

# OPERATION: ROVER TRAVEL RIGHT

OVERSEAS PET PCS TRAVEL GUIDE





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# WELCOME!

Hi there,

If you're here, that means you've likely just received military orders to move overseas and are wondering how to get your beloved pet moved with you. It is no easy feat and can be confusing, nerve-wracking, and oftentimes comes with short notice. We've been right where you are. Katherine has made the transatlantic move with her two dogs... twice! We've learned a lot along the way and have created this manual to help give peace of mind to others.

First things first, take a deep breath! Review the manual in its entirety. If you have orders already, call SATO and ask about their pet space availability on the rotator. Getting a flight booked for you and your pets to travel with you is the best and most cost-efficient option. If there are no pet spaces available, ask about getting approval for SATO to book you on a commercial flight.

Phew, okay, now that that is out of the way – we hope you find this manual to be a source of valuable information, comfort, and clarity. Thank you for jumping through hoops to ensure your pet's safety and comfort during this transition and most of all, we wish you and your family a safe move and fun few years of living abroad!

Caio & Prost!

Tiffany and Katherine



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## GETTING STARTED

Making a PCS move with your dog can be overwhelming. Operation: Rover Travel Right will guide you through everything you need to know about moving overseas (EU) to help you and your dog(s) feel comfortable with the big move!

The first consideration: how will your dog(s) be transported during the move? Please note that airlines are no longer accepting Emotional Support Animals (ESA) in cabin. If you have an ESA, they will need to fly in cargo or under the seat with the appropriate fees.

### **OPTION 1: Your dog travels on the same plane as you do.**

You can book your own dog's travel on a commercial airline, pay a pet relocation company to transport your pet, or fly on the military rotator (also known as the Patriot Express). Small dogs may be able to travel in the cabin with you. There are limitations and requirements on transporting your dog in the cargo area, including availability and weather.

### **OPTION 2: Your dog is transported using a pet relocation service.**

A great place to start your research is [IPATA.org](https://www.ipata.org), a professional association of pet transporters. You'll find a list of individual transporters in the table below.

PET RELOCATION RESOURCE	WEBSITE Click on the blue link to go to the website.
IPATA	<a href="https://www.ipata.org">IPATA.ORG</a>
PET RELOCATION	<a href="https://www.petrelocation.com">PETRELOCATION.COM</a>
GLOBAL PET RELOCATION	<a href="https://www.globalpetrelocation.com">GLOBALPETRELOCATION.COM</a>
HAPPY TAILS TRAVEL	<a href="https://www.happytailstravel.com">HAPPYTAILSTRAVEL.COM</a>
PET TRAVEL TRANSPORT	<a href="https://www.pettraveltransport.com">PETTRAVELTRANSPORT.COM</a>

## PET TRAVEL BASIC SUPPLIES

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Consider purchasing and packing these supplies to facilitate travel with your dog. Click on the blue links to explore shopping options.

### [Collapsible Food & Water Bowls](#)

These are wonderful for moves, traveling, hiking, and more! Easy to pack, making space for other items.

### [Poop Bags](#)

You never know when you're going to need them. Having them ready to go in your [treat pouch](#) is handy!

### [Kennel/Crate](#)

A MUST HAVE for airline travel. They can be also be helpful keeping your pup safe during car rides. Check with your airline or pet relocation service before purchasing to make sure the crate fits their requirements.

### [Muzzle](#)

A muzzle may be required depending on where you live or travel. Visit [The Muzzle Up! Project](#) to learn about getting your dog comfortable wearing a muzzle.

### [Back Seat Car Cover](#)

Save you and your car from dirt, mud and water; very handy for everyday use, and some even come with the front seat dividers

### [Seatbelts](#)

Restraining your dog in a vehicle can save lives! Using a seat belt can give you peace of mind that your dog is safe. Many countries, including Germany and Italy, require that your dog is restrained inside the car.

### [Pet First Aid Kit](#)

Always handy to have at home or on the road with your pet!

