



# Traveling to the ADRK Klubsieger Show

By Alice Velasquez



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*Waiting to board the aircraft*

My family spent the summer of 2012 preparing our dogs for the ADRK Klubsieger Show in Rottweil, Germany. Since I first started working with the breed, I have always looked up to the ADRK Klubsieger as THE Rottweiler show, and we were excited and honored to attend! Everyone in my family had saved for this prestigious show and planned to attend in 2012. However, a few weeks before the show, one of my daughters was in a terrible accident. She was riding her bicycle and lost control, falling head first off a bridge and plummeting about 20 feet. She nearly severed her leg and had to have multiple surgeries to repair the damage. Our travel plans were postponed to 2013. We again worked hard and trained. We knew that 2013 was going to be our year! My whole family, including my 11- and 13-year-old daughters, helped condition and train the dogs we were taking.

As the date of our departure grew closer, we set about finalizing everything for our dogs' travel. We had already reserved our tickets. Unfortunately, we were not aware of airline policy changes at Delta Airlines since originally booking the tickets in 2012. Delta and several other airlines allow passengers to travel with their pet as "checked baggage" as long as you travel on the same plane as the dog at prices as low as \$150 each direction. Cargo rates can be as high as several thousand dollars each direction. Although the pet travels at a reduced fee as a

checked bag, he or she still goes into a pressurized, climate-controlled compartment of the aircraft. However, most airlines have a pet embargo policy in force so all animals can be shipped only as live cargo from May 15 to September 15. The pet embargo substantially increases travel expenses with a dog. We decided we were still going to take our dogs to the ADRK show, even at the increased cargo price.

[http://www.pettravel.com/airline\\_pet\\_rules/delta.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/airline_pet_rules/delta.cfm)

**Temperature Restrictions:** Delta will not transport pets as checked baggage between the period of May 15 through September 15.

**Route Restrictions:** Pets are not permitted to fly as checked baggage to Hong Kong, South Africa or the United Kingdom. *Pets can also not be accommodated on Boeing 767 aircraft.*

Our tickets were booked on a Boeing 767 aircraft, so we had to find a different aircraft on which to fly. We could fly with the dogs on other aircraft such as an Airbus 300. So just a few days before we were scheduled to leave for Europe, we were madly scrambling, trying to find which airport we could fly in to with our dogs and finally found we could fly into Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We had to cancel our original car rental for Stuttgart, Germany as well as our hotel near that airport. Unfortunately, booking something else at the last minute was an adventure all in itself! It was not possible to find another van to rent in Amsterdam, so we had to take a four-door Volvo instead—for twice the price that the van in Stuttgart would have been! This meant that there would be three Rottweilers, four kids, two adults, three crates, and all of the necessary luggage packed into a four-door car. Not for a short drive either, but for 10+ hours cross-country from Amsterdam, The Netherlands to Rottweil, Germany! When I rebooked a hotel on the internet, the website stated that the hotel was a short drive from Rottweil. This "short drive" was 45 minutes.



*In cabin of airplane in front of passenger seat*

Each airline has different policies regarding pets inside the cabin of the aircraft. All airline companies in North America allow service dogs, as it is illegal to decline them. Both of my daughters have Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bones Disease) and have licensed Rottweiler service dogs. One of the females we chose to bring to Germany was a young female who had recently been certified as a service dog, so this dog traveled in the cabin of the plane with us and did so brilliantly.



*Paramedics on the scene preparing to airlift my daughter to the hospital*

When traveling internationally with a pet, your pet must be current on all vaccinations and have an international health certificate, which is a signed and dated certificate from a licensed vet stating the animal appears to be healthy and free of disease. Some airlines have policies regarding the date the Rabies vaccine must be given prior to projected travel. When traveling from the USA, you are also required to have your paperwork inspected and stamped by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For travel throughout Europe, your pet usually just needs a pet passport with all vaccination and health inspection information up to date.

When you travel with your pet as checked baggage, you will claim your pet in the over-sized or odd-sized baggage claim and then proceed to Customs where they will check your paperwork. When you are having your pet shipped, the process is much more involved. It requires travel to a separate building (cargo facility) where your paperwork will be checked, and then to yet a different building where it can be cleared by Customs. Once Customs has cleared your pets for entry into that country, you will then travel back to cargo to present the approved papers and have your pet released.

Unfortunately, for us it did not work out this way. In the United States, numerical dates are written month-day-year. However, in Europe, the numerical date is written in chronological order: day-month-year. Our issue was with the date of vaccination for one of our youth dogs. On the veterinarian certificate, the rabies vaccination was dated July 8, 2013; however, on the USDA paper, it read 07-08-13. To Customs in Amsterdam, this was a conflict and therefore they refused to release our pups. They informed us that the pups would be held at the Pet Hotel (at our expense) at the airport and then sent back to the USA with us when we returned home five days later. We spent several hours on the phone trying to fix this with no success and finally left Amsterdam and drove to Germany, arriving at the hotel about 4:00 am. At 6:00 am, we received a message from the Pet Hotel in Amsterdam that they had decided to release the pups! That meant a ten-hour drive back to Amsterdam and then back again to Germany, arriving the evening before the ADRK KS!

We got to the show super early and had barely slept. I was very nervous for the pups, as the long trip, extended stay at the airport, and then long road trip had taken a toll on the four-month-old pups. My youngest daughter twisted her ankle going to the ring. The paramedics on scene insisted on air lifting her to a hospital as they thought her ankle was broken. My husband and daughter went to the hospital, and the rest of our family showed the two pups. One pup received VSP4 and one pup received VSP! At the end of our trip, despite all the bumps, I know the kids had made memories that would last them a lifetime! In conclusion, travel with your pet is certainly possible. Just make sure you know the rules and regulations with the airline company you are Traveling with for both the country you will be leaving from as well as the country you will be entering.

*Alice Velasquez*

**SEPTEMBER 26, 27 & 28, 2014**

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JUDGE: ANDREA DUGGAN (USCA/GSSCC)  
TRIAL HELPER & TRACK LAYER: JOEL MONROE

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