











Cabin-Only Pet Policy – Does Southwest Airlines Allow Pets in the Cabin? (Full Travel Guide)

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 **@ 1-833-275-6017**  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 @📞 **1-833-275-6017**🌟 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 @📞 **1-833-275-6017**👉 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 @📞 **1-833-275-6017**👉 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** +1-833-275-6017

✳️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 **@8 1-833-275-6017** 🌟 +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||+1-833-275-6017
~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 @📞
1-833-275-6017🌟||+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 @📞 **1-833-275-6017**🌟 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 @S 1-833-275-6017🌟 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 @ 📞 **1-833-275-6017** 🌟 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 @ 📞 **1-833-275-6017** 🌟 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 @📞 **1-833-275-6017**🌟
to secure your pet's place and confirm all policy details that apply to your
specific journey||+1-833-275-6017(No wait) ||