## HOW MUCH DOES PET TRAVEL COST?

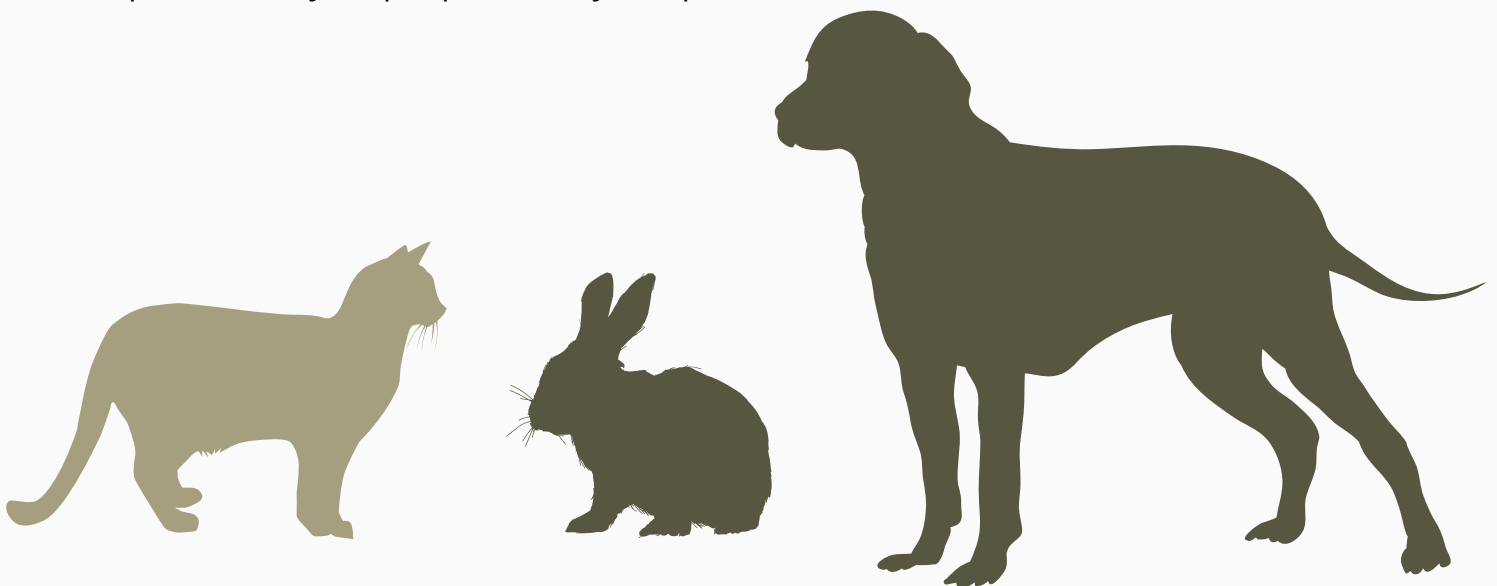
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When researching pet transport options, it's natural that one of the first questions most people have is, "how much does it cost to move my pet?" Unfortunately, it's difficult to answer this question right away due to the complex nature of pet travel. Every move is different, and depending on where you're going, whom you're bringing, and when your move is, prices range significantly.

Specifically, here are a few factors that affect the price of a pet move:

- pet size (weight, height, and length)
- number of pets
- origin
- destination
- proximity to a major airport
- time of year
- whether or not you have a travel crate
- whether or not your pet is up to date on their vaccines
- whether or not your pet is microchipped

Print out the budget sheet on the next page, and use it to track your own expenses as you prepare for your pet's move.



# PET PCS BUDGET WORKSHEET

TOTAL EXPENSES	ESTIMATED \$2125	ACTUAL
VETERINARIAN	ESTIMATED \$390	ACTUAL
Check-up	\$75	
Vaccines	60	
Medicines	30	
Microchip	50	
Health Certificate	\$175	
Other		
TRAVEL EXPENSES	ESTIMATED \$1620	ACTUAL
Airline-Approved Crate	\$200	
Military Rotator Fee	\$250/pet	
Airline Under The Seat Fee	\$60	
Pet Passport Fee	\$50	
Pet Relocator	\$1000	
Hotel Pet Fees	\$25/day	
Car Rental Pet Fees	\$10-\$15/day	
Boarding	\$20/day	
EXTRAS	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
Food, Water, Treats, and Toys	\$115	
Water bowl, Poop Bags	\$60	
Seatbelt, Blanket/Towel, Backseat Cover	\$10	
Other	\$45	

## PCS MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

There are several tasks you must complete in advance of your PCS Move (CONUS TO EU). Use this handy timeline to plan and complete the necessary steps. Full details are on the following pages.

**6 MONTHS  
BEFORE**

- Call your local VTF
- Visit USDA website

**6-3 MONTHS  
BEFORE**

- Microchip and Rabies Vaccine

**45 DAYS  
BEFORE**

- Visit your primary vet for Acclimation Letter and prescription refills

**30 DAYS  
BEFORE**

- Schedule your USDA Health Certificate vet appointment

**WITHIN 10  
DAYS**

- Visit your USDA approved veterinarian to obtain your EU Health Certificate

**MOVING  
DATE**

- Safe travels for all!



