

Submitted by email to the Canadian Transportation Agency

Subject : ESA consultations

Hello,

I would be interested in sharing my thoughts on ESAs. I have a dog that is currently an ESA who is too young to be a certified service dog at the moment (under 18 months of age). I have been training him for months to prepare him for the service dog testing and hired professional trainers. He will be ready to take the test this summer. In the meantime, my dog which is currently an ESA is essential to my well being and piece of mind. As I fly frequently for medical treatment it is essential that he be able to accompany me. Over the last year, we have taken 8 flights from 1 hour to 6 hour durations throughout the US and Canada. There have been no complaints to his behaviour and that is because I have invested the time and money to assure his behaviour is acceptable in public, especially in a space such as an airplane. I think an outright ban on ESAs would be problematic for people like myself that depend on them for day to day functioning and are not yet able to have their animal fully certified as a service animal. My dog is still learning his service tasks but in the meantime it is important that he be exposed to environments such as a plane as he will be expected to perform tasks there should the need arise in the future.

As mentioned, I have a recognized disability and I depend on my ESA during air travel. Banning my ESA from air travel would significantly impair my quality of life. I'm happy to share more if you would like more information.

Thank you,

Deanna