100 cats and dogs reunited with their families

Air Canada Cargo's fourth on-demand flight on behalf of Worldwide Animal Travel arrived in Melbourne over the summer with a record-setting 100 cats and dogs on board. AC7303 flew overnight from Vancouver to Australia's second-largest city, arriving at 7:30 a.m. local time and, like our previous flights, was the result of weeks of careful planning and preparations.

Weeks before takeoff, Cargo's Customer Service team was already working with Worldwide Animal Travel to add all required customs, transport and veterinary documents to each electronic booking to speed up check-in and acceptance for the animals.

As the pets arrived at YVR Cargo, experts from Cargo inspected and secured each carrier, while Worldwide Animal Travel attached large labels with the occupant's name, photo and personal details. A designated load plan was created in conjunction with Weight & Balance to ensure maximum oxygen flows, minimal stress and expedited handling. Temperature settings in the hold of the Boeing 777-300 were also closely monitored throughout the flight.

Our latest "ark" now holds the record for the most pets ever imported in Australia on a single flight. Many of these family pets will be seeing their owners for the first time in over a year. The combination of COVID-19 travel restrictions and strict quarantine regulations meant that some families had to leave their pets in Canada in 2020.