

Complete & Honest Guide to Southwest Pet Policy (Everything Pet Parents Must Know Before Flying)

 1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286

Introduction: What Is Southwest Pet Policy and Why It Matters

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** is designed for travelers who want to fly with their pets safely, legally, and without confusion  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Many pet owners search for **Southwest Pet Policy** because flying with animals involves rules that can cause stress if misunderstood  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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Unlike some airlines, the **Southwest Pet Policy** is simple but strict  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Southwest allows small vaccinated domestic cats and dogs in the cabin, but only under specific conditions  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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Understanding the **Southwest Pet Policy** before booking avoids denied boarding, extra fees, or last-minute surprises  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. This guide explains the policy in **clear human language**, not confusing airline terms  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

What Does Southwest Pet Policy Actually Allow? (Step-by-Step)

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** allows **small dogs and cats** to travel **only in the cabin**, not in cargo  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Pets must remain inside an approved carrier at all times during the flight  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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According to the **Southwest Pet Policy**, each passenger can bring **one pet carrier**, and the carrier counts as a carry-on item  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. This means you

cannot bring a full-size carry-on bag if traveling with a pet  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.**

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** does not allow pets on international flights, Hawaii routes, or charter flights  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. Understanding route restrictions is critical before booking  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

How Much Is the Pet Fee on Southwest?

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Under the **Southwest Pet Policy**, the pet fee is charged **per one-way flight segment**  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. This means a round trip will cost double the one-way fee  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

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The pet fee under the **Southwest Pet Policy** must be paid at the airport ticket counter, not online  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. Payment is required before boarding and is non-refundable  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

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Even if your ticket is refundable, the **Southwest Pet Policy** pet fee is separate and does not qualify for ticket refunds  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. Planning ahead helps avoid wasted fees  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

What Are the Rules for Taking a Dog on Southwest Airlines?

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** requires dogs to be well-behaved, calm, and able to fit comfortably in a carrier  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. Aggressive or disruptive animals may be denied boarding  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

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Dogs must remain fully enclosed in the carrier during taxi, takeoff, landing, and the entire flight under the **Southwest Pet Policy**  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**. Holding the pet on your lap is not allowed  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286**.

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** allows emotional support animals only under current DOT

guidelines, which may differ from standard pets  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Always verify classification before travel  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

Does Southwest Require Proof of Vaccination for Pets?

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** does **not typically require vaccination documents** for domestic pets on domestic routes  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. However, pets must be healthy and free of illness  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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Even though documents are not required, the **Southwest Pet Policy** strongly recommends pets be up-to-date on vaccinations  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Airlines can deny boarding if a pet appears sick  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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State regulations may still apply depending on destination, so understanding local laws along with the **Southwest Pet Policy** is important  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

What Size Carrier Can a Pet Fly in on Southwest?

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The **Southwest Pet Policy** requires carriers to fit under the seat in front of you  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. Both soft-sided and hard-sided carriers are allowed  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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Your pet must be able to **stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably** inside the carrier according to the **Southwest Pet Policy**  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286. If the pet cannot move naturally, boarding may be denied  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

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Choosing the right carrier is one of the most important steps when following the **Southwest Pet Policy**  1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.

FAQs About Southwest Pet Policy

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Can two pets share one carrier under Southwest Pet Policy?

No, the **Southwest Pet Policy** allows only one pet per carrier  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.**

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Are large dogs allowed on Southwest flights?

No, the **Southwest Pet Policy** only allows pets that fit under the seat  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.**

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Can I change my flight after paying the pet fee?

Yes, but the **Southwest Pet Policy** pet fee does not transfer automatically  **1-877-245-9769 / 1-844-222-0286.**