

# How to teach your dog to fly an airplane

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*A (not-so) serious guide for canine aviation enthusiasts*

Have you ever wondered if your loyal furry companion could take control of an airplane? While no dog in real life has a pilot's license (nor should they), this article offers a fun and imaginative guide on how to teach your dog to fly a plane. Buckle up and get ready for takeoff!

## Step 1: Start with the basics

Before thinking about cockpits and controls, make sure your dog has mastered basic commands like *sit*, *stay*, *wait*, and *don't destroy the instrument panel*. These will be essential when they're faced with a cabin full of tempting buttons.

## Step 2: Familiarization with the environment

Take them to a simulator or a parked light aircraft. Let them explore the cockpit under supervision, sniff around, sit in the pilot's seat, and get used to the sounds and views. Some dogs may feel uneasy in tight or elevated spaces, so this step is key to their comfort.

## Step 3: Simulator training

Since dogs can't operate pedals or manipulate a throttle, the simulator must be adjusted to their capabilities. You can place treats on fake buttons to associate actions with rewards. Phrases like *level flight*, *climb*, or *smooth landing* can be paired with pets and praise. They won't learn to fly, but they'll associate the setting with good experiences.

## Step 4: Uniform and professional attitude

Every good pilot needs a uniform. Get a little aviator hat and goggles for dogs. It won't improve their flying skills, but it will boost their confidence (and make for a great social media photo). Make sure they're comfortable wearing it.



### **Step 5: Medical check-up**

Before they “fly,” check with your vet. Heights, noise, and pressure can affect some animals. Even if everything stays on the ground, simulated training should be safe and healthy for your dog.

### **Step 6: The imaginary flight**

It’s time for the “flight.” Sit your dog in the pilot’s seat, play engine sounds, and simulate a flight. Narrating the journey out loud (“We’re flying over the Alps, Captain Fuzzy”) adds to the fun. Remember: this is an exercise in imagination and bonding, not actual aviation

### **Conclusion**

While your dog may never get their pilot's license, this training can be a fun way to build their confidence, stimulate their mind, and spend quality time together. Plus, you’ll have the perfect story for any gathering: “Did I ever tell you about the time I taught my dog to fly?”

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