

January 8, 2003

Document Management System
United States Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket No. FAA-2002-13378

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Docket No. FAA-2002-13378, "Report by Carriers on Incidents Involving Animals During Air Transport." FASEB is comprised of 21 professional societies of biomedical researchers, representing greater than 60, 000 life scientists. We are in complete agreement with the comments submitted by our colleagues at the [American Physiological Society \(APS\)](#) and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

FASEB supports the humane treatment of animals. However, we feel that the proposed rule goes well beyond its intended purpose to protect companion animals during air travel. Through use of language that is vague and ill-defined, this regulation will place an unreasonable burden on air carriers, perhaps leading them to cease shipment of animals altogether. This could have severe consequences for biomedical scientists, who depend on the air shipment of animals used in research.

Whereas the current language would cover all vertebrate and invertebrate species, including insects and fish, we ask that the rule be altered to define "animal" as dogs and cats, rather than "any warm or cold blooded animal..." Limiting the language to cats and dogs would allow protection of household pets without placing an undue burden on commercial carriers. We also concur with APS that the definition of "injury", as applicable to the reporting requirement of the airlines, is ambiguous. "Injury" should be limited to physical injuries that are clinically manifest and as a direct result of the handling during air travel.

In conclusion, FASEB encourages the FAA to revisit the proposed rule in order to address these concerns. It is important to modify the language in such a way as to make airlines accountable to pet owners, while minimizing unintended consequences on animal transport for other purposes. If there is any way in which we may assist in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Teitelbaum, M.D.
FASEB President