



HOMeward BOUND ACT

Led By:

Congressman Armstrong 🐾 Congresswoman Peltola

Senator Cramer 🐾 Senator King

Problem for Military Families:

A new CDC rule requires airlines to issue an airway bill for all dogs, including service dogs. Airlines only issue an airway bill for cargo and never have done so in a passenger environment. Once an airway bill is issued, the cargo must be inspected at a separate location from the aircraft. This means that a dog – even a service dog – must be taken away from the passenger. The airway bill requirement is unworkable for airlines. While the CDC is allowing airlines to apply for a 90-waiver from the airway bill requirement, military families are still experiencing problems bringing their pets home after they have been stationed abroad.

Problem for Border Families:

The CDC rule further divides dogs into two categories: those from low-risk or rabies free countries, and those from high-risk countries. Canada and Mexico are low-risk countries. When bringing a dog into the United States from a low-risk country, the dog must: appear healthy; be accompanied by a receipt of the online form submitted to the CDC; be at least six months; and be microchipped. Border families travel into Canada and Mexico the same way we in DC travel into Virginia or Maryland; it is a part of everyday life. People have families across the border they visit and own property. Requiring a dog to be at least six months means that families cannot bring their puppy with them. We do not want any family to be caught unable to bring their pet back home

Solution:

The Homeward Bound Act would, for dogs coming from low-risk countries:

- Give military families, diplomatic families, and service dogs an 18-month waiver from the CDC rule;
- Eliminate the age requirement; and
- Require microchips for dogs born after enactment of the bill.

Note about High Risk Countries:

According to the CDC, in the past 17 years, there have six cases of rabid dogs imported into the United States - all from high-risk countries. This is why the Homeward Bound Act is narrowly tailored to only apply to dogs coming from low-risk countries. In the past 17 years, there have been zero known cases of dogs imported into the US from a low-risk country.

Endorsed by: Humane Society Legislative Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, the Canadian Snowbird Association, Signature Pet Transport, and Doug the Pug

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