## PCS MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

### 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR MOVE

- Contact your local VTF and let them know where you are PCSing to. They can help guide you through the proper preparatory steps.
- Visit the [USDA APHIS I Pet Travel](#) website to familiarize yourself with the Pet Export Process.
- Use the website to search for an approved Vet to issue your Health Certificate. *The health certificate will need to be completed within 10 days of arrival to the EU so keep this in mind if you will be taking leave en route.*



## PCS MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

### 6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR MOVE

- Pet must be microchipped – a 15-digit ISO microchip is preferred.
- The rabies vaccine must come *after* the microchip or be done on the same day. A rabies vaccine administered before a microchip is implanted is invalid.
- If this is your dog's first rabies vaccine, it must be administered *at least* 28 days prior to date of travel.



### 45 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR MOVE

- Visit your primary veterinarian to obtain an Acclimation Letter if your pet is traveling in cabin or cargo.
- Ask your veterinarian to refill any prescription medications your pet may need during the PCS. A 90-day supply is recommended.

### 30 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR MOVE

- Schedule your USDA Health Certificate Vet appointment. Your appointment should be conducted within 10 days of expected arrival in the EU.

## PCS MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS



**MOVING  
DAY!**

### IMPORTANT!

Keep all of your pets documentation **(with 5 copies of each)** on hand, as well as digital copies scanned to your phone and saved in a personal email address for emergencies. Hand carry this paperwork during your PCS.

### WITHIN 10 DAYS OF YOUR MOVE

- Within 10 days (no longer) of arrival to the EU – visit your USDA approved Veterinarian to obtain your EU Health Certificate. It must be issued, completed and signed.
- Have completed paperwork endorsed by your local APHIS Veterinary Services office. This is usually done by mailing your paperwork in. You will likely need to pay extra fees to have the mail expedited so keep this in mind.

# TRAINING TIPS - PART I

## TRAINING YOUR DOG TO LOVE THEIR AIRLINE-APPROVED CRATE

### START EARLY

Get your airline approved crate as early as possible. Giving your dog ample time (at least 3 months) to acclimate to it at their own pace is best practice. Be sure to check with your airline's requirements for proper sizing and crate requirements.

### GO SLOWLY

Slow is smooth – smooth is fast. Set the crate up, leave the door open, and allow your dog to investigate it on their own terms. Do not put them in the crate, close the door, and leave them. Break your training down into small steps. Get your pup used to going inside the crate with the door open, then move the door, then latch it. Once they're comfy being in the crate with the door shut, build your duration slowly, first starting with while you are home. No need to build a duration longer than 4-hours.





## TRAINING TIPS - PART 2

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### TRAINING YOUR DOG TO LOVE THEIR AIRLINE-APPROVED CRATE

#### LOCATION

Set your new crate up in a location where your pet can still be part of the family. Living rooms are great. This way you can capture when your dog chooses to go inside on their own and reinforce that behavior with a surprise treat!

#### USE TREATS

Start with placing some yummy and smelly treats (pieces of hot dogs) in the back of the crate when your dog is not watching. Leave the door open and allow your dog to find the treats on their own! Rinse and repeat. Continue using treats as you progress through training with your dog. Remember, slow is smooth, and smooth is fast. Your dog's association with the crate will be a positive one. CRATE = all the delicious treats!

#### ASK FOR HELP

Some dogs are not comfortable with being confined. Contrary to popular belief, dogs are not inherently fond of their crates, and most need to be taught how to enjoy confinement. If your dog is struggling, you're not alone. Reach out to a qualified force-free trainer for help. It will make the move much smoother for both you and your pet! You can search for qualified trainers [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).



## RESOURCES FOR GERMANY

### LAWS RELATING TO DOGS IN GERMANY

- Germany has breed restrictions pursuant to a law called Hundeverbringungs-und-einfuhrbeschrAnkungsgesetz. Click [HERE](#) to read about the law and restrictions.
- Shock collars are illegal.
- A leash and muzzle may be required for your dog. Click the following links to read about [Leash and Muzzle Requirements](#) for each state in Germany.
- A dog should not stay alone for more than five hours without being walked.
- A dog being kept indoors needs proper exercise and should be taken out for walks several times a day.
- Recommendation is at least one-hour total per day exercise
- Chaining up a dog within an apartment or keeping it locked in a separate room is not allowed.
- Violations of the Animal Protection Law and result in prison sentence of up to three years or a fine of up to 25,000 EUR.
- Quiet hours are 1-3PM | 10PM-6AM. Dog noises may not last for more than 10 consecutive minutes or more than 30 cumulative minutes per day.
- Animals cannot be left to freely move about in a vehicle.
- Dogs must be crated, kept in the back by a barrier or harnessed and restrained to prevent interference with driver.



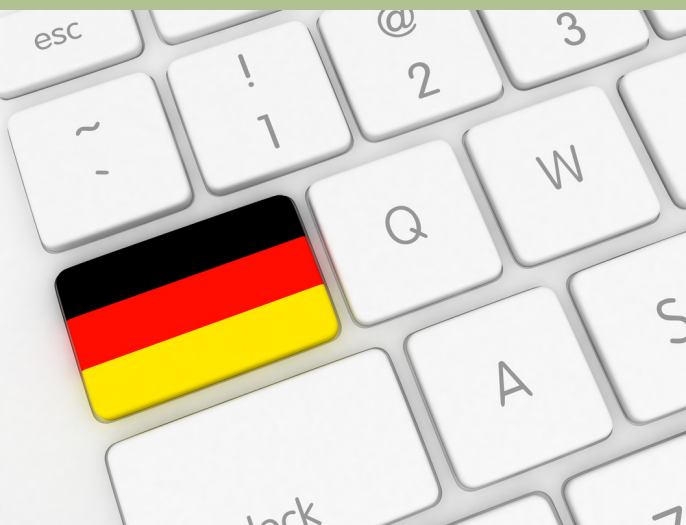
## RESOURCES FOR GERMANY

### RESOURCES FOR SHOPPING AND RECREATION

- A Pet Passport is required for EU travel and can be issued by a Veterinarian.
- [Dog-Friendly Lakes in Germany!](#)
- [Zooplus.de](#): online pet supply store
- [Fressnapf.de](#): in-person pet supply stores
- [Das Futterhaus](#): in-person pet supply stores



### HANDY TRANSLATIONS

**Tierklinik**

Animal Clinic

**Tierarzt**

Veterinarian

**Hundemetzger**

Butcher shop for dogs on a B.A.R.F. diet



## RESOURCES FOR ITALY

### LAWS RELATING TO DOGS IN ITALY

- Pet must have adequate shelter, food and water
- If dog kept on a balcony, garage or basement they must have access to enter the house.
- Appropriate exercise is mandatory and defined as follows: apartment dwelling dogs must be walked twice daily. Dogs kept in a yard of 129.67 square feet do not need walked every day but a yard smaller than that requires twice daily outings.
- Dogs cannot be kept in a crate for long periods of time.
- Dogs must be walked by individuals over the age of 18 and kept on a leash shorter than 5 feet in length.
- You must have a muzzle and a way to collect feces with you at all times.
- Shock collars are prohibited.
- Violations can result in up to 18 months confinement or a fine up to 30,000 EUR.
- Animal abandonment results in arrest and/or fines up to 10,000 EUR.
- Animals cannot be left to freely move about in a vehicle. They must be crated, kept in the back by a barrier or harnessed and restrained to prevent interference with driver.





## RESOURCES FOR ITALY

### RESOURCES AND HANDY TRANSLATIONS

- [ArcaPlanet](#): online and in-person pet supplies
- [Dog Friendly Beaches in Italy!](#)

#### TRANSLATIONS

##### **Area Cani**

Dog Parks

##### **Veterinaria(o)**

Veterinarian

##### **Clinica Animale**

Animal Clinic

##### **Clinica veterinaria**

Animal Hospital



## PCS BACK TO THE US (OCUNUS TO CONUS)

### INFORMATION FOR TRAVEL BACK TO THE US

- Contact VTF within 6 months of PCS for vaccine updates
- Microchip your dog if not chipped already, followed by rabies vaccination. These can be done on the same day.
- Visit [Importing a Pet to the U.S.](#) to familiarize yourself with the process of bring your dog into the country.
- Dogs vaccinated against rabies for the first time must be vaccinated at least 28 days prior to travel.
- Rabies certificate must be current throughout length of travel.
- Adult dogs (15 months or older) do not have to wait 4 weeks after vaccination to travel.
- Dogs coming from Germany are not required to have a rabies certificate at this time. Be sure to check all regulations however, because these do change.
- Check the [APHIS Pet Travel](#) site for additional state requirements.
- 30 days prior to travel, visit your local base's VTF to ensure all of your paperwork is set and you have refill medications on hand during travel.



## WRAP-UP

We hope this PDF has been helpful. 100% of the proceeds from your purchase go directly to a military-canine-affiliated charity. Katherine Porter of Four Paws and You Dog Training and Tiffany Score of Compassionate Connection Dog Training thank you for your donation and unwavering dedication to your pets. We would also like to take a moment to thank Julie Broadbent LaRue for creating the financial budget worksheet and Beth Sautins of True Compass Dog for her tireless work in making this PDF both beautiful and concise. We could not have put this together without her creativity and expertise.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our military members, their families, and their pets for their continued service and sacrifice to our great nation. Thank you!

Caio & Prost!

Tiffany and Katherine

