



# SERVICE ANIMALS & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS ON PLANES

The **Air Carrier Access Act of 1968** (ACAA) permits passengers to fly with service animals or emotional support animals accompanying them in the cabin.

Under the ACAA, a service animal is defined as any animal that is individually trained or able to provide assistance to a person with a disability; or any animal that assists persons with disabilities by providing emotional support.

# How do airlines determine whether an animal is a service animal?

- Airlines can determine whether an animal is a service animal or pet by:
  - The credible verbal assurances of an individual with a disability using the animal;
  - Looking for physical indicators such as the presence of a harness or tags;
  - Requiring documentation for psychiatric support animals and emotional support animals; and
  - Observing the behavior of animals.
- Emotional Support and Psychiatric Service Animals - Airlines can request specific documentation and/or 48-hours advanced notice for service animals that are emotional support animals and psychiatric service animals.

# What kind of documentation can be required of persons travelling with ESAs or psychiatric service animals?

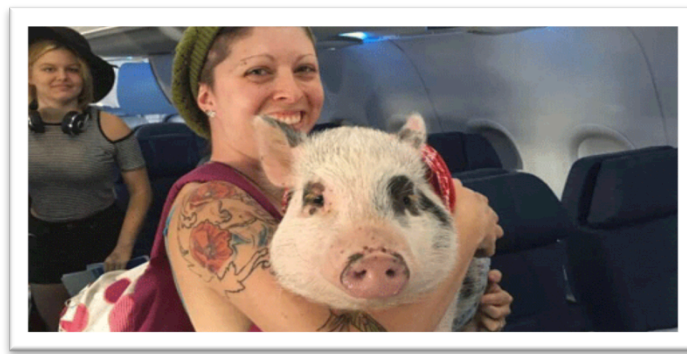
- Airlines may require documentation that is not older than one year from the date of your scheduled initial flight that states:
  - You have a mental or emotional disability that is recognized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM);
  - You need your emotional support or psychiatric support animal as an accommodation for air travel and/or for activity at your destination;
  - The individual providing the assessment is a licensed mental health professional and the passenger is under his/her professional care; and
  - The licensed health care professional's;
    - Date and type of professional license; and
    - Jurisdiction or state in which their license was issued.

# Which service animals are allowed in the cabin?

- A wide variety of service animals are permitted in the cabin portion of the aircraft flying to and within the United States; however, most service animals tend to be dogs and cats. Airlines may exclude animals that:
  - Are too large or heavy to be accommodated in the cabin;
  - Pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
  - Cause a significant disruption of cabin service; or
  - Are prohibited from entering a foreign country.
- Note: Airlines are never required to accept snakes, reptiles, ferrets, rodents, sugar gliders, and spiders.

**The following slides provide a glimpse of the unique and unusual animals that have flown as ESAs.**

# PIGS



Miniature pigs, such as the Vietnamese Miniature Pot-Bellied pigs; or what are known as “beach hogs” are gradually becoming a more popular choice for ESAs. Pigs have the perfect temperament for an ESA; they are highly intelligent, attentive, and extremely affectionate.

Like HAMLET!



Hamlet is an ESA who accompanies his owner Megan Peabody during air travel as her ESA to assist her in coping with her fear of flying.

Peabody trained Hamlet for over a year before flying with him. As a result of his good temperament and excellent training and manners, Hamlet has flown thousands of miles with his owner.

This little piggie went to the beverage station....

Hamlet →



← Hamlet

This little piggie went to the cockpit....

Also Hamlet →



This little piggie went to 30,000 miles up....

But... as with any passenger, airlines have wide discretion to remove any individual on the plane if the airline believes to do so is necessary.... a woman and her emotional support pig were escorted off of a United Airlines flight in 2017 after the pig became too disruptive.

