

Dear Dr. Doug, this winter we are planning a ski trip, and will be flying. I was wondering if there was anything special I need to know for my dog Chloe who will be going with usshe loves the snow. Thank you, Kelly.

Dear Kelly,

Wow, sounds like a great time is being planned. And planning is a key word for Chloe, too. First of all, you will need to get a current exam for Chloe by your veterinarian and a health certificate. Since you are flying, and if you are staying within the United States, you will want to contact your airline carrier and get specifics for what they require to safely transport Chloe on their aircraft. Believe it or not, each airline is different, and will require different paper work to be filled out. And if you do not have the proper paper work filled out, and signed by the proper people....like your veterinarian, they will NOT allow her to fly with you....very stressful, and a lot of shouting occurs if that happens. Not a good way to start your ski trip. If you are fortunate enough to be going overseas to ski the Alps, then it gets even crazier. Then you will also need an extra special International Health Certificate filled out for the specific country to which you are traveling. That will need to be filled out by a USDA accredited veterinarian (which I am by the way). Accredited veterinarians have extra training that our government and other countries require to examine your pet before entering their countries. Actually, some countries have up to 6 months worth of requirements that need to be fulfilled before they will allow pets into their country. So plan way, way ahead if you're heading overseas. If you are heading overseas, check out our website where you can find a link to USDA requirements for traveling with your pet. So again Kelly, the key to air travel with you pets is to plan ahead. Enjoy your trip, and by all means, you and Chloe stay safe. Dr. Doug