



2026

GLOBAL PET TRAVEL DATA REPORT



Where Pet Parents Are Moving and Why

Prepared by

Starwood
Pet Travel



www.starwoodpet.com

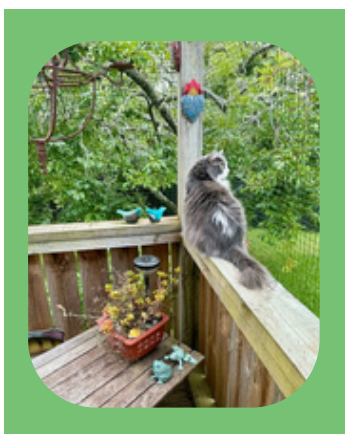
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



International relocation has entered a new era. For modern families, pets are no longer optional passengers. They are permanent members of the household who move when their humans move.

The 2026 Global Pet Travel Data Report analyzes 41,114 international pet relocation records handled by Starwood Pet Travel. This dataset provides a rare, real-world view into where pet parents are relocating, which US states they are leaving, and what is driving global pet movement in 2026.

The findings reveal clear migration patterns, a sharp rise in personal relocations, and growing complexity as families move to highly regulated destinations with multiple pets.

Dataset Overview

This report is based on anonymized customer relocation data collected across Starwood Pet Travel's global operations.

Dataset highlights

- Total international relocations analyzed: 41,114
- Species included: Dogs and cats
- Geographic scope: Global
- Average pets per relocation: 1.43
- Data source: Verified customer relocation records requiring airline, veterinary, and regulatory coordination

This dataset reflects completed, quoted, and actively managed international pet relocations.



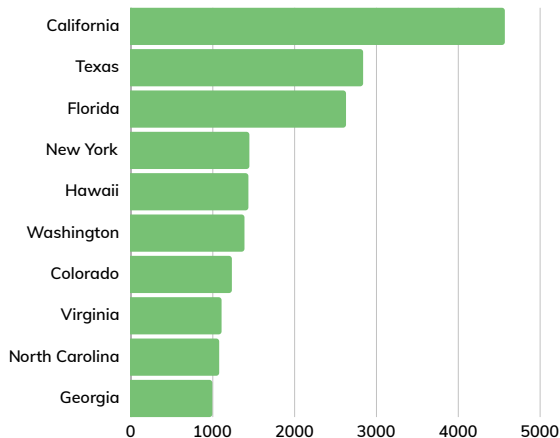
TOP DESTINATION COUNTRIES FOR INTERNATIONAL PET RELOCATION

Most common destination countries for pets relocating internationally:

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Australia
4. Spain
5. Germany
6. New Zealand
7. Japan
8. Italy
9. Philippines
10. Thailand



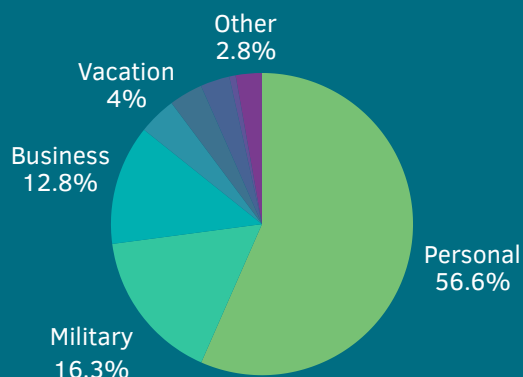
These destinations share high demand and increasing regulatory complexity. Countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand continue to require advanced planning due to strict import controls and limited airline availability.



Top US States Pet Parents Are Leaving

The data reveals strong outbound relocation patterns from several US states.

These states reflect a mix of high population centers, military presence, international business hubs, and lifestyle-driven migration.



Why Pet Parents Are Moving Internationally

Pet relocations are most often driven by major life transitions rather than discretionary travel. Personal relocations account for the majority of international pet movement, signaling a long-term shift toward pets being treated as permanent family members during global moves.



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PET COMPOSITION AND HOUSEHOLD TRENDS



Dogs vs Cats

- Dogs represented the majority of international relocations, totaling over 30,000 dogs.
- Cats accounted for more than 15,000 international relocations.
- Dog relocations often involve larger crate requirements, airline cargo coordination, and stricter aircraft limitations, increasing overall complexity.

Multi-Pet Households

- Average pets per household: 1.43
- A growing number of relocations involved two or more pets.
- Multi-pet relocations require synchronized documentation, airline capacity planning, and contingency preparation, particularly for long-haul international routes.

