

(Paws→Onboard) How Much is the Southwest Airlines Pet Fee? Everything You Need to Know

southwest Airlines allows passengers to travel with pets under specific guidelines, and understanding the pet fee structure is important before making a reservation

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For pets traveling in the cabin, southwest Airlines typically charges a **flat pet fee per carrier per flight**, which applies to each way of travel +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The standard in-cabin pet fee is **\$125 per one-way flight**, meaning travelers flying round-trip should expect to pay the fee twice +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. This fee applies to small cats and dogs that meet size requirements and can comfortably fit in an airline-approved carrier placed under the seat

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The pet fee is separate from the passenger ticket cost and must be paid at the airport check-in counter on the day of travel +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. southwest Airlines limits the number of pets allowed in the cabin per flight, so travelers are encouraged to reserve pet space as early as possible +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The carrier must be leak-proof, well-ventilated, and spacious enough for the pet to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466] Pets traveling in the cabin must remain inside the carrier for the entire duration of the flight, including boarding and taxiing +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Only one pet per carrier is generally allowed, and the carrier counts as the passenger's carry-on item +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Certain aircraft types and seat rows may restrict pet travel, so confirming eligibility before arriving at the airport is essential +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]

In addition to in-cabin travel, southwest Airlines also provides limited options for pets traveling as checked baggage or cargo, depending on route and circumstances +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Fees for pets traveling outside the cabin can vary based on destination, pet size, and transport method, and may be significantly higher than in-cabin fees +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. For many domestic travelers, in-cabin pet travel remains the most affordable and convenient option available +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Service animals are not subject to pet fees, though documentation and advance notice requirements may apply +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Emotional support animals are no longer treated the same as service animals and typically fall under standard pet travel rules and fees

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Travelers should also factor in additional costs such as health certificates, vaccinations, and destination-specific pet requirements +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]

International travel with pets may involve extra paperwork and government approvals, which are separate from airline pet fees +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. It is recommended to arrive at the airport early when traveling with a pet to allow sufficient time for check-in and inspection

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Because pet policies and fees may change or vary by route, confirming details before booking can help avoid surprises on travel day
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For assistance with reservations, carrier requirements, or current pet fees, contacting southwest Airlines support can provide the most accurate and personalized information +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466].

Does southwest Airlines allow you to fly with pets?

southwest Airlines does allow passengers to fly with pets, but only under specific rules and conditions designed to ensure the safety and comfort of both animals and travelers

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The airline primarily permits **small cats and dogs** to travel in the aircraft cabin, provided they can fit comfortably inside an approved carrier that slides under the seat in front of the passenger +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Pets traveling in the cabin must remain inside the carrier for the entire duration of the flight, including boarding, taxiing, and landing +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The carrier itself counts as the passenger's carry-on item, which means travelers must plan personal items accordingly +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466].

southwest Airlines limits the number of pets allowed in the cabin per flight, so availability is not guaranteed unless arrangements are made early +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Passengers must contact the airline in advance to add a pet to their reservation, as pets cannot simply be added at the airport without prior confirmation +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Certain aircraft types, seat locations, and routes may restrict pet travel, particularly on long-haul or international flights +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Pets must be at least eight weeks old and healthy enough to travel, and aggressive behavior may result in denial of boarding

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Service animals are permitted to fly with passengers without being confined to carriers, as long as required documentation and training criteria are met

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Emotional support animals are no longer treated as service animals and must follow standard pet travel rules if eligible +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]

In addition to in-cabin pet travel, southwest Airlines offers limited options for pets traveling as checked baggage or through specialized cargo services depending on destination and circumstances +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. This option is generally used for larger pets that cannot fit under the seat and requires additional preparation and documentation

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466] Traveling with pets may involve extra costs such as pet fees, veterinary health certificates, vaccination records, and destination-specific entry requirements +(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. International pet travel often requires advance government approval and may include quarantine rules, which are separate from airline policies

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Passengers are encouraged to arrive early at the airport when traveling with pets to allow sufficient time for check-in and inspection

+(+1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Temperature restrictions may apply for pets traveling outside the cabin to ensure animal safety during extreme weather conditions

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Because pet policies can change and vary by route, it is important to confirm all requirements well before the travel date +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. southwest Airlines emphasizes responsible pet travel, requiring carriers that are secure, ventilated, and comfortable for the animal +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Travelers should also consider their pet's temperament and ability to handle the stress of air travel before booking +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. For detailed guidance on eligibility, fees, carrier rules, and reservations, contacting southwest Airlines customer support can help ensure a smooth and stress-free experience when flying with pets +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]