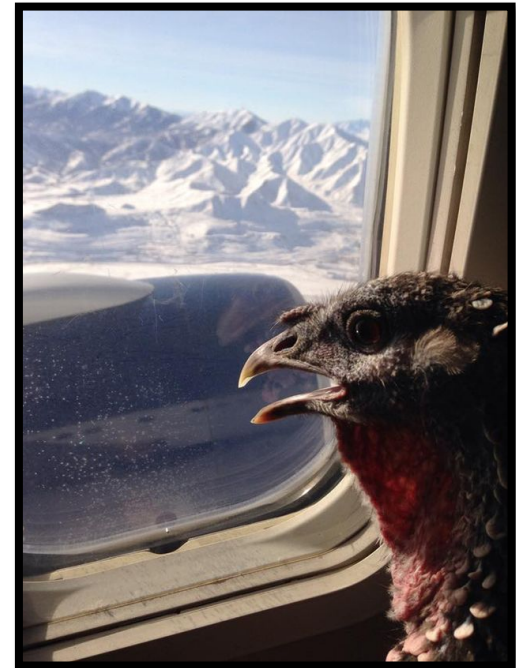
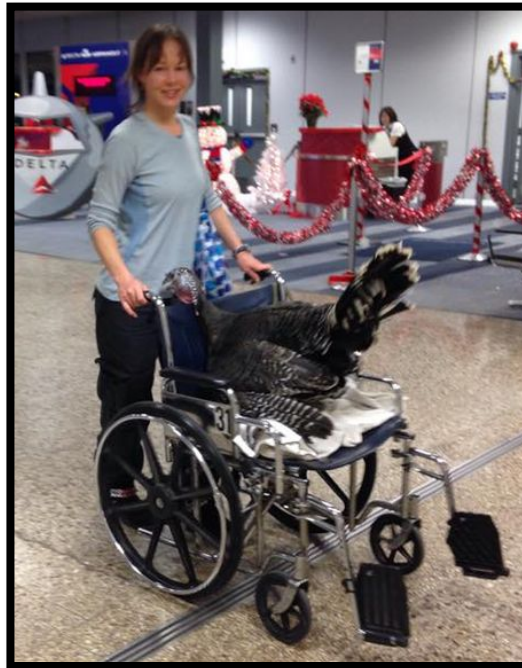
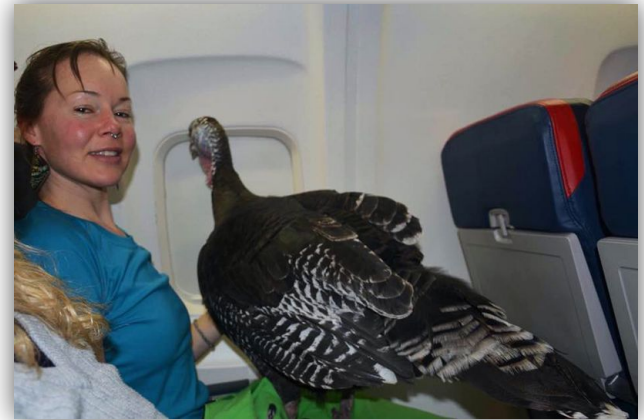
....This little piggie went home.

NOT HAMLET ↓



# TURKEYS

In November 2014 Jodie Smalley and her emotional support turkey were permitted to fly on Delta Airlines from Seattle, WA to Salt Lake City, UT. Smalley escorted her turkey in a wheelchair throughout the airport.





