

American Airlines 2025 Animal Incidents

Incident 1 - On Wednesday, January 08, 2025, four rescue dogs (three kennels), were tendered at the American Airlines Cargo Terminal in San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU) by shipper Compassion Kind Foundation, under AWB 001-73470821, at 12:58 AST. The dogs were scheduled to travel to Tampa, FL (TPA) with a connection in Miami, FL (MIA), on flights AA1613/08 SJUMIA and AA2409/09 MIATPA, with overnight kenneling services with Pet Limo at Miami, FL. All dogs arrived at the Miami Cargo Terminal and released to Pet Limo for overnight kenneling service, to return the following morning for departure on the connecting flight. At 03:00 EST, American Airlines was notified by Pet Limo that one dog (Luna) had escaped and eluded recapture. While in their fenced-in area, the Pet Limo staff attempted to remove the dog from its soiled kennel for cleaning, the dog escaped from the staff and although in a fenced enclosure, somehow escaped the premises. Pet Limo is heading up several various efforts to locate and recapture the dog, including posters, social media, and law enforcement. Sightings have been reported and although responded immediately, the dog has evaded capture. We will continue with the rescue and notifying the community as well as the law enforcement, animal services, post office, all social media and posting flyers where all permitted.

Incident 2 - Type of animal: Dog. Name: Blue. Dog Breed: Dachshund. Age: 4 years, 7 months. Weight of animal: 5.7kgs.

Summary: On Tuesday, June 03, 2025, 08:32 PST, one Dachshund (Blue – 4 years) and one Dachshund (Bud – 5 years), were tendered at the American Airlines Cargo Terminal in Los Angeles, CA (LAX) for transport under air [REDACTED]. The dogs were tendered by [REDACTED], a representative for [REDACTED], hired by the owners to assist with transportation of their pets. Blue and Bud were scheduled to travel to London Heathrow, GB (LHR) on flight AA136/03Jun LAX-LHR (etd 13:30 eta 08:00). During the acceptance process, both dogs were removed from their kennels by [REDACTED] for security and screening purposes, applying a slip-collar leash to each dog. The leash for Blue was handed to an American Airlines agent by [REDACTED], while he maintained control of the leash for Bud. After screening was completed, [REDACTED] placed Bud back into his kennel, at which time the American Airlines agent holding the leash for Blue took a step forward, Blue took this opportunity to slip the collar/leash from his head and ran loose within the Cargo warehouse. Blue eluded capture within the warehouse, biting one employee who attempted to capture him, eventually escaping out of the back of the building, and then proceeded to run towards the airfield, crossing two active runways. All available personnel assisted in the pursuit and re-capture of Blue, eventually cornered, and captured beneath a Sky Chef vehicle; one additional employee was bit during the capture. After return to the Cargo warehouse, Blue was examined and determined there were injuries to his front paw pads and nails. Blue was transported to the [REDACTED] for assessment and treatment. The owners were notified and arrived at the veterinary center. Veterinary care identified avulsion to the paw pad and torn dewclaw; however, due to the knowledge that two people were bit during the incident, one breaking the skin, Blue would be required to remain in a 10-day quarantine as per Los Angeles Public Health regulations.

Description of corrective action or plan to prevent the incident from reoccurring: Implementing a revised live animal acceptance process that necessitates the closure of all doors leading to the public or the Airport Operations Area (AOA).

Incident 3 - Type of incident: Injury. Type of animal: Dog. Name: Mungo. Dog Breed: Welsh Springer Spaniel. Age: 3.5 years old
Weight of animal: 86 lbs.

Summary: On Thursday, July 03, 2025, 05:45 EST, one Welsh Springer Spaniel (3 years) was tendered at the American Airlines Cargo Terminal in New York, NY (JFK) for transport. The dog was tendered by a representative for the owners to assist with transportation of their pet. The dog was scheduled to travel to London, GB (LHR) on flight AA104/03Jul JFK-LHR (etd 23:00 eta 11:05). After acceptance was completed, the dog was loaded to PLA10727AA, which was loaded to a dolly for transport to the gate for loading to the aircraft. Observing an aircraft in motion, the driver of the vehicle for it to pass before moving forward, however the aircraft made a turn to the right, the jet blast from the aircraft engine struck the vehicles and dollies. The PLA with the dog was blown off of the dolly and carried approximately 200 feet, landing in the backyard area behind the Cargo Terminal. Although there was no damage to the ULD or kennel, and the dog appeared physically unharmed, the dog was transported to the facility at JFK for examination by a veterinarian to rule out any internal injuries. It was determined that the dog did sustain minor soft tissue injuries, resulting in some sore muscles and soreness in his back. He was held overnight at the veterinarian site for observation. The dog was released the following day and transported on flight AA100/04Jul JFK-LHR. Kennel Size: 42X22X26 Inches