

I am concerned that an estimated 5000 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' These tragedies have not been tracked in any way to distinguish them from loss or damage to ordinary baggage; animals are not baggage!

First, I would like to THANK your agency for moving forward on this plight on animals and would like to urge you to finalize the rule AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I also want to express concern that the proposed rule only applies to pets of U.S. families (the legislation allowed for other animals - such as those destined for labs or zoos, and pets from other countries - to be covered); I would like to ask that the final rule define "animal" more broadly.

Thank you.