

Submitted by email to the Canadian Transportation Agency

Subject : Pets on Planes

Thanks to Daphne Bramham for her article in the 1/31/2020 Vancouver Sun. This issue has bothered me ever since a man in the row behind us perched his dog on the back of my wife's seat. To say she was startled and annoyed is an understatement. My complaint to Westjet was not answered. It is good to hear Air Canada has a Service dog only policy. WJ has been our go to airline ever since they were formed. That is going to have to change.

We are all aware of people bragging about getting their dogs on planes with them by having their Doctor sign a form or ordering it online. There seems to be no consideration for the other passengers who may have issues with the custom. People with allergies to animals comes to mind. My wife is mildly allergic to dogs, she is ok unless she touches them. The situation is different for our grown son. He can become very sick if he even enters a house that has a dog in it. The symptoms manifest as similar to asthma, breathing issues etc. He has to fly from Vancouver to Toronto a few times a year for business. He does not even know there is a dog on the plane until he boards or sees one in the departure lounge. So far the only accommodation from the airline is to move his seat if they can. If he does have a reaction he gets to spend the next few days in his meetings with breathing issues.

Much has changed in airline travel over the years. We no longer smoke on planes, peanuts are banned etc. Certainly we can do something about pets. I would prefer they were banned, if not my suggestion is to treat them similarly to how we used to treat smokers. If we have to have them on the plane there should be a separate section so they are all together and the rest of the passengers do not have to share space with them. Hopefully that section would be the back of the plane.

Sincerely

David (Removed)