

Submitted by email to the Canadian Transportation Agency

Subject: Regulations for support animals on airlines

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to share my concerns about the lax rules for animals being allowed in the passenger cabins on airplanes.

West Jet is especially lax about allowing pets on their planes. Their flights to Palm Springs always have a number of pets onboard. These people are not bringing them into the cabin for "emotional support", but as a convenient way to take their pets on their vacation.

We have had the experience of a dog sitting in front of us that let off so much gas, we had to hold a kleenex over our nose for the entire flight....and that didn't help all that much.

At the end of the flight, the dog owner admitted to the flight attendant that her dog was old and suffered from serious intestinal problems. Needless to say, it was a very unpleasant flight.

My concerns around this issue is that passengers who are sitting next to someone with a pet, have no choice in the matter. My son has a serious allergy to cat and dog hair. If he were to sit nearby an animal, his eyes would completely swell up, along with other physical reactions. There are many individuals with allergies to animals.

I believe that Air Canada's ruling to allow only Service dogs is appropriate.

Until recently, bringing pets into the cabin for "emotional support" was unheard of. It's become a convenient way to bring one's pet onboard. If people want to bring their pets

on a flight, they can have them put in the back hold so that others are not affected by the animals.

Thank you for your consideration to my concerns.

Anita Bowes