlines as early as possible** to reserve your pet's spot — you can call @📞 [+1{833 } *275 *60(17)}] 📞 for help with reservations +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 carrier questions +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and making sure all your pet's documentation is in order before departure || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Why Southwest Airlines Uses a Cabin-Only Approach for Pets

Southwest Airlines has adopted a **cabin-only pet policy** for several reasons: safety +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 comfort +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and convenience for both passengers and pets || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Unlike cargo holds +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 cabin environments are pressurized and temperature-controlled for human travelers +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 which also benefits pets during the flight || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Allowing pets only in the cabin gives owners peace of mind +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 knowing they can monitor their animals throughout the journey || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

However +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 this approach also means **Southwest has limits on the number of pets allowed per flight** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Typically +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 only **up to six pet carriers** are accepted on each aircraft +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and these are allocated on a **first-come +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 first-served basis** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || This constraint is designed to prevent overcrowding and ensure pets remain safe and manageable in the cabin space || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Because of these limitations +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 Southwest encourages customers to **make pet reservations when booking their own tickets or as soon as possible afterward** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 either online where applicable or by calling @ 📞 [+1{833 } *275 *60(17)}] 📞 to ensure that your flight can accommodate your pet || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Understanding Pet Reservations and Advance Booking

One of the most important aspects of the **Southwest Airlines cabin-only pet policy** is that you cannot simply show up with your pet at the airport and expect to fly with them — **advance reservations for pets are essential** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Because space is limited +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 Southwest requires pet owners to **notify the airline and reserve a place for the pet carrier** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || This typically must be done by phone or at the time of booking your flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and **cannot be completed online** in most cases || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

To make such a reservation +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 call Southwest or your booking agent +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and be sure to provide your full flight information and details about your pet || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || If you're unsure whether your pet qualifies based on size or breed +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 the Southwest representative at @ 📞 [+1{833 } *275 *60(17)}] 📞 can advise you on appropriate carriers and eligibility requirements || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

If you fail to reserve your pet's space in advance +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 you risk the possibility of being denied boarding with your animal +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 even if you have purchased a ticket for yourself and your pet carrier meets all size requirements || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Advance planning also allows you to **confirm fees** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **review carrier specifications** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and prepare paperwork or vaccinations that may be recommended or required || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Pet Carrier Requirements on Southwest Airlines

A central part of the cabin-only pet policy is the **pet carrier itself** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Southwest **only allows pets that can remain in an airline-approved carrier that fits under the seat in front of you** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || The carrier must be **leak-proof** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **well-ventilated** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **and secure** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 ensuring your pet's safety from boarding through landing || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Southwest's general carrier dimension guidelines require that carriers do not exceed measurements typically around **18** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **5 in** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **× 8** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **5 in** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **× 13** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || **5 in** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || (length × width × height) +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 though exact limits may vary slightly by aircraft type or carrier design || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Your pet must be able to **stand up** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **turn around** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **and lie down comfortably** in the carrier to qualify || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

If your pet cannot fit comfortably within these dimensions +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 or if the carrier is too large to be stowed under the seat +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 Southwest will not allow your pet in the cabin || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || This is one reason why it's so important to contact Southwest or call **@ 📞 [+1{833 } {275 } {6017}]** 📞 well before your travel date to confirm carrier requirements and avoid surprises at the airport || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Continue reading the blog with more sections covering **fees and costs** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **restrictions on travel destinations (international & Hawaii)** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **health and documentation requirements** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **restrictions during boarding and deplaning** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 **tips for traveling comfortably with your pet** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and **frequently asked questions** — all in the same high-quality +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 SEO-rich paragraph format || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || (Remaining sections follow in continuation because of word limit instruction compliance in a single block || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||)



Fees and Costs for Pet Travel with Southwest Airlines

Traveling with your pet is a wonderful experience +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 but Southwest Airlines charges a **pet fare for each pet carrier** you bring on board || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || The cost is collected at the **airport ticket counter at check-in** +1-(855) *108

*8118 (No wait) → 🌐 and cannot typically be prepaid online || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Fees vary by route and current policies but are generally in line with standard pet fares across major airlines || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

You should always call to confirm the **exact pet fare** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 because airlines occasionally update pricing || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || By phoning airline support at **@ 📞 [+1{833 } \$275 } \$60(17)}]** 📞 +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 you can get the most accurate and updated fee structure before traveling || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Common pet fares for domestic U || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || S || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || flights start around standard single-flight pet fees and may differ for flights within connections such as Puerto Rico or other specific regions || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Understanding these fees ahead of time helps you budget properly +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and ensures you are not surprised when paying at check-in || ++1~855~108 ~8118(No wait) || If your pet's flight fails to be confirmed or you cancel your own flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 Southwest may offer a **refund for the pet fare** under certain conditions — just be sure to ask the representative when you call **@ 📞 [+1{833 } \$275 } \$60(17)}]** 📞 || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||



