

How to get your dog from Cayman to the UK with British Airways

The process of taking your Humane Society four-legged furry friend back to the UK is easier than you think and here is how to do it.

- 1) The **MOST** important detail is to make sure you plan your trip at least **21 days in advance**
- 2) **Has Your Dog Been Microchipped?**
If not get this done with the vet straight away and advise them you are moving back to the UK so they chip your dog with the right type of microchip. The company they should be using is PETLINK and it will cost around CI\$100.
REMEMBER to register your details online once the dog has been chipped and also **DON'T FORGET** to change them to your UK address details once you have arrived.
- 3) **Rabies Vaccination**
This must be done **21 days in advance** (longer if you are planning to come back to Cayman with your dog) - book your appointment with the Department of Agriculture (they get very busy and only have limited appointments so make sure you leave yourself ample time).
 - The charge is CI\$25 and this needs to be paid in cash at the cashier which is in a separate building from where the vaccination is given.
 - Make sure you take all of your dog's paperwork with you.
 - Once vaccinated, take the paperwork to your vet so they can update your dog's records.

4) **Dog Crate**

If you have a small to medium dog:

Try to get your crate at the same time of the Rabies vaccination as you will need to start to get your dog used to the crate if they have not been in one before. **C.A.R.E** sometimes have spare crates you can buy so it is worth contacting them first as the money you pay goes to a very worthy cause and helps to pay for neutering. (However you can also buy the crates at Animal House).



If your dog is large:

You will need to check the size of the crate with Cargo to make sure it is within the allowance (we travelled with the following size crate for our German Shepherd Mix:

Size 40L x 27W x 30H (101 x 68 x 76 cm) EXTERNAL MEASUREMENTS).

How to get them to love their crate:

We got our dog used to the crate by starting with lining just the base with his favourite towel and only giving him his treats when sitting in the crate. Once he was happy to do that we added the top and the door and would continue to make sure he only had treats whilst sitting inside.

We then started to close the door once he was eating his treats and would then leave him enclosed in the crate for very short periods of time 15-20 minutes whilst we ran an errand. Once he was used to this we would get him a fresh bone and give this to him in the crate as it would take a while for him to eat this, during which the door would be closed. Ultimately he realised the **crate=treats**, so **WIN, WIN!**

5) **Booking Your Dog Onto The Flight**

For ease we used an agent – **IAG Cargo** (MIA Office: [\(786\) 422-6870](tel:7864226870) / www.iagcargo.com) based out of Miami to do all the paperwork for us (this also seemed to be the 'cheaper' option).

The most important thing to know is your dog can **ONLY** be booked **14 days in advance of travel**

We contacted the agent via email in advance of this to get an idea of what costs we would be looking at. They are a little slow on email so probably best to call them instead, they will want the following information from you to be able to give you a quote:



Weight of Pet in Kennel
Dimensions of Kennel
Full Breed of Pet

Full Shipper Information: Name / Address / Phone Number

Full Consignee information: Name / Address / Phone Number

They will also send you all the paperwork that will need completing and the information to make sure you have measured your dog and the kennel correctly.

6) Final appointment with the Vet and Department of Agriculture

Once you know when you are leaving Cayman book an appointment with the vet as they will need to administer the tapeworm tablet to your dog before you leave the island.

The most important thing to know is this **MUST** be done **5 days in advance of travel** as you also have to visit the Department of Agriculture for them to sign all the paperwork.

Book your appointment with the DoA **IMMEDIATELY** as soon as you have booked the vet's appointment, as you have a very tight schedule to get your dog seen by DoA and without their sign off your dog **WILL NOT** be allowed to travel.

The vet will make sure the DoA have everything they need to stamp the paperwork.

The cost for the DoA appointment is CI\$20 again to be paid before your appointment at the cashier.

7) 14 Days Before Travel: Visit Cargo to get the Air Waiver Bill (AWB) issued

British Airways Cargo is situated in the same office as American Airlines, take your completed forms, rabies vaccination paperwork and any medical paperwork you have for the dog. You will also need your dog and

Cargo Operations Manager: Carlos Wellington Tel: [345 547 7010](tel:3455477010) /Email: CARGO@CDSLTD.KY

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they will weigh and measure them there to confirm the price.

The exact quote takes about a week, but worth calling them to chase, Carlos the contact in Cayman is very chilled about the process (and he makes it very easy). Once he has given you the price you can pay in either CI\$ or US\$ (they tend to quote in US\$) and you will need to pay cash. He will then issue the AWB and get those details emailed to IAG.

8) Get The Crate Travel Ready

You will need the following items: puppy pads to line the bottom of the crate in case of any accidents, favourite toys, I also included an unwashed t-shirt so he had a familiar smell of me, dog food in a Ziplock bag, a feeding tray and water bottle that can be attached to the door.

9) On The Day of Travel

You will need to arrive at Cargo 3 hours ahead of the British Airways flight with your dog, their crate and all your paperwork to cargo, including the stamped paperwork from DoA. Carlos will then have you take your dog and the crate to the x-ray machine. You will need to get the dog inside the crate and then they will go through the machine before being taken back to the Cargo office.

We attached his food to the top of his crate with tape and also added another strip of tape with our dog's name and advising they may be nervous as first time flying. Carlos will have you sign all the relevant paperwork and give them back to you. The originals need to go to the company in the UK that is collecting your dog so double check who you need to give them to, this will prevent delays the other end (we learnt the hard way).

They will then seal the crate so it cannot be tampered with and this is when you say your goodbyes. Try not to worry as the service is VERY professional.



10) Arriving Into The UK

Depending on how busy they are it can take up to 5 hours to process your dog, so you may want to head over there after 2 hours or call in advance to get an idea of time, double check they have all the paperwork they need.

Pick up is located in Terminal 4 in Heathrow and make sure you have a map with you on how to find it.

Make yourself known to the reception and they will take your details and as soon as your dog is ready they will bring them fed and watered and on a lead out to you.

Our dog was a little bewildered but after 2 days he was in fine spirits, loving the cooler weather, new found smells and all his new doggie friends in the park.

Yes it was expensive but once you have committed to being a forever family for your dog, there was no question in leaving him behind and it really was very straightforward and easy.