

is your dog or cat FIT-to-FLY?

You and your whole family... including your pet... are relocating to some far off (or not so far off) land and everyone is ready, Ready, READY! Right?!

Weeeeellll... *maybe* not sooooo right.

You see, no matter how well you plan your pet's trip, and no matter how good the airline or how AMAZING the relocations agent you're using (you *are* using DKC, right?! <grin>), nor indeed no matter how well and healthy your pet, there are potential risks associated with air-travel for your pet IF your pet has certain types of physiology or underlying health issues about which you may or may not be fully aware.

No, we are NOT trying to scare you.

What we ARE trying to do, however, is make sure that we, and you, do our collective best to ensure that we all *are* aware of all the important health and temperament issues of your pet which *might* affect his or her successful and happy air-travel relocation; that those potential issues are looked at, talked about, and even possibly medically checked and rechecked... just to be sure, sure, sure... to the greatest extent reasonably possible.

And so, to that end, on the following pages you will find our **FIT-to-FLY CHECKLIST**.

Here are some important things to know:

- Our Fit-to-Fly Checklist is for *anyone* planning to relocate their dog or cat ~ you do not need to be a DKC customer to take advantage of it, your relocation may not even involve the UAE at all, and indeed we *strongly* recommend you *do* take advantage of it.
- In the context of relocating your pets, not all veterinarians are equal. Your vet may be great and knowledgeable but there is important value in working with a vet who has *real*, specific experience with and knowledge in animals travelling by air because a perfectly healthy and happy pet may have underlying issues which are negatively pertinent to the relocation process and which are not obvious to a vet who is not regularly involved in the relocations of animals and all that they experience. Indeed, although this may surprise you, most veterinarians are not familiar with the actual conditions that dogs and cats are exposed to when travelling by air; they are understandably not familiar with what goes on throughout the entire process, beginning at your door and ultimately ending with your pet arriving at the final destination.

DKC Veterinary Clinic, and all our vets and nurses, work very closely with our Relocations team and are very knowledgeable about just such things.

Is this a sales pitch? Is telling you this merely a kind of crooked deviousness on our part to get you to use our clinic and pay for *our* veterinary services?

Well, no, actually. You see, if you are a DKC Relocations customer relocating your pet as cargo, we will require that you go through our Fit-to-Fly Checklist, and if your pet scores a "yes" to any of the questions, we will be very strongly recommending a Fit-to-Fly Vet Check at our clinic, totally free of charge, including any type of initial diagnostic procedure that might be required, from a simple consultation to more costly things such as blood tests or x-rays.

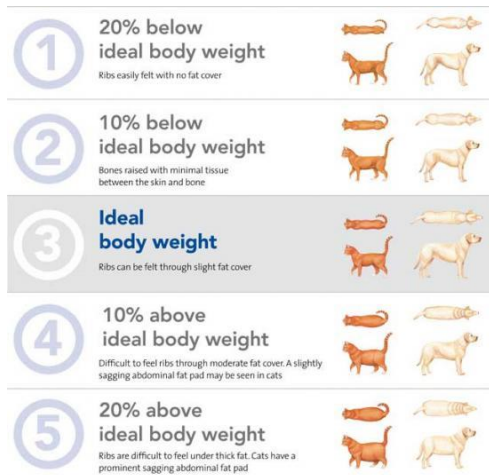
Free of charge, so that we all know your pet is fit-to-fly, or possibly not. It's not about getting you to take our services nor about getting your money ~ it's about being careful and thorough. We cannot, and of course will not try to force you to do this (it *does*, after all, require some effort and time on your part), but we sincerely hope you will take our guidance on this, for your sake and your pet's.

- Although... do keep in mind that if you're reading this document but are not a DKC Relocations customer and/or not even in the UAE (because the world is a big, beautiful place and you could be *anywhere!*), and if you DO wish to go through this checklist with your own vet (wherever you are), there will almost certainly be veterinary fees you will need to consider. What a shame that you all don't live round the corner from us, eh? ;-)
- If your pet does not "pass" our Fit-to-Fly Checklist, please PLEASE keep in mind that none of this is meant to scare you or worry you, and that the most common, likely outcome will be that we, together (or you and your chosen vet), just need to take some steps in preparing your pet for travel that would not otherwise be required; this might include a little fitness regime before travel, medications of one kind or other, or possibly a specially designed travel crate. In the rare case that a serious health concern *is* discovered, then yes, it might affect your pet's relocation ~ but isn't it better to know?
- For the Fit-to-Fly Vet-Check appointment with DKC Veterinary Clinic, we will need the full medical history of your pet if your usual vet is not us. (Say it ain't so!)



the dog and cat FIT-to-FLY CHECKLIST

1. Body Condition Score



Is your pet a **1** or a **5** in this chart?

Yes No

2. Age Category and Size

In addition to other potential age-related issues, older animals usually have increased risk due to decreased heat dissipation. So, is your pet...:

- A cat which is 12 years or older? Yes No
- A dog which is 10 years or older? Yes No
- A dog which is 7 years or older **and** heavier than 25kg Yes No

3. Respiratory and Cardiovascular Status

- Is your dog brachycephalic (snub-nosed)? Yes No
- Is your pet noisy when he/she breathes, when at rest or after light exercise? Yes No
- Has your pet ever been diagnosed with heart issues (e.g. heart murmur or failure) or is he/she on any beta blockers or furosemide therapy (which decreases the ability to dissipate heat)? Yes No
- Has your pet ever been diagnosed with respiratory issues (e.g. laryngeal paralysis, collapsing trachea, feline asthma, chronic bronchitis) or do you have any suspicions/concerns about his/her health in this regard? Yes No
- Has your pet ever collapsed or had any kind of fits or convulsions, or do you have any suspicions/concerns about his/her health in this regard? Yes No

4. Other Conditions

- Does your pet have diabetes? Yes No
- Does your pet have chronic renal failure? Yes No
- Does your pet have epilepsy? Yes No
- Does your pet have a middle-ear infection? Yes No



some other useful (important?) things to know

This next section is *not* part of our Fit-to-Fly Checklist, but the few questions that follow touch on useful, perhaps even important subjects and we would like to know more about your pet in these ways. If anything you tell us affects your pet's relocation, we'll talk it through with you. And if you're not using DKC for your relocation, then the answers to these questions can still be of value to you.

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY!

- Does your pet become agitated and anxious while in enclosed spaces, especially such as a travel box (e.g. disturbed breathing, scratching and clawing, whining, barking/meowing/hissing, etc.) Yes No

- Is your pet taking any medications of any kind, short or long-term? Yes No
If yes, which medications? _____

- Are there any other medical conditions or temperament issues that concern you at all? Yes No
If yes, what? _____

