

Submitted by email to the Canadian Transportation Agency

Subject : Emotional Support Animals

Hello.

I volunteer with Therapeutic Paws of Canada and before that with St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs. The dogs in these programs have to go through extensive evaluation in order to ensure that they behave appropriately in the presence of other dogs, strange people, equipment such as wheel chairs and walkers, sudden noises, and food. For dogs that interact with children the evaluation is even more extensive.

My point is that **no national standard exists for emotional support dogs OR , shockingly, service dogs**. If an animal is going to be allowed into public areas, there needs to be a national standard test to ensure that that animal will not be disruptive or dangerous. Members of our therapy dog group have had their animals attacked by a registered service dog in a location where the therapy dogs had been invited to work.

I hope that the current request for comment leads to action on this aspect of emotional support and service animals.

Sincerely,

Janet **(Removed)**