International and Destination Restrictions

While Southwest Airlines does allow pets in the cabin on domestic flights +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 there are notable **restrictions on travel** || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Southwest does **not allow pets on international flights** or on flights between the continental United States and Hawaii || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Pets are also not carried as checked baggage or cargo on any route || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

If you plan to travel with your pet beyond these domestic routes +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 you will need to review alternative travel arrangements or different airlines that support international pet transport +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 including cargo services or advanced pet handling programs || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Before you book +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 it's wise to call @ 📞 [+1{833 } {275 } {60(17)}] 📞 to confirm that your intended flight will permit pets under the cabin-only policy || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Health and Documentation Considerations

Although Southwest does not generally require extensive documentation beyond proof of vaccinations for your pet +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 it's recommended that pets be current on all appropriate vaccines and in good health before flying || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Southwest may visually check your carrier and confirm your pet's condition at check-in +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and will deny boarding if the pet does not meet policy standards or behaves in a disruptive or unsafe manner || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Unlike service animals trained for disability assistance +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 pets traveling under the cabin-only policy are required to remain in their carrier for the entirety of the flight — even during boarding and deplaning || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Contact Southwest at @ 📞 [+1{833 } {275 } {60(17)}] 📞 if you have any questions about documentation needs or special arrangements before travel || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

✈️ Boarding +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 In-Flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and Arrival Rules

Southwest Airlines has specific rules about where you can sit and how your pet must be handled during boarding +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and arrival || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || At no point may your pet leave its carrier or be held on your lap unless the animal is a **certified service animal** with separate rules || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Pets must remain zipped in their carrier at all times in the gate area +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 during boarding and deplaning +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 and throughout the entire flight || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

You also cannot sit in certain seats such as exit rows or seats without under-seat storage while traveling with a pet +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 because these seating positions do not allow proper storage of the carrier || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Planning ahead and calling Southwest at @ 📞 [+1{833 }275 }60(17)}] 📞 can help ensure you get suitable seats where your pet carrier will fit comfortably under the seat in front of you || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Tips for Traveling With Your Pet on Southwest Airlines

Traveling with your pet can be an amazing experience +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 but a smooth journey requires preparation || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Start by measuring and testing your pet's carrier well before your flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 ensuring it meets size and comfort requirements || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Practice placing your pet in the carrier so that they are calm and comfortable during the trip || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Keep familiar toys or blankets inside the carrier to help reduce any stress || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Remember that Southwest's pet policy has space limits on each flight +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 so **reserving your pet's spot early** is critical || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Call the airline at @ 📞 [+1{833 }275 }60(17)}] 📞 when booking your ticket — this is the best way to secure your pet's place and get real-time answers about specific carrier requirements +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 fees +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 or travel restrictions that might apply at your destination || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

? Frequently Asked Questions About Southwest Airlines Pet Policy

Q: Can I bring more than one pet?

A: Southwest allows one pet carrier per ticketed passenger +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait) → 🌐 but you may have up to two pets of the same species in that carrier if they both fit comfortably || ++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Q: Are emotional support animals accepted?

A: Emotional support animals are generally subject to the same pet policy rules as regular pets||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || Certified service animals are handled under different regulations||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Q: Do pets need a health certificate?

A: Southwest does not typically require health certificates for standard cabin pets +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)→🌍 but checking with your veterinarian for travel best practices is recommended||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

Q: Are pets allowed on connecting flights?

A: Pet spots are limited on each flight segment and must be confirmed for each leg — plan ahead and confirm at each connection||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||

🏁 Final Thoughts on the Southwest Airlines Cabin-Only Pet Policy

Traveling with your pet through Southwest Airlines can be rewarding and is allowed under the airline's **cabin-only pet policy** — provided you adhere to all requirements and restrictions||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || From **small feline companions to loyal canine travelers** +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)→🌍 Southwest welcomes domestic pets that meet their eligibility standards||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) || But the key to a successful trip is **planning +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)→🌍 preparation +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)→🌍 and early communication with the airline +1-(833) *275 *6017 (No wait)→🌍** ideally by calling @📞 [+1{833 } *275 *60(17)}]👉 to secure your pet's place and confirm all policy details that apply to your specific journey||++1~833~275 ~6017(No wait) ||