

**LPD-2 Special Notice 002-24:**

**PET ENTITLEMENT FAQs 7 FEBRUARY 2024**

<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Support/ALL-FAQs/Article/3624131/pet-transportation-allowance/>

# Pet Transportation Allowance

## 1) What is the PCS Pet Transportation Allowance?

A Service member may be authorized allowances associated with the costs of moving with one **If a SM has orders OCONUS and the pet is left home in CONUS for the tour, will the SM receive the OCONUS pet reimbursement to move the pet to the next duty station, or does the pet have to originate at the OCONUS duty station to receive the OCONUS entitlement?** For moves within CONUS, the Service member may be reimbursed up to \$550 and for OCONUS, up to \$2,000.

## 2) The new policy on pet transportation allowances is effective January 1, 2024 (see Joint Travel Regulations [JTR], par. 050107). How do I determine whether I am eligible for reimbursement of these expenses?

If you have received PCS orders and have incurred expenses related to those orders, then you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. The basis for determining reimbursement is based on whether or not the effective date of orders is January 1, 2024 or later. See JTR, Appendix A for the definition of effective date of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Order and [How to Compute a Permanent Change of Station \(PCS\) Order's Effective Date \[PDF, 2 pages\]](#).

Example:

1. Service member detached his/her PDS on December 27, 2023, and took 15 days of leave
2. Authorized and actual reporting date is January 18, 2024
3. Less travel days authorized and actually used (7 days) is January 11, 2024
4. Add 1 day and the PCS Order Effective Date is January 12, 2024

Result: Since the effective date of the PCS order is on or after January 1, 2024, then the Service member may be authorized pet transportation allowances

## 3) If I start my PCS in calendar year 2023 and check into my ultimate duty station after January 1, 2024, then am I authorized pet transportation allowances?

Yes, but only if the effective date of your PCS order is on or after January 1, 2024.

## 4) Does the detach date from the previous command need to have occurred on or after January 1, 2024?

No, to be eligible for pet transportation allowances, the PCS order effective date must be January 1, 2024, or later.

## 5) Do I need to incur pet transportation expenses after January 1, 2024, regardless of when the PCS started?

No, if you depart the PDS and the effective date of the travel order is January 1, 2024, or later, then pet transportation expenses incurred prior to the PCS order effective date are reimbursable.

Example: If traveling to Japan, there are several transportation, veterinary, and importation requirements that you will need to complete in preparation for moving your pet. The only determining factor is effective date of the PCS orders.

**6) What if I have multiple household pets, may I use the allowance to ship more than one?**

No, the allowance may only be used for one household pet per PCS order. Any additional pets will need to be shipped at your expense.

**7) I have two household pets and plan to PCS with both. I was able to fly with one pet on the Patriot Express (a government-procured airline) but had to ship the other commercially. I have a nonavailability letter stating the Patriot Express did not have space for the other pet. The commercially shipped pet were more expensive to ship. Can I choose which pet to apply the allowance?**

Yes, you may choose to apply the allowance to either pet. If you ship a pet for \$250 on Patriot Express and ship the second for \$1,000, you may choose whether to request reimbursement for either the \$250 or the \$1,000.

**8) I am a mil-to-mil couple, are we both able to take advantage of this allowance?**

Yes, if a mil-to-mil couple are traveling on separate PCS orders, then both are authorized to pet transportation allowances (two household pets total).

**9) Can I be reimbursed the hotel pet fees using this allowance?**

Yes, hotel pet fees are a valid expense to be reimbursed.

**10) What is considered a household pet?**

The JTR defines a household pet as a cat or dog.

**11) What documents do I need for reimbursement?**

You must provide required receipts and a non-availability letter from the office processing the transportation request if Government transportation is not available. See Service-specific guidance for additional voucher requirements.

**12) What is a Government transportation non-availability letter?**

A letter provided to the Service member from the office processing the transportation request that authorizes the Service member to personally procure their own commercial travel. Additional questions should be directed to your Transportation Office.

**13) When can I ship my pet?**

If the effective date of your PCS order is on or after January 1, 2024, you may ship your pet any time after you are in receipt of orders.

