

Requirements and Restrictions

Specialized Live (Commercial) Animals – U.S. Domestic Shipments



Type of Commercial Live Animal Shipment	Regulatory and Delta Cargo Requirements									
Specialty Warm-Blooded Animals Zoo animals (including birds), farm animals, primates, etc.	1	2	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8	
Small Mammals (USDA protected)	1	2		3b	4	5	6	7	8	9
Laboratory Mice & Rats				3b	4	5	6		8	9
Birds		2		3b	4	5	6	7	8	
Day-Old Chicks				3b	4	5	6		8	
Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects, etc.				3b	4	5			8	9
Fish & Aquatic Creatures				3b	4	5			8	9
Hatching Poultry Eggs									8	

List of U.S. Domestic Requirements for Commercial Live Animals

- Temperature Policy:** Forecasted temperatures must be between 20-80°F when the animal is in Delta's care while on the ground, including all times at origin, transfer, and destination stations. **Acclimation certificate**¹ is required when the lowest forecasted temperature on the ground is between 20-45°F.
- Minimum Age:** Warm-blooded animals must be weaned², fledged³ (birds) and self-feeding for a period of at least 5 consecutive days.
- Domestic Health Certificate** must be signed by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian within 10 days of travel.
 - Required for destination Continental US
 - Required for destination Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. Please review additional requirements for live animals entering these destinations.
- Container Requirements:** All animals must be shipped in containers that comply with the current version of IATA LAR for the animal species. For assistance, please contact liveanimals@delta.com.
- Shippers Certification and Journey Declaration Form** must be completed in full by the Shipper and presented to the Cargo Agent at acceptance.
- Overnight Stay Policy:** Overnight stay is **NOT** allowed for any warm-blooded animal shipments.
- Feeding and Watering Instructions Label** (provided by the Cargo Agent) must be completed in full by the Shipper. One label must be placed on top of each container to be transported.
- Additional Permits:** May be required based on animal species and destination. It is the customer's responsibility to verify all applicable regulations and secure any necessary permits prior to shipment. Review [U.S. State and Territory Animal Entry Requirements | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) or the [Migratory Bird Permits | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) for birds.
- Special Labels / Markings:** For SPF laboratory animals, one (1) red "Laboratory Animal" label (provided by the Shipper) affixed to each container. Containers holding animals that can inflict poisonous bites or stings shall be clearly marked "VENOMOUS" or "POISONOUS" in bold letters at least one inch (2.5 cm) high.

Additional Restrictions

- Live animal shipments are limited to one (1) connecting city.
- Interline shipments (transfer to another air carrier) are prohibited.
- Non-human primates' shipments are allowed only when shipped between zoos, sanctuaries, preserves or rehabilitation centers.
- Shipments of Rope Squirrels, Gambian Giant Pouched Rats, Tree Squirrels, Dornice, Striped Mice or Brush-Tailed Porcupines are prohibited, except when shipped to entities under guidance by Federal, State or local government authorities.

Delta will NOT accept animals if:

- Documented requirements or restrictions are unmet.
- The animals have horns.
- The animal is visibly ill, injured, or distressed (unless traveling for veterinary care).
- Requires medication to be administered during flight.
- Displays obvious signs of aggression or makes determined efforts to escape their crate.
- The animal is deceased, and its remains are untreated.

On the Day of Departure

- For timely processing, animals should be tendered 4-6 hours prior departure for domestic travel.
- Domestic shipments must be accepted no later than 2.5 hours prior to departure. Arrivals close to or after the cut-off time will require rebooking.
- Animals may not remain in the station overnight in anticipation of an early flight the next morning.

1) The acclimation certificate must be approved by a USDA accredited veterinarian and must provide the exact minimum temperature that the animal(s) has been acclimated to.
 2) "Weaned" refers to a mammal that has been taking solid food without nursing or a bird that has been self-feeding without supplemental feeding from a parent or caretaker.
 3) "Fledged" refers to a bird that has developed enough feathers to fly.