

Pet “Good to Know Tid-Bits” from CAPT Jeretta “Jetta” Dillon – whatsapp +97337346855; email: jeretta.r.dillon.mil@us.navy.mil

## 1. Rotator vs Commercial

### a. Rotator

- i. Cheaper
- ii. See pets at each stop over
- iii. Less stress on the pet as they will see you and be able to walk around
- iv. Big dogs that require custom made crates

### b. Commercial – if you are traveling through an EU country, HIGHLY recommend getting a health certificate from the base vet as she can issue a USDA EU health certificate as well

- i. NAVPTO will book your flights please know some of the following as it gets tricky and then could cost more to get your tickets changed
- ii. Amsterdam(KLM/Delta) – if flying with a pet in cargo, layover cannot be longer than 3 hours
  1. If you are thinking the way around is Amsterdam to Paris then to US – please note that you will have to have at least a 4.5 hour layover in Paris in order to claim your pet and recheck it in

### iii. Heathrow (British Airways/American) – this is also no more than 3 hour layover for pets in cargo

1. I’ve heard horror stories of trying to get pets through UK, so please make sure to get all required information from the airline
2. **If you are on an Air France flight, you will have to claim your pet and then check the pet back in. ENSURE you have an EU health certificate from the veterinarian in Bahrain.**

### iv. Frankfurt (Lufthansa /United) – I’ve found this to be the easiest way. For Giant and XXL crates it’s about \$600, for Large crates it’s usually around \$400...but be prepared for \$600

1. Pet lounge is available if more than 3 hour layover. I usually choose the 5 hour layover if its an option to ensure the pet is able to get out and eat, run and get crate clean as well as fresh water
2. Plus, at BAH, they usually take a picture of your pet in cargo and send or show to you prior to boarding the plane.
3. Please ensure it is a Lufthansa flight the entire way to US...if connecting flight from Frankfurt to US is Operated by United or Eurowings, pets cannot go in cargo. For in cabin pets, no issues with United or Eurowings, but may have an additional fee.
4. Layovers – transiting through CDC high-risk rabies countries is ok as long as they don’t go through customs (see above of claiming in Paris (France is not a high risk country)). I’d be weary of having a layover in a country with high risk, such as Turkey, should something happen and you have to claim your pet...it will NOT be authorized to enter US (or will need to be quarantined).

### c. Returning to Bahrain

- i. Remember that if you take your pet, most likely you will be bringing the pet(s) back with you. Know the requirements to get them back (especially those who have adopted a pet here)
    - 1. USDA Vet requirement (Active Duty Army Veterinarians can sign for USDA!)
    - 2. Time frame of vaccine and import documentation
    - 3. Return time – if around National Bahrain Day (Dec 16-17) or New Year’s (Jan 1) remember Animal Directorate will be closed certain days – plan ahead to get import documents
    - 4. Pets will arrive (if commercial) at the cargo airport (and it’s a process to get the pets)
      - a. Another reason to return on rotator
        - i. The rotator now requires the pet to stay at NSA 3 while personnel go to Bahrain International Airport – but possibly the spouse can get the pet upon arrival.
- 2. Vaccines (Entering US and entering Bahrain) refer to attached Vet Clinic memo for specifics
  - a. Now is the time to verify pets are up to date on vaccines based on the posted requirements to exit (and enter) – returning to Bahrain has more restrictions
  - b. Specifically verify rabies vaccine - most local vets do not automatically give the Rabies vaccine unless specified – primary rabies shot may need to be done 30 days prior to traveling for certain commercial airlines, but booster rabies shots don’t have a specified timeline (can be done at health certificate appointment prior to travel)
- 3. Animal Directorate is open Sunday – Thursday, 0730-1300
  - a. Do not wear shorts, you will not be helped if you are in shorts, even if they are to your knees
  - b. If you get your export memo from the base vet, you do not need to bring your pet or have the health certificate in hand when going to the health directorate for export permit
  - c. If you get your health certificate at a local civilian vet, you will need to bring pet with health certificate from vet and travelers passport
    - i. The person escorting the pet on the flight DOES NOT need to be the one at the health directorate if you obtain an export memo from the base vet
- 4. Planning reservations
  - a. You are not authorized a rental car while on authorized departure orders – this could be difficult for transportation with your pet to the hotel (if not staying with family or friends).
  - b. Make sure to get a pet friendly hotel and confirm your pet and verify what the maximum weight can be.
- 5. Crating
  - a. Even if you don’t put zipties on your crate (the door area) the airline will – take toenail clippers or small scissors in your checked luggage (have easily accessible) so you can easily open the crate once you claim your pet
  - b. Also take a toy that your pet likes in your carry on as well as your leashes and collars (just in case your luggage is lost/delayed)

- c. Freeze some water prior to the flight and then let it melt in the water dish so it's not spilling everywhere prior to getting into cargo
- d. Some airlines may not allow this, but Lufthansa does...I usually put a small bed in their crate for larger crates the ones they sell at the NEX are perfect.
- e. May need to purchase crate via nexonline and ship to store. One local shop that has them usually on hand is Azzam's.
- f. Order/purchase water containers early, sometimes hard to find on local economy
- g. On the crate I usually put a little note about the pet – see below in paragraph 8
- h. I also use ducktape and write the dogs name on the front and Handle with Care/special delivery/etc



*I'm Angel! I am a sweet playful girl,  
 even though you  
 may think I'm vicious.  
 Please let me out to potty  
 and drink some water and eat.  
 I like to chew on my leash  
 and jump and bark.  
 My bark is loud but I'm a gentle giant.  
 Thank you.  
 Love Angel*