**14) The effective date of my PCS orders is before January 1, 2024, and I incurred pet expenses for my PCS, can I seek reimbursement for those expenses?**

No, pet transportation allowances are only authorized if the effective date of the PCS order is on or after January 1, 2024.

**15) I'm using circuitous travel (indirect) to my new OCONUS duty station, Government Transportation was not available, I have a non-availability letter, and my pet traveled with me. Are my pet transportation costs reimbursement limited?**

Yes, your pet transportation allowance is limited to the costs of pet transportation directly from old PDS to new PDS (or the limits identified in JTR, par. 050107).

**Additional Pet Questions posed to the DTMO and answered by PDTATAC but are not published:**

**1). Are pets covered in any PPM instance? i.e Are you supposed to leave them and the kennel in vehicle while weighing?**

A. Pets are not considered HHG and should not be part of the weight.

**2). If a SM has orders OCONUS and the pet is left home in CONUS for the tour, will the SM receive the OCONUS pet reimbursement to move the pet to next duty station, or does the pet have to originate at the OCONUS duty station to receive the OCONUS entitlement? (This goes for both OCONUS to OCONUS and OCONUS back to CONUS moves) \*\*The idea behind this question is speaking more towards those that didn't have the entitlement going OCONUS and had to leave their pet CONUS due to the inability to afford to transport their pet, but families still could end up leaving pets behind, even with the entitlement, for other reasons like age and/or health of pet.**

A. Yes, if the Service member incurred pet transportation costs based on a PCS order with an effective date of 1 January, 2024, they may be reimbursed not to exceed the established limits.

**3) Pet Expenses Due to a PCS, letters A-D, that are still in the JTR with the exception of the "evacuation from a foreign PDS" verbiage, will these be taken out? If it won't and the \$550 for quarantine expenses stated in letter B is left in, we are wondering if the max allowance for quarantine expenses is restricted to \$550 within the \$2000 entitlement and any potential quarantine expenses beyond the \$550 won't be covered?**

A. Quarantine expenses are considered part of the pet transportation allowance and apply toward the \$2000 entitlement, they are not limited to \$550 within the \$2000 entitlement. An item is being processed to update this section.

**4) Is the service member entitled to any pet reimbursement of traveling via COT if PCSing to another overseas location (i.e., Okinawa to HOR – Iwakuni or OKA – IWA)?**

A. Yes, if the Service member is using their COT leave entitlement in between the old and new PDS they are entitled to pet transportation allowances not to exceed the applicable \$2000 limit.

**5. What if the service member deferred their COT and wants to travel to states with pet? Are they entitled to reimbursement?**

A. No, if the travel to the new PDS has already been performed that ends the entitlement to pet transportation allowances.

**6) Is the Service member entitled to pet transportation allowances when performing IPCOT leave travel?**

A. No, since the PDS is not changing there is no entitlement to pet transportation allowances.

**7) If a family had ERD or delayed dependent travel orders, would they still be allowed to move their pet under the entitlement?**

A. Yes, pet transportation expenses may be reimbursed based on the PCS order that allows the ERD or delayed dependent travel.

**8). Does this entitlement also apply to service members who are retiring or separating? (We do see EAS questions on our pages occasionally and always refer these group members to their local DMO & PTO, as conditions of separation are unique and not a one size fits all. This question is more for our SA).**

A. Yes, it does apply to Separation and Retirement orders. This question was asked by the Marine MAP and answered by PDTATAC Staff during coordination.

**9) Stars and Stripes published this article ([https://www.stripes.com/branches/air\\_force/2024-01-05/daf-establish-requirements-for-pet-reimbursement-12564114.html](https://www.stripes.com/branches/air_force/2024-01-05/daf-establish-requirements-for-pet-reimbursement-12564114.html)) and mentioned the reimbursement of vaccinations. Only the blood titer test for OCONUS was specified in the JTR. Is this more bad gouge going out or is the entitlement meant to cover required vaccinations for travel as well?**

A) Only the items listed in JTR, par. 050107 are reimbursable as part of the pet transportation allowance.