

PAWs in the AIR –

Escorting with PAW BVI



PAW BVI has certain rescues in the States that take PAW puppies and kittens from us, which they find great homes for. This really helps us alleviate the pressure on our limited number of foster families and allows us to keep vulnerable pups and kitties out of the local shelter.

We continue to focus on providing free spay/neuter and TNR programme, but at this time the amount of puppies and kitties being born is too high for us to home them on island.

Here is a step-by-step run down of how it works:

1. You send a copy of your itinerary to pawbvi@gmail.com (we need to see flight details, airline booking reference and full names of travelers). Plus WhatsApp/phone number.
2. We determine whether your destination or layover works for us to send pups/kitties.
3. If we can use you to escort, we'll let you know and we will add a cabin pet to your booking by calling the airline.
4. We meet you either at Beef airport (2 hours before flight) or Road Town ferry dock (half hour before ferry).
5. We provide you with the following:
 - a. Adorable puppy/kitten to accompany you on your journey
 - b. All required paperwork (vet certificates and animal health records)
 - c. Airline approved pet carrier
 - d. Puppy pads, poop bags, latex gloves (accidents happen)
 - e. Collar/leash (in case of puppies)
 - f. Bowl for water & a small amount of food
 - g. \$\$\$ to pay for the cabin pet
6. If travelling by ferry, you declare a pet on your customs form and show them the paperwork.
7. Once at airline check-in counter, present paperwork and pay for cabin pet (note some airlines require pre-payment when we book the pet, so this may have already been done).
8. When going through security, you will be required to remove the animal from the carrier and walk through the scanner with animal in your arms, while they scan the carrier. (*you may ask to be taken to a room for the search instead – highly recommend this if you are taking cats)
9. While waiting for flight, puppies can be taken out and played with – some airports have dedicated pet relief areas. (Cats should not be taken out unless you can find somewhere enclosed)
10. On the flight, the pet carrier goes under the seat in front of you. Puppy or kitty should remain in carrier at all times (although sometimes they are a bit more lenient)
11. On arrival at your destination, you will be met by a volunteer from our rescue partner who will collect your new best friend (and paperwork) at baggage claim. We will put you in contact with the volunteer prior to your flight. Please take pics along the way and at handover and send them to us.
12. And that's it! Puppy/kitty gets to start new life thanks to you being awesome!



PAW BVI ESCORTING FAQs

1. Will I be taking puppies or kittens?

This depends on your destination, we only have certain rescues that will take kittens, we mainly send puppies.

2. How many kitties/pups will I be taking

This depends on your airline – in some cases we can send two pups/kitties per carrier (which is far more efficient & cost effective for us. Others limit to one animal per carrier.). The weight of the carrier will never exceed 20lbs.

3. If I'm travelling in a group, can more than one person in the group escort?

We love groups that are willing to escort! Multiple people can escort, but airlines limit the number of cabin pets in total (usually to 4).

4. Can children escort

Certain airlines allow this, but some have a minimum age requirement.

5. Does the pet carrier count as/replace my cabin bag?

No it does not – but sometimes the airlines get a bit sticky and only allow the carrier and cabin bag and no personal item (but this is pretty rare).

6. Which destinations do you send to?

Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Boston, Hartford, Jacksonville, Orlando, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Harrisburg, Columbus, and NYC (all dependent on when the rescues/fosters on the other side can take). We also have some others not listed here that we send to on occasion, so please send itinerary wherever you're travelling to.

7. If there isn't a rescue at my final destination that you partner with, but there is at my layover city, can I escort?

This depends on length of layover – we recommend 4 hour minimum, just in case there is any delay. You will need to handover at the exit and then re-clear security.

8. Since PAW BVI is based in BVI, what if I'm leaving direct from STT or another BVI island?

We will make a plan to get the puppy/kitty to the airport in STT and you will be met there, just let us know.

9. I'm worried about getting the animal through customs, are there any issues?

We have sent hundreds of animals with no issues – we make sure all paperwork is in order and all necessary vet checks/treatment have been performed.

10. If I fall in love with puppy/kitty on the way, can I just take it home and adopt?

You can certainly apply to adopt, however you will need to hand over the pup at the airport as planned and then follow the procedures of the receiving rescue. Let us know and we will point you in the right direction. The reason for this is that once a rescue commits to taking an animal, they take responsibility for it and ensure it gets the correct vet care (and most importantly that it is spayed/neutered). They also spend a lot of time organizing fosters and transport so we cannot mess them around. Our partner rescues are so important to us, we cannot risk jeopardizing these vital relationships.

11. If I know I want to adopt beforehand, is this possible and what are the costs involved?

Yes, we can certainly organize this if you let us know in advance (we won't get a rescue involved in this instance). The adopter is responsible for paying the cabin pet fee. We can send pics of available animals in foster care.

12. What breeds of dogs do you have?

We call them "coconut retrievers". They mixed breeds and often have a little bit of everything! You never know what they're going to end up looking like. They generally have great personalities, make great pets and are pretty resilient health-wise.

13. What breeds of cats do you have?

Our cats are all DSH (Domestic short-haired), we don't have any "fancy cats". They are usually a bit smaller than mainland kitties.

14. We'd like to bring some supplies to donate, what do you need?

Top of our needs list is carriers for our escort programme – the "AmazonBasics Soft-Sided Pet Travel Carrier (LARGE)" is the perfect carrier for our needs, is reasonably priced and folds flat so it is easy for you to pack"