

# Beacon Hill Ranch

## Puppy Shipping Information

My puppies frequently go to new homes all over the United States and thus I do ship puppies via airlines. I normally use Delta or Continental Airlines where my experiences have been very good thus far. Please review the details below; if you would like to have your puppy shipped, you can provide the info I need to estimate cost and arrange air travel on the next page.

### **What are the rules and how do the airlines care for puppies?**

Each of the airlines have rules about size of kennel, health papers required, time in transit, temperature while in transit, and documentation accompanying puppy. Weather is the factor that causes the most uncertainty in the process – there are lower and upper limits for temperature while in transit so I watch the forecast carefully to find days when the conditions are okay. Even so, weather sometimes causes a shipment to cancel at the last minute. Once in their care, the airlines have holding areas for pets at each airport and transfer them to the plane shortly before and after departure/arrival. I must provide a statement about when the puppy was last fed and watered and send along food in case the time in transit dictates food and water need to be offered. While on a flight the puppies travel in a temperature controlled pressurized cargo cabin – I know folks who assume air travel for pets is a horrendous experience, but I can thankfully tell you that I have never had a new owner tell me of a pup that has appeared stressed or traumatized upon arrival.

### **What I do to prepare puppies for travel**

The night before travel I give the puppies a bath. Then I prepare the shipping kennel with shredded newspaper, food & water containers, and make a label for the kennel. The label has the puppy's photo, name, age and all the contact info for me and the new owner, the scheduled itinerary, flight numbers, the confirmation #, and info about when the puppy was last fed and watered. Free choice water and dry food are available to the puppy through the night. On the morning of shipment I offer water and Nutrical to the puppy. Nutrical is a concentrated supplement in paste form that tastes sweet like molasses and dogs love it. It is packed with calories and nutrition. The appropriate amount of Nutrical for the puppy's weight gives them a little extra nutrition to travel on, reduces the risk of nausea, and allows them to arrive at their new home in good shape and ready for normal food again once at home with you.

### **Arranging travel**

I will contact the carriers and select the one with the best itinerary between Tulsa and your pick-up airport factoring in travel time, number of connections, cost and weather. I'll then provide you with this info for approval. Once approved, I'll book the travel and confirm the date and itinerary to you and pass along any pick-up info the airline has given me e.g. pick-up location (cargo or baggage claim) and telephone number.

### **Cost**

As of this writing (July 2008) total cost for air travel is running \$290 - \$350 depending on destination, airline, size of kennel, and weight of kennel + puppy. This range is for one puppy in a medium kennel ~ total weight 15 lbs. Also included are \$15 for my mileage to the airport (~40 miles round trip) and \$20 for the travel health papers (different than my standard veterinarian's health statement). Please note: I will not ship puppies without a successful pre-paid status. Please ensure your credit card info is correct and that I have a number to reach you in case your card does not authorize the charge on the morning of travel.

### **Day of travel details**

On the morning of travel, I'll call the airline to confirm all is good to go and if so I will then charge your credit card for the balance due on the puppy + the air travel costs. After check-in at the airport (2 hours before departure) I will e-mail you a copy of the label I made for the crate so you have all the info and a final confirmation that your puppy is on the way.

If travel cancels at the last minute because of weather or an airline issue, I'll call you to let you know and follow-up with info about the next potential travel date. If travel goes forward as planned, the airline will contact you using the info I have provided in the event of a delay or early arrival. Please be sure to provide me with the name(s) of anyone who may possibly pick up the puppy. I recommend your name and at least one back-up person in case something unexpected comes up. The airlines will require ID from a person matching the info I have supplied at the time of check-in to release the puppy to you or your representative. Air travel will be pre-paid to me before shipment; I will in turn pre-pay the airlines – you will not owe anything at time of pick-up unless a delay caused charges for the airlines to care for your puppy. Although I track puppy travel until they arrive in your hands, the puppy belongs to you once I have checked it in with the airline and thus options for care from that point forward are your choice/responsibility. Likewise, if you desire insurance on your puppy while in transit that will be your choice/responsibility. As mentioned before, the airlines will contact you regarding any schedule issues that might arise during travel. So far I have not had a puppy delayed in transit – I have had a puppy or two arrive earlier than scheduled - that's usually a good thing! Please call me once the puppy is in your hands.

### **Ready to investigate shipping ? Here's what I need to know:**

**Desired travel dates** (please provide 3 or 4 in case weather causes a cancellation):

**Desired time of arrival e.g. morning – afternoon - evening**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Cell Phone:**

**E-mail:**

**Fax :**

**Airport where you will pick up the puppy:**

**Name of authorized pick up person(s) ID will be required at pick-up:**

**If you will be at work on the day of travel, please provide work phone or pager #**

**Remember to have ready:** puppy food, toys, a collar & leash and a quiet place for the puppy to sleep and feel safe. The travel crate will be just fine once cleaned up from travel – you'll need a quiet spot to set it. Even though 8-12 weeks old at arrival, pups are babies and still sleep a large part of the day. Most are not potty trained or fully potty trained (see my Dec 07 blog for an idea on how to set up a pup in training). Adjustment to a new home is normally a short term and minor issue, if anything at all. If you have any concerns - call me regardless of time of day. If I don't answer at home – my cell # will be on the ship label.