



Flying with Your Psychiatric Service Animal

We want you to have a smooth and stress-free experience when flying with your psychiatric service animal. To support you we created this guide.

1. You are required to submit the [U.S. Department of Transportation Service Animal Air Transportation Form to the airline either 48 hours prior to your flight or at check in.](#)
 - a. Your airline will have specific instructions on where to submit this form either via a portal or email.
 - b. Complete the form in its entirety. If the form is not fully complete the airline will reject the form.
 - c. In the form you are the “service handler.”
 - d. In the form “Therapy Tails” is the “Animal Trainer or training organization.”
 - e. In addition to submitting the form online to your airline, **always print out the completed form and bring it with you.**
 - f. If you forget to submit the form online to your airline, that is okay you can still check in with your service animal and the form in person.
2. If your flight is longer than 8 hours you will also be required to complete and submit the [Service Animal Relief Attestation Form.](#)
3. Your trained service animal is not a pet and therefore you will not be required to pay any additional fees when flying with your service animal in cabin.
4. You will not be able to check in at a self kiosk when flying with your service animal so make sure to get to the airport early for in person check in.
5. Documentation: Bring your Therapy Tails certificate with you. While this certificate is not legally required, they can help clarify your situation if there are any questions.
6. Proper Identification: Although it is not legally required, it is helpful if your service animal is clearly identifiable. A vest, harness, or badge can signal to airline staff and fellow passengers that your animal is working.
7. Leash and Restraint: Like in any other public space you must keep your service animal on a leash at all times. During the flight, you can keep your service animal on your lap or at your feet.
8. Feeding and Hydration: Ensