

News Release



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Amtrak Contact: Marc Magliari
312 544.5390
MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com
Illinois DOT Contact: Guy Tridgell
312 793.4199

AMTRAK AND ILLINOIS DOT TO EXPAND PETS PROGRAM TO A SECOND DOWNSTATE ROUTE Pilot project also extended to April 2015

CHICAGO -- Amtrak and the Illinois Department of Transportation (Illinois DOT) are adding the Chicago-Champaign-Carbondale route of the *Illini* and *Saluki* trains to a pilot project that allows travelers to bring their pets along on trips to and from [Chicago and Downstate Illinois](#). Small pets have been carried between Chicago and Quincy on *Illinois Zephyr* and *Carl Sandburg* trains since April, with almost 20 small animals safely transported.



Although the test was scheduled to end in November, Amtrak and Illinois jointly decided to give the idea an extended trial, through April 26, 2015.

Ticketing and travel with pets can originate throughout the day in Chicago, Carbondale, Champaign and Galesburg, while the service is only available during afternoon departures in Homewood and Naperville. Advance reservations are required and a surcharge of \$25 will be assessed for travel. Dogs or cats up to 20-pounds each will be accepted in carriers such as those used in airplane cabins and placed under the seat of each pet owner.

Other provisions apply; please see the attached Amtrak Passenger Service Notice. Amtrak routinely welcomes service animals on trains at no charge and that policy is unchanged.

Trains 390-393, the *Illini* and *Saluki*, operate daily to and from Chicago, Homewood, Kankakee, Gilman, Rantoul, Champaign, Mattoon, Effingham, Centralia, DuQuoin and Carbondale. Trains 380-383, the *Illinois Zephyr* and *Carl Sandburg*, operate daily to and from Chicago, LaGrange, Naperville, Plano, Mendota, Princeton, Kewanee, Galesburg, Macomb and Quincy.

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“Amtrak continues to be supportive of accommodating pets on trains. This expanded pilot project will give us better information to develop a plan that meets the needs of our passengers,” said Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman. “We are collaborating directly with the Illinois Department of Transportation and a working group led by U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham of California in support of this initiative.”

“The expansion of the Pets on Trains pilot program is a step forward in allowing families nationwide to travel with their pets on Amtrak trains,” said Rep. Denham. “I look forward to continuing to work with Amtrak to see the program succeed.”

“Accommodating pets on trains is just one more way that Amtrak is an increasingly attractive option for travel in Illinois,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Erica Borggren. “We are excited to partner with Amtrak officials on this new program as they develop a policy that works for everyone.”

About Amtrak®

Amtrak is America’s Railroad®, the nation’s intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. Amtrak and its state and commuter partners move people, the economy and the nation forward. Formally known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak is governed by a nine member board of directors appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Anthony R. Coscia is board chairman and Jeffrey R. Moreland is vice chairman. In FY 2013, a record 31.6 million passengers traveled on Amtrak on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Enjoy the journey® at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter (@Amtrak) and check out our blog at blog.amtrak.com.

(attachment)

Carry-on Pet Pilot Extended through April 26, 2015 aboard *Carl Sandburg* and *Illinois Zephyr* Trains 380, 381, 382 and 383



Pilot will also include *Saluki* & *Illini* Trains 390, 391, 392 & 393, for travel starting August 11, 2014

Amtrak and the state of Illinois will extend the carry-on pet pilot that started on May 5, 2014 through to April 26, 2015 on the *Carl Sandburg*, and the *Illinois Zephyr*, Trains 380, 381, 382 and 383. In addition, the pilot will expand to include the *Illini* and *Saluki*, Trains 390, 391, 392 and 393 starting August 11, 2014 through to April 26, 2015. Please refer to the guidelines below. Other restrictions may apply. *Note that these guidelines do not pertain to passengers traveling with service animals*

Types of Pets Allowed

Cats and dogs are the only types of pets accepted on Amtrak, and only one pet per passenger will be allowed.

Where Travel Must Begin

- Passengers must begin the first leg of their trip at the Chicago, Naperville, Galesburg, Homewood, Champaign-Urbana or Carbondale stations during the hours that the ticket offices are open.
Note: Due to the ticket office hours, the only train accepting pet reservations at Naperville is Train 383, and at Homewood the only trains accepting pet reservations are Trains 393 and 392.
- Round trips may be booked to an unstaffed station, but travel must begin at staffed stations, as described below:

Pet Reservations, Fare and Ticketing

- Effective August 4, pet reservations will be accepted on the Trains 380, 381, 382, 383, 390, 391, 392 and 393, through April 26, 2015. Travel with pets on Trains 390, 390, 391, 392 and 393 begins August 11.
- Pet reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. No more than four pets are reserved per train. Service animals do not count towards this limitation.
- The fare for pets is \$25.00 per carrier, for each travel segment.
- Pet reservations can only be made with a reservation agent at 1-800-USA-RAIL or at a staffed station.
- Passengers may only pick up pet tickets at the Chicago, Naperville, Galesburg, Homewood, Champaign-Urbana or Carbondale stations. Pet tickets cannot be picked up at any other stations.
- Pets are not permitted to travel with unaccompanied minors.
- During this pilot program, multi-ride tickets cannot be used in conjunction with pet reservations. Multi-ride ticket holders traveling with a pet must reserve a coach seat and pay the applicable fare.

Arrive at Least 30 Minutes Early

Passengers traveling with pets must check in at the station ticket office no later than 30 minutes before train departure time in order to allow sufficient time to confirm pet eligibility and complete a Release and Indemnification Agreement.

Designated Pet Car & Onboard Guidelines

- Passengers must remain with pets at all times.
- Pets must remain inside their carrier at all times and may not be removed from their carrier while in stations or onboard trains.
- Passengers must keep their pet carrier under their own seat. Pet carriers are not permitted under the seat in front of you.
- Pet carriers are not permitted on train seats.
- Pets are not permitted in food service cars.
- Each *Carl Sandburg*, *Illinois Zephyr*, *Saluki* and *Illini* train will have one railcar designated for passengers with their pets.

Approved Pet Carriers

- Pet owners must provide their own pet carrier.
- The maximum size for pet carriers is 19" long x 14" wide x 10.5" high.
- Carrier may be hard or soft sided but must be leak proof and well ventilated.
- For safety reasons, pet must be able to sit and lie down comfortably without touching the sides of the carrier.
- A carrier counts as one piece of carry-on baggage.



Pet Age and Health

- Pet must be at least eight weeks old.
- Pets must be odorless and harmless, not disruptive, and require no attention during travel. Amtrak maintains the right to refuse acceptance of or remove from the train any pet exhibiting these issues.
- Passengers will be required to certify that pet is up to date on all vaccinations and accepts liability for animal.
- Maximum weight of pet with carrier is 20 pounds.
- Amtrak will not accept liability for the health and well-being of pets.
- Note: In the event of an incident, Amtrak will make reasonable efforts to assist passengers with the evacuation of their pets and will seek (but cannot guarantee) pet friendly accommodations, if alternate transportation or sheltering is necessary.

Thank you for traveling with Amtrak. For reservations and information, call 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245).