

ANIMALS ARE NOT BAGGAGE!

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, but these tragedies have not been tracked in any way to distinguish them from loss or damage to ordinary baggage. To remedy this, Congress enacted a requirement in April 2000 for airlines to file monthly reports on incidents involving animals, and for the Secretary of Transportation to make this information available to the public so consumers can evaluate specific airlines' records. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has now issued a proposed rule to implement this requirement. While it's taken the agency a long time to act, we're pleased the FAA is finally moving forward on this. Industry opponents of the legislation are expected to flood the FAA with negative comments on the proposed rule and try to keep this basic reporting requirement from taking effect. We need the FAA to get lots of positive feedback! First, THANK the agency and urge it to finalize the rule AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. You might also 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), and ask that the final rule define "animal" more broadly.