

Westies Flying the Friendly Skies

By Nancy G. Stolsmark

Are you planning on coming to the 2010 Roving in sunny Scottsdale Arizona? If so, please let me share some tips regarding flying with your westie.

Make your reservations “early” so you can take advantage of time to price shop for the best fares. Look for direct flight if possible and add an extra day for getting your dog acclimatized to the warm dry Southwest Sonoran Desert.

All airlines charge a pet fee per segment or flight ranging from \$75.00 to \$125.00. Prior to final purchase you will need to call the actual airline you are booking with to ensure the reservation for your westie is “in cabin” since many airlines limit the number of animals per flight. Write down your dog’s reservation confirmation number just in case of problems during check in.

If possible, choose an aisle seats since it gives you more room to get your dog situated under the seat in front of you and affords your westie more airflow to avoid nausea during the flight. Turn the airflow on and direct it toward your westie too. You are considered a passenger needing special assistance due to stowing your dog. Ask if you can board early to get you dog settled.

Allow plenty of time to get through the security TSA lines. Check your security guidelines on the airline website and confirm no changes have occurred regarding the “in cabin” pet rules. Many airlines do not require current health certificate to fly, but if any questions about you pet’s health status arise, a current health certificate would be helpful.

During the actual flight, most dogs settle down to sleep. It is best not to disturb them. For longer flights you can offer them an ice cub at some point during the flight since the air in the cabin is quite dry.

Below is a list of airlines that fly into Phoenix (PHX) or Sky Harbor Airport with pets:

American Airlines Limit 5 pets per flight 3 first class and 2 coach www.AA.com	(1 800 433-7300) Carrier dimensions: Cost: \$100.00	20lb. limit per pet 19”L x 13”W x 9” H
Continental Airlines Limit 3 pets per flight www.continental.com	(1 800 523-3273) Carrier dimension: Cost: \$125.00	20lb. limit per pet 17” L x 12.5”W x 8”H
Delta Airlines Limit 4 pets per flight	(1 800 221-1212) Carrier dimension:	40lb. (With carrier) soft 18”L x 12”W x 12”H

2 first class and 4 coach www.delta.com	Carrier dimension: Cost: \$100.00	hard 17" x 12" W x 8" H
Southwest Airlines Limit 5 carriers per flight www.southwest.com	(1 800 435-9792) Carrier dimensions: Cost: \$75.00	Pet must fit in carrier 19"L x 14"W x 8.25"H
United Airlines Pets per size of the plane www.united.com	(1 800 864-8331) Carrier dimensions: Cost: \$125.00	20 lb. limit per pet soft 17 "L x 10 "W x 10 "H hard 17" x 12"W x 8"H
US Airways Limit 3 pets per flight www.usairways.com/awa	(1 800 428-4322) Carrier dimensions: Cost: \$100.00	20 lb. limit per pet soft 17 "L x 16 "W x 10"H hard 17"L x 16" W xs 8"H

Allegiant Airline flies into Mesa, Arizona which is located South of Sky Harbor Airport. All of the flights this airport provided are direct. The airport is smaller and easier to navigate.

Allegiant Airline Limit 1 dog per airline row www.allegiantair.com	(1 800 432-3810) Carrier dimension: Cost: \$100.00	20 lb. limit per pet 20 "L x 16'W x 9"H
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When packing the dogs items, put extra towels for bathing, food, bowels, grooming supplies and first aid supplies in your kennel and check as a piece of luggage. I pre-measure my food into baggies. This keeps me from over feeding my westie and gives me a pick up baggie for the refund on our walks.

If you need a grooming table/arm, x-pen or crate contact VSWHWTC President Sue Nennemann at: sue_nennemann@cox.net. There will be a refundable security deposit.

Additional information regarding the Roving is on our website www.azwestie.com Contact www.scottsdalecottonwoods.com for host hotel reservations. The sponsoring cluster website is www.fiestacluster.com

Be sure to pack your suntan lotion and sandals! Have a safe trip!