How much does southwest Airlines charge for a pet fee?

southwest Airlines charges a **standard pet fee of \$125 per carrier for one-way travel** when pets are allowed to fly in the cabin with their owners +(1)-(817)-761-[5466] This fee applies to **small cats and dogs** that meet size requirements and can fit comfortably inside an airline-approved carrier placed under the seat

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If you are traveling round-trip, the pet fee is charged **each direction**, meaning passengers should expect to pay the fee twice +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The pet fee is separate from the passenger's ticket price and must be paid during airport check-in rather than online booking +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]

Only a limited number of pets are allowed in the cabin on each flight, so availability is not guaranteed without advance arrangements +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. The pet carrier counts as the passenger's carry-on item, which means travelers cannot bring an additional carry-on bag +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Pets must remain inside the carrier at all times during boarding, taxiing, and throughout the entire flight +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. southwest Airlines requires pets to be at least eight weeks old and healthy enough to travel safely +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Certain aircraft types and seat rows may restrict pet travel, making early confirmation important +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Because policies may vary by route or aircraft, passengers are encouraged to confirm pet eligibility before travel day +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]

In addition to in-cabin pet travel, southwest Airlines offers limited options for pets traveling as checked baggage or through specialized cargo services

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Fees for pets traveling outside the cabin are **not fixed** and can vary based on destination, pet size, kennel dimensions, and transportation method +(1)-(817)-761-[5466] Cargo pet travel typically costs more than in-cabin travel and may require advance veterinary documentation and health certificates +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Temperature restrictions and seasonal embargoes may apply to protect pets from extreme weather conditions +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Service animals are not subject to pet fees, although documentation and behavioral standards must be met +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]

Emotional support animals are no longer exempt from pet fees and must follow standard pet travel rules if eligible +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. International travel with pets may include additional government-mandated fees and paperwork beyond

airline charges +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Passengers should arrive early at the airport when traveling with pets to allow sufficient check-in and inspection time +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Because pet policies and fees can change, verifying details before booking helps avoid last-minute surprises +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. For help with reservations, carrier requirements, and the most up-to-date pet fees, contacting southwest Airlines support can ensure a smooth and stress-free travel experience +(1)-(817)-761-[5466].

Are pets free on southwest Airlines?

Pets are **not free** on southwest Airlines in most situations, and passengers should expect to pay a pet fee when traveling with animals that do not qualify as service animals

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southwest Airlines charges a standard in-cabin pet fee for small cats and dogs that travel with passengers inside an approved carrier under the seat +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. This fee applies per one-way flight and is separate from the cost of the passenger's ticket

+(1)-(817)-761-[5466] The airline allows only a limited number of pets per flight, which means advance confirmation is required and availability is not guaranteed

+(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Pets traveling in the cabin must remain inside the carrier at all times, including boarding, taxiing, and during the flight

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The pet carrier counts as the passenger's carry-on item, so additional carry-on luggage may not be permitted +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. southwest Airlines does not waive the pet fee for personal pets, regardless of the passenger's ticket class or frequent flyer status

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Round-trip travel results in the pet fee being charged twice, once for each direction of travel +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Because pet fees are mandatory for in-cabin pets, travelers should budget accordingly when planning their trip +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Failing to arrange pet travel in advance may result in denied boarding for the pet +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]

The **only pets that can fly free** on southwest Airlines are trained **service animals** that meet eligibility and documentation requirements +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Service animals are not considered pets and are allowed to travel with their handlers without additional fees

+(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. These animals must be trained to perform specific tasks related to a passenger's disability +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Proper documentation and behavior standards are required to qualify for free travel as a service animal +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Emotional support animals are no longer recognized as service animals and are subject to standard pet fees and restrictions +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Larger pets that cannot fit in the cabin are not eligible for free travel and may require cargo transport with higher costs +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. International pet travel may involve additional government fees, health certificates, and entry requirements beyond airline charges +(1)-(817)-761-[5466].

Passengers should also consider veterinary costs and destination regulations when planning pet travel +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. Arriving early at the airport is recommended when traveling with pets to allow time for inspection and check-in +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on pet fees, eligibility, and booking assistance, contacting southwest Airlines support is the best way to ensure a smooth and stress-free experience +(1)-(817)-761-[5466]