1.43

Average pets per
household

A growing number of
relocations involved two
or more pets



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HIGH-COMPLEXITY DESTINATION TRENDS

Relocations to countries with strict biosecurity measures continue to rise.

Common challenges include:

- Lengthy veterinary documentation timelines
- Country-specific blood testing and waiting periods
- Limited airline routes approved for live animal cargo
- Inspection or quarantine requirements upon arrival



The data shows that families relocating to these destinations increasingly seek professional assistance earlier in the planning process to avoid costly delays and denied entry.



Families attempting to self-manage complex international relocations face increased risk, cost, and stress.

What This Data Means for Pet Parents

International pet travel has become more regulated and less forgiving of mistakes.

Successful relocations typically include:

- Early planning aligned with destination-specific regulations
- Airline and aircraft-specific knowledge
- Proper crate sizing and preparation
- Accurate veterinary documentation
- Contingency planning for delays or cancellations



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INDUSTRY IMPLICATIONS

This data has direct relevance for:

- Corporate relocation providers
- Military family support organizations
- Immigration and expat services
- Veterinary professionals
- Animal welfare and rescue organizations



As global mobility increases, pet relocation is no longer a niche service but a critical component of international movement planning.

About Starwood Pet Travel

Starwood Pet Travel is a global pet relocation company specializing in international dog and cat transport. The company supports relocations to more than 100 countries and works with families, military personnel, and corporate relocation partners to manage every stage of the pet relocation process.





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REDDIT INSIGHTS

Pet Travel & Relocation Sentiment (2025)

Methodology

Analysis of high-intent Reddit discussions across expat, relocation, and pet travel communities during 2025. Sources reflect unfiltered traveler sentiment during planning stages prior to booking professional relocation support.



Key Themes from 2025 Discussions

Cost Uncertainty Is the Primary Stress Driver



Travelers frequently posted asking whether relocation quotes were “normal,” especially for large dogs and long-haul routes.

Example discussions:

- Relocating Dogs to Japan. [Click to read.](#)
- Pet Relocation Costs. [Click to read.](#)
- Moving Dogs Internationally. [Click to read.](#)

Insight:

Consumers expect high costs but want validation and clarity around what drives price.



Paperwork & Vet Costs Feel Opaque

Posts frequently referenced confusion about USDA requirements, vet pricing, and endorsement timelines.

Example discussions:

- Traveling Abroad with Cats. [Click to Read.](#)
- USDA Health Certificates. [Click to Read.](#)
- International Pet Paperwork. [Click to Read.](#)

Insight:

Documentation is perceived as the most confusing and error-prone stage of the process.

UK Moves Generate Disproportionate Anxiety

UK relocation threads appeared more frequently than other destinations due to cargo entry requirements.

Example discussions:

- Moving to the UK with Pets. [Click to Read.](#)
- Moving Dogs to the UK. [Click to Read.](#)
- General Pet Travel Concerns for the UK. [Click to Read.](#)

Insight:

UK-bound travelers are highly motivated but actively searching for routing reassurance and cost clarity.

In-Cabin Eligibility Creates Last-Minute Fear

Many posts focused on airline enforcement of in-cabin weight limits and fear of being denied at check-in.

Example discussions:

- Dog Weight Limits When Flying. [Click to Read.](#)
- Pets in Cabin for International Flights. [Click to Read.](#)

Insight:

Small differences in weight or carrier size can change the entire travel plan, creating anxiety.

Large Dogs Represent the Highest-Anxiety Segment

Owners of large dogs consistently expressed the most stress around safety, routing, and cost.

Example discussions:

- Dog Safety When Traveling. [Click to Read.](#)
- Moving Large Dogs Overseas. [Click to Read.](#)

Insight:

Large-dog households are the most likely to seek full-service relocation support and reassurance.



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WHAT THIS MEANS FOR 2026

High-Demand Content Topics
Based on discussion frequency:

- Cost ranges by route and pet size
- Documentation timelines explained simply
- Airline policy comparisons
- UK relocation planning guides
- Large-dog routing strategies
- In-cabin eligibility decision trees



OVERALL SENTIMENT SHIFT

Pet relocation is increasingly perceived as a specialized logistics process. Travelers actively seek authoritative guidance before finalizing travel timelines.



Using This Report

This report may be cited with attribution to Starwood Pet Travel. Data may be referenced by media outlets, relocation professionals, and industry partners for educational and informational purposes.

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