

First of all, I wish to thank the FAA for taking a step forward in helping to protect animals--ALL animals--during flight and transit. Each year, an estimated 5,000 (!) animals are lost, injured, or die each year due to extreme heat or cold temperatures, lack of oxygen, or rough handling while being transported in commercial airline cargo holds. Live, sentient beings are being treated like cargo and airline luggage! I wish to thank the FAA for taking up the requirement of Congress to issue a proposed rule to file monthly reports on incidents involving animals, and for the Secretary of Transportation to make this information available to the public, so that consumers can evaluate the records of the various airlines and choose more wisely when transporting their animal(s). Thank you.

I do have a major concern, however, which I hope that you will address. I am afraid that this legislation will apply only to the pets of U.S. families. While I realize that the legislation ALLOWS for other animals--such as those destined for labs, zoos, pet stores, and pets from other countries--I would strongly urge that the final rule define "animal" more broadly, in order to encompass ALL animals in ALL situations.

Thank you again.