

## **Submitted by email to the Canadian Transportation Agency**

**Subject :** Survey Questions

### **SURVEY QUESTIONS**

1. Do you have any allergies to animals or insects?

a. To dogs? - YES

b. To other animals or insects? - CATS AND BIRDS

2. Do you have any limitations or concerns with animals or insects in your work environment?

a. If yes, please describe the reason(s), e.g. health/allergy, phobia/fear, religion, cultural, or other - ALLERGIES IN A CONFINED SPACE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. FEAR OF SNAKES AND SPIDERS ON-BOARD.

3. What do you think about a potential requirement for transportation providers to accept Emotional Support Animals (“ESAs”)? What conditions, if any, should apply? - THE ACCEPTANCE OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY LIMITED TO THE SIZE OF FITTING UNDER YOUR SEAT INSTEAD OF YOUR LAP. IN EXPERIENCE I HAD A LADY HAVE A GOLDEN RETRIEVER SIT ON HER LAP. IT WAS A HUGE SAFETY ISSUE INCASE WE EVER NEEDED TO BRAKE HARD OR MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING. WE COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING AS THE DOG WAS AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG!!

4. Should transportation providers be required only to accept certain species/animal types as ESAs (e.g., dogs, cats, and rabbits)? Or should transportation providers be required to accept all species excluding a few (e.g., insects and snakes)? - ONLY ACCEPT CATS OR SMALL DOGS UNDER 20lbs THAT WILL FIT UNDER THE SEAT NOT ON LAP!

5. As an alternative to a species-based approach, would it be preferable to have a criteria-based approach for the acceptance of ESAs? The criteria for carriers to accept or refuse to transport an animal could include habits of the species, age, size, or the potential allergy trigger to that the animal may create. For example, they could refuse to accept animals that gnaw, whose young age is likely to result in unacceptable behaviour, that pose a high allergen risk, or do not fit in a travel carrier or on the floor at a traveller's feet. - YES THE ANIMAL MUST BE OF A CERTAIN AGE AND BREED TO FIT IN THE CARRIER UNDER THE SEAT NOT LAYING OUT IN THE OPEN.

6. Should all transportation providers be required to accept the same types of ESAs or should there be differences based on the mode of transportation (air, rail, marine, or

bus)? If you think there should be differences based on mode, what differences? - THIS SHOULD BE STANDARDIZED THE SAME ACROSS ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION TO HELP KEEP WITH COMPLIANCE AND AVOID CONFUSION.

7. Should the same requirements for ESAs apply to large and small transportation providers? Should consideration be given to the size or seating capacity of aircraft, rail car, bus, or ferry? - YES SAME ACROSS THE BOARD.

8. In the United States, enforcement action is not taken if an airline refuses to transport more than three service animals for one traveller, including ESAs. In Canada, should there be a limit on the number of service dogs and/or ESAs that persons with disabilities can travel with on-board? If so, what limit? - YES ONLY 1 LIMITED PER PERSON AND AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER ONLY ALLOWED FOR THAT SPECIFIC MODE OF TRAVEL. EXAMPLE: AIRLINE AIRBUS 319 MODEL AIRCRAFT WITH 129 SEATS SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF 4 ESA/SERVICE DOG FOR SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION.

9. Under the proposed regulations, transportation providers can require a person with a disability travelling with a service dog to provide documentation issued by an organization or person specializing in service dog training. The documentation must identify the person with the disability. It must also attest that the service dog has been individually trained by a specialized organization or person to perform a task to assist that traveller with a need related to their disability. - YES THIS SHOULD REMAIN THE SAME TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICE DOG IS PROPERLY TRAINED AND SAFE TO BE IN PUBLIC WITHOUT HARM!!

a. What documentation, if any, should transportation providers be able to request with respect to travel with ESAs with the aim of mitigating health, safety, or fraud concerns? For instance: - THEY SHOULD REQUEST DOCUMENTATION FROM A LICENCED DOCTOR BACKED UP BY A LETTER FROM A PSYCHOLOGIST STATING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS THE ESA. THEY ALSO NEED TO PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE TO SHOW THAT THE ESA HAS BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED AND ISN'T A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC.

i. The traveller requires the animal to travel, for medical reasons, as indicated by a health care practitioner who is treating the traveller and confirms that the traveller has a disability and needs the animal to travel for disability-related reasons; - YES.

ii. That the animal will not need to relieve itself during transportation, and will not bark, growl, or act aggressively. - YES THIS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPER COMPLETED TRAINING CERTIFICATE THAT NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE AIRLINE. THE PASSENGER SHOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE TO SIGN A FORM STATING THAT THE ESA WILL NOT BARK, GROWL, ACT AGGRESSIVE OR RELIEVE ITSELF TO ALSO HOLD THE PASSENGER ACCOUNTABLE IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS!

10. The ATPDR allow transportation providers to require that persons with disabilities provide 48 hours' advance notice prior to departure for most services, including travelling with service dogs. In some situations, they may request up to 96 hours' notice to verify that documentation is in order and authorize an animal for travel. However, they must still make reasonable efforts to provide the service, even if notice is not given.  
- THE CUSTOMER SHOULD TELL THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION 1 MONTH IN ADVANCE AND HAVE FROM THAT DAY UP TO 7 DAYS PRIOR TO TRAVEL DAY TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. IF THEY FAIL TO PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS 7 DAYS PRIOR TO TRAVEL DAY THEY SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL. THIS HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE BUT ALSO GIVES THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TIME TO PREPARE.

11. How much notice would be appropriate with regard to ESAs? - DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE PROVIDE AS EARLY AS 1 MONTH BUT NO LATER THAN 7 DAYS TO TRAVEL DATE. ANYTHING LATER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

12. Should transportation providers be permitted to require that ESAs be tethered, leashed, harnessed, and/or enclosed within a travel carrier? - YES THE ESA MUST BE LEASHED AND TETHERED NOT TO BUG OTHER TRAVELLERS AND MUST BE SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT INTO A CARRIER AND UNDER THE SEAT.

Would any of these requirements prevent travellers from using ESAs therapeutically? - NO IT WOULD NOT! THE ESA CAN BE UNDER THE SEAT AND THE TRAVELLER CAN OPEN THE CARRIER A LITTLE BIT TO PET IT. THE ESA DOES NOT TO BE ON THE LAP OUT IN THE OPEN DISTURBING OTHER TRAVELLERS.

13. Apart from the issue of ESAs, should transportation providers be obligated to accept service animals other than service dogs? - NO OTHER ANIMALS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. If so, should any restrictions apply? - ONLY SMALL DOGS THAT WILL FIT UNDER THE SEAT.

THANK YOU!