

Accompanied Baggage Travel • Abu Dhabi

Planning to bring your pet into the UAE as *accompanied baggage* (in-cabin or in-hold)? You'll need to fly into Zayed International Airport (Abu Dhabi).

Officially, only Etihad Airways has *UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCA)* approval for accompanied baggage arrivals, and Etihad accept in-cabin, if their criteria are met. That said, since a MOCCA veterinarian is now based at the passenger terminal, other airlines may allow it too. Turkish Airlines, for example, definitely do.

For more information:

Etihad Airways: <https://www.etihad.com/en-ae/plan/travel-companion/travelling-with-pets>

Turkish Airlines: <https://www.turkishairlines.com/en-int/any-questions/traveling-with-pets>

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VERY IMPORTANT - UAE Pass:

You must be registered with **UAE Pass**.

To set up your account with the *UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCA)* - required for both the import permit and pre-release process - you must be registered with UAE Pass. This is the only login option for MOCCA.

The **UAE Pass** app enables you to digitally identify yourself to service providers throughout the UAE Emirates via app authentication. For details on how to register for **UAE Pass**, please see: <https://www.uaepass.ae>

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And how can DKC help?:

DKC can set up your MOCCA account and get that all-important UAE Import Permit in place for you. The on-arrival official inspection and final release happen inside the passenger terminal, so is not accessible to non-travellers. Once we have the UAE Import Permit, we'll send it to you, along with some important information on what you'll need to do closer to your travel date.

What you will need to do?:

...aside from meeting the UAE entry requirements for your pet/s of course!

1. Book the flight for yourself and your pet(s), and gain the airline confirmation/approvals.
2. Handle the *pre-travel* MOCCA pre-release procedure and payment. *
3. Gain a Customs Bill of Entry (BoE) in advance of your arrival in Abu Dhabi. *

* *Not doing both in advance of arrival can delay the Customs clearance process considerably and will incur additional charges for the BoE.*

Etihad send their customers information on what is required and when, as well as the contact details that you'll need in order to gain the BoE. However, if you're travelling on another airline, it is possible that they are unaware of the BoE requirement. Again, we would supply you with some additional information, including the MOCCA pre-release process and contact details needed to gain the BoE.

If you're not familiar with the difference between the various methods of pet travel (i.e. accompanied baggage, in-hold, in-cabin, manifest cargo), read our document "[Pet Travel Options](#)".

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Why only Abu Dhabi?

Historically: MOCCA permitted arrivals into the UAE as manifest cargo only and the airlines were fined if not abiding by this UAE rule.

Currently: MOCCA granted approval exclusively to Etihad Airways to accept inbound animals as accompanied baggage. As a result, a MOCCA veterinarian is now stationed at the passenger terminal of Zayed International Airport (AUH), equipped with the necessary resources to carry out on-arrival inspections and clearances. No such official notification was issued to the other airlines and until received, the other airlines are unlikely to accept animals as accompanied baggage inbound - except in the case of private jet/charter flights, which arrive at the cargo side of the airport where UAE Ministry veterinarians are present. There is no MOCCA veterinarian stationed at the passenger terminals of the Dubai Airports. If an airline arriving into Dubai International Airport (DXB) or Dubai World Central (DWC) *does* accept your pet as accompanied baggage, it is the airline's responsibility to pre-alert MOCCA and to inform you whether or not a MOCCA veterinarian will be arranged to come to the passenger terminal upon your arrival (highly unlikely), or if your pet will be transferred to the cargo side of the airport for official MOCCA processing. Additional charges will apply for the handling and transportation of your pet(s) to the cargo area.