# KANGAROOS

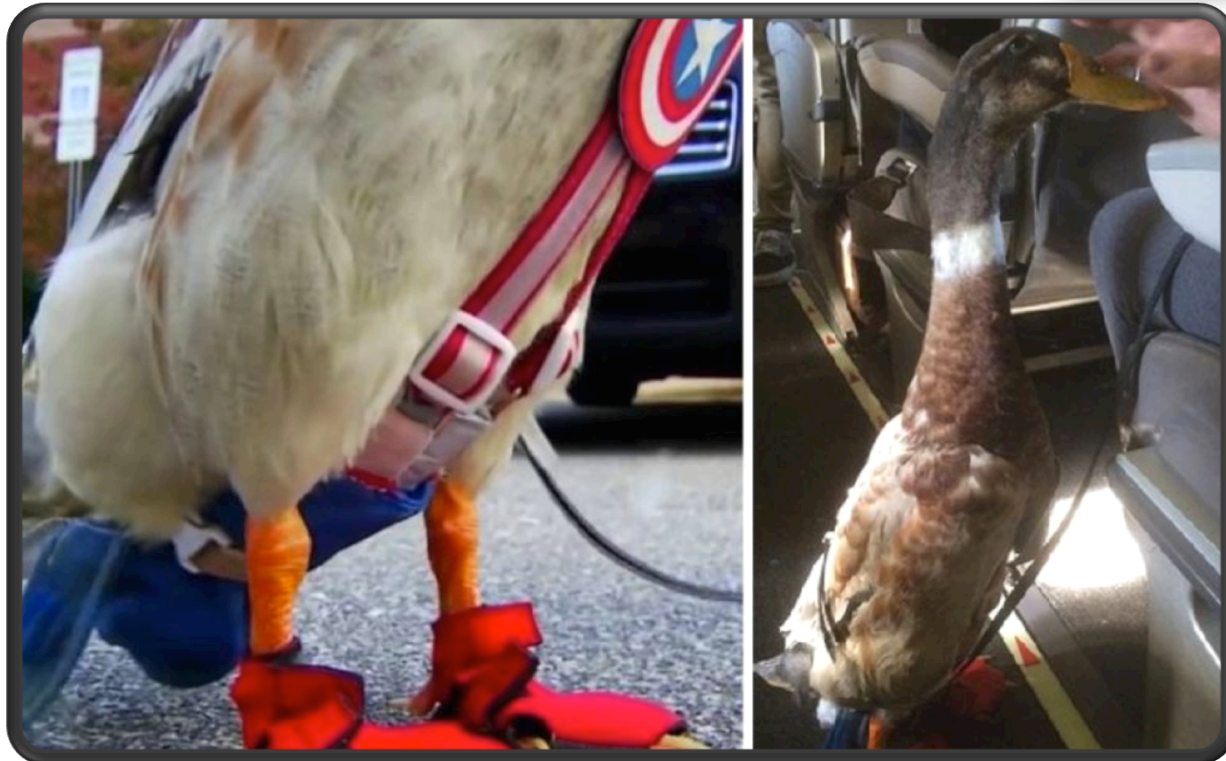
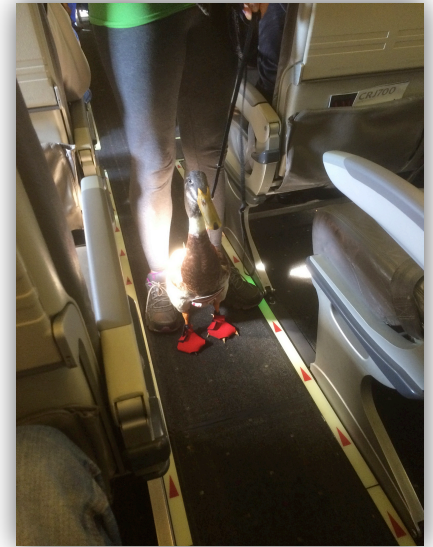


Although quite rare, there have been instances of people with registered emotional support kangaroos. Understandably, these ESAs attract a lot of public attention when they are out with their owners. In one notable instance, a woman and her emotional support kangaroo—who was wrapped in a blanket inside its own car seat—were kicked out of a McDonalds for “health and safety violations.”



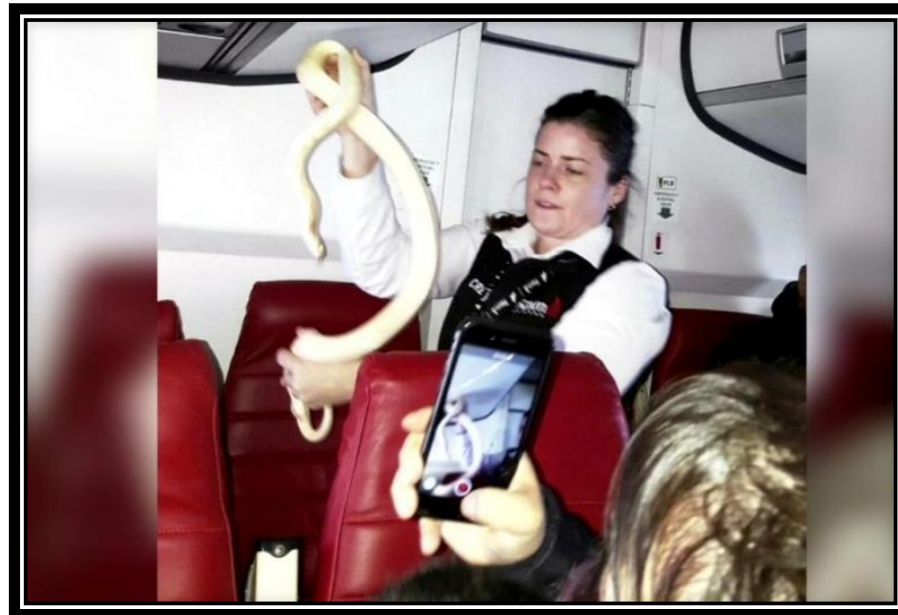
# DUCKS

Probably the most recognizable emotional support duck is Daniel, whose entry onto a 2016 airplane flight went viral on Twitter. Sporting red shoes and a Captain America diaper, passengers couldn't help but share pictures of Daniel on social media.

