

Private / Semi-Private Chartered Insider Preparation Guide

Chartered travel is often quieter and more controlled, which can be helpful for pets that get overwhelmed easily. Preparing your pet for calm handling, unfamiliar movement, and “settle” time in new environments can reduce stress and make travel day feel far more predictable.

This guide outlines simple, practical steps you can take before travel so your pet is prepared for a charter-style journey.

For educational purposes only. Aircraft policies, handling procedures, and timing may vary by charter operator, route, and travel schedule.

Quick Pack List

Identification & Documentation:

- Secure collar/harness + ID tag
- Microchip number + registry (if known)
- Health Certificate (CVI), if required
- Vaccination records, if required
- Written care instructions (feeding + meds + potty cues)
- A recent clear photo of your pet + a backup copy on your phone

Personal Items:

- Well-fitting harness + Leash
- Carrier/containment plan (confirm if required)
- Pre-portioned meals + 1 extra day (labeled)
- Bowls + water
- Any prescribed meds (original bottle + written schedule)
- Absorbent pads + Waste bags + a few wipes/paper towels (quick clean-ups)
- Settle mat/blanket (the one your pet practiced with)
- Towel (traction + comfort + quick dry)

Your Pet Profile

- Full name, age, species, breed, weight
- Temperament notes (timid/reactive)
- Handling notes (touch-sensitive, door-darter, shy with strangers)
- Leash behavior (pulls, freezes, reactive, calm)
- Potty cues or habits
- Any medical considerations or mobility limits
- Your contact info + receiver contact info + backup number

7-10 days before travel

Settle Skill (Mat/Blanket Routine)

Charter travel is smoother when your pet has a practiced 'settle spot' routine.

- Choose one small mat/blanket and use it daily as the 'settle spot'.
- Reward calm lying down (start 10-20 sec, then build)
- Practice settling while you move around normally
- Add short settle reps in a new room to generalize the skill

Insider tip: Use the same blanket on travel day - familiar scent + practiced routine helps pets relax faster.

Loading/Unloading Confidence

Ramps, steps, tarmac sounds, and wind can feel unfamiliar - practice confidence, not speed.

- Practice "leash on before door opens" reps
- Practice stepping onto unfamiliar surfaces (rubber mat, threshold, small ramp)
- Rehearse calm doorway pauses (2 seconds) before moving forward
- Do short 'wait' reps at car doors to prevent rushing
- If your pet is carried, practice gentle pick-up/put-down routines

Insider tip: Teach 'pause at the edge' - most stress spikes happen at doorways and steps.

Paperwork + Documentation

Private flights still require details to match - keep documents clean and accessible.

- Confirm whether a Health Certificate (CVI) is required
- Confirm the valid date window (if required)
- Verify pet name + destination details match across documents
- Confirm receiver contact info + backup number (best phones)
- Keep docs together + photo backups on your phone

Insider tip: Keep paperwork on top of your grab bag - digging during **boarding or transfers** increases stress.

Harness + Tether Familiarity (If Used)

Some charter setups use short tethers or close supervision—make the feeling normal first.

- Practice calm harness wear indoors (1-2 minutes, then remove)
- Clip/unclip reps while rewarding stillness
- Do brief 'settle while clipped' reps (supervised) and build slowly
- Always end on calm

Insider tip: Micro reps win - 10 seconds of calm practice beats 10 minutes of wrestling.

48-72 hours before travel

Grooming + Comfort

Comfort equals calm—small irritations can cause restlessness during a new routine.

- Light bath 1-3 days before travel (not same-day)
- Brush out mats/tangles (collar area, armpits, hips)
- Trim nails to reduce slipping during transitions

Insider tip: Pack one small towel—it's versatile, adds traction when needed, and makes quick cleanups easy.

Prep Food + Meds Like a Professional

Clear instructions prevent mistakes when timing shifts.

- Stick to normal food (avoid new treats/toppers/chews)
- Pre-portion meals (Meal 1 / Meal 2) with simple written instructions
- Keep meds in original bottles + written schedule
- Pack 1 extra labeled meal (and extra doses if applicable)

Insider tip: Label meals by 'Meal 1/Meal 2'—it stays accurate even if departure time changes.

Health Check

Catching changes early prevents last-minute complications.

- Notify your transporter ASAP for vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, coughing/sneezing, discharge
- Share vet instructions ahead of time (dose, timing, with/without food)
- Do not introduce new meds/supplements in the final 72 hours without vet guidance
- If meds are approved, share name + dose schedule before travel day

Insider tip: Note baseline appetite/stool/energy the day before travel - tiny changes matter.

Light Activity, Not Overstimulation

Keep routines normal so your pet arrives calm and ready to settle.

- Normal walk and sniff time is ideal
- Avoid dog parks, big outings, or intense play the day before travel
- Keep greetings and routines low-key

Insider tip: Sniff time reduces arousal - calm curiosity beats 'exhausted and wired.'

Day of travel

Set your pet up for a calm boarding

A calm, predictable boarding transition helps your pet stay regulated and reduces stress during loading.

- Potty break shortly before boarding
- Keep the environment quiet (no crowd/no hype)
- Avoid heavy meals right before travel (lighter earlier is often better)
- Avoid sedation unless vet-directed and pre-discussed

Insider tip: Keep transitions calm and brief—whether you're boarding together or doing a quick handoff, your calm energy signals, "This is okay."

Do a Quick ID + Safety Check

A final 60-second check prevents avoidable issues when things move quickly.

- Harness/collar fitted correctly + ID attached
- Microchip info current (if applicable)
- Settle blanket packed + easy to access
- Share one clear recent photo for quick ID confirmation

Insider tip: Pack the settle blanket directly underneath the paperwork—so it's the first comfort item available as soon as pre-boarding details are handled.