

New Airline Flies Pet ‘Paw-sengers’

Alysa Binder was stressed out because her pet terrier, Zoe (ZOH-ee), was in the cargo area of the airplane on which she was flying. Binder and her husband worried about Zoey during the entire flight. That’s when they decided there had to be a better way. A few years later, they started an airline just for pets!



Pet Airways is the first airline to fly pets only. Its planes carry four-legged friends between nine major U.S. cities. Pet owners are not able to travel on the planes with their dogs or cats. Instead, trained attendants care for the pets from the time they arrive at the airline’s Pet Lounge until their owners pick them up at the other end of the journey. Each flight carries up to 50 pets in the main cabin of the plane. Pet owners can use the airline’s online Pet Tracker to track their pet’s trip.

Most large “people airlines” fly pets from city to city too. Small pets can fly in the cabin with their owners, and larger pets fetch space in the cargo area of the plane. But the owners of Pet Airways say some of those airlines treat pets no better than they treat suitcases. “Every step of the journey, we take care of pets as if they were our own, because that’s exactly the way we’d want Zoe to be treated,” said Binder.

Pet Airways gives better service so people who love their pets can travel stress-free, Binder added. And many pet owners seem to agree. “Pet Airways treats the animals better than I’m treated when I fly,” said one pet owner who used the airline to transport his dog.

Pets that fly on Pet Airways can even earn frequent-flyer miles, Binder added.

NEWS WORDS

cargo attendant
terrier frequent
transport expand

MORE FURRY FLYING FACTS

- Each year, U.S. airlines transport between 1 and 2 million animals.
- Pet Airways’ first flight took off on July 14, 2009.
- In the next year or two, the airline hopes to expand to as many as 25 cities.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Why might a pet owner be willing to pay a bit more to transport their pet via Pet Airways? Use your answer to that question as you design an ad to promote Pet Airways to pet owners.