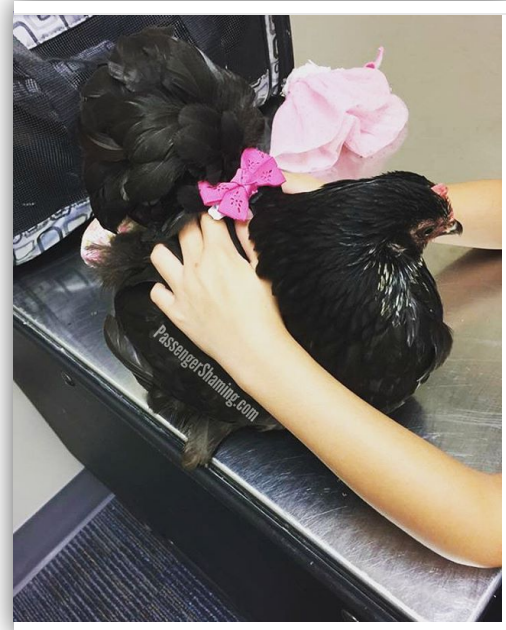


# SNAKES

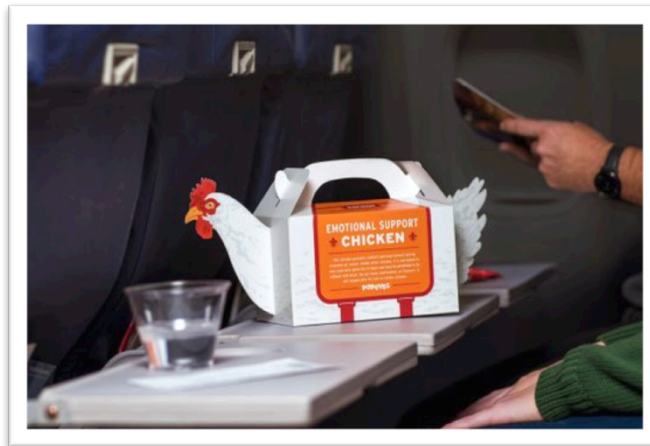
No, this isn't the 2006 thriller *Snakes on a Plane*. Although not common, some people register their pet snake as an ESA, which allows them to legally fly on airplanes. At first glance this seems outrageous, but snakes can actually make wonderful ESA's. Most importantly, contrary to popular belief, ESA snakes do not pose a threat to the public; all snakes legally sold in the United States are non-venomous.



# ROOSTERS & CHICKENS



Popeyes even offers emotional support chickens.

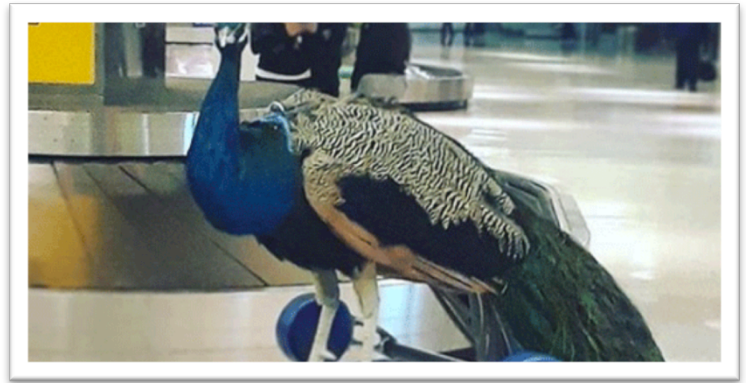


# HORSES

.....MINI ONES.



# PEACOCKS



A New York artist, who goes by the name Ventiko, attempted to fly with her ESA—a peacock named Dexter—in January 2018. According to Ventiko, having Dexter by her side has “really changed [her] life in a positive way.” Although Dexter was eventually denied entry onto his flight, he undoubtedly left lasting impressions on the airport security staff.

