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### TRAVEL SAFELY MY PET

Have you ever had to travel with your pet or send your pet somewhere by air? For most of us a pet is a member of the family and deserves to travel safely, just like the rest of the family. Until recently we have heard some horror stories about how pets have been in some truly poor conditions when having to fly. Now thanks to ARK Center, all that has changed.

The ARK is a new horse and livestock center at Kennedy Airport. It's like a hotel for pets who get calming music and food and drink while they are acclimated for the voyage ahead. Horses, dogs, birds and even sharks have passed through this center. The ARK is a \$65 million facility on 14 ½ acres that can house as many as 200 horses, 1,000 birds and hundreds of other smaller animals.

Trained animal handlers along with government inspectors examine the animals at the facility. They make sure that all species of animals do not leave, or bring in, any harmful viruses and/or bacteria. A veterinarian is also on duty to ensure that the required certification and blood tests for traveling animals are in order.

Hopefully the ARK will end the shocking stories of the past where animals have been left on sweltering tarmacs, or escaped their carriers never to be found again. The ARK makes sure each animal gets to their correct destination and in as best shape as possible. Before the ARK there was a small facility for traveling animals that had not been updated since the 1960s. Currently the ARK touts all the state of the art innovations needed to ensure that the correct procedures regarding animal quarantine are followed in the most humane and comfortable arena possible for all animals while they are housed there.

So the next time you need to venture out of the country, state or wherever your travels take you and your animal(s), check out the ARK. You surely want to make sure that their environment during what can be a very stressful time for them is made as comfortable and humane as possible. Safe travels to you and your pet(s)!

