

CARRY ON.

"When carrying on your pet, you'll need to make sure that they can stand up, turn around and lie down in a natural position in their kennel. Non-collapsible kennels can be a maximum of 19in x 13in x 9in. Soft-sided collapsible kennels such as Sherpa bags can be larger if they're made of water-repellant material, are padded or have nylon mesh ventilation on 2 or more sides."

And so each box has specific requirements for the thing it carries. Through they often follow the logic of the fitting glove, most boxes transition easily to other contexts and contents, as if they had a genetic predisposition to be reused for similar but not the same purposes. Suffice to see the Amazon prime boxes turned into temporary kitchenware storage, play parking garages, or, with the signage blacked-out, re-used as regular mailing box.

As I look up from this on-screen page I see the laundry spinning counterclockwise. It wouldn't have done that unless it first went clockwise and unless it continued going in clockwise fashion for most of the remaining cycle. The hands on my wristwatch, however, steadily go in one direction. I was told to never change the time by moving them counterclockwise. So in order to change the clock one hour back, I go eleven hours forward. There's something in me that immediately accepted this rule--based on the axiomatic intuition that outside mechanics mimic those on the inside ones and that, unless breakdown is desired, they shouldn't be manipulated in the other direction. But I never bothered to actually bother.

I'm taking a break. Need some tea. I open the faucet by turning clockwise. The cup in the microwave also completes its rotations in this direction. It's odd to realize how often I, and the things around me, go clockwise. After moving into my current home, it took me months to get used to the fact that the lock opened counterclockwise. (Later this afternoon I'll see children pedaling on tricycles by making clockwise leg movements and coming down spiraling slides in equal fashion.)

Empty pet bags rarely pass for something else; still, when I see an exemplar being used out in public, it always takes me a few seconds to realize there's *actually* a living being inside. My focus subsequently goes to that pair of eyes, and, looking for signs of distress in them, I forget about the specifics of this container--its ventilation system, the open space provided by hard wire-enforced seams and interior foam-board filling, the relative lightness of the material to control the temperature and prevent loads becoming all too heavy. My search for the animal's eyes comes from the immediate assumption that pets hate traveling. That their dream destination is home. That their traveling is more cramped and unpleasant than ours. That they don't have anything like our sense of anticipation or like our desire for getting away to different lands. And, therefore, that they despise their owners for doing this. All of this comes from human, slightly bleak compassionate feelings.

I have no way of knowing. At best, I'm apt to criticize the bag's product design. Quite possibly, the pet, dozing at our feet, distinguishes a full, telling array of human smells of anxiety, agitation, and discomfort?



My computer is taking a break. Please carry on.

As far as I can tell, pet carriers resist repurposing. While a cardboard box can occasionally turn into one, such transformation doesn't occur the other way around. They are too angular and bulky for a practical carry-it-all bag, too see-through (and smell-through) for a gym bag. Their inadaptability is a reminder that the animal is not to be confounded with a stack of books or sweaty yoga pants. Indeed, these bags form a category of their own; their distant cousin is the under-the-bed-box, equally designed to make the most out of an inconspicuous, standard-sized 'empty' volume. Their colors are therefore preferably discreet--a grisaille palette or black for the bag, and crème or transparent for the box. Call it camouflage for the generic.

The shop attendant tells me I should check online and get the carrier I want home-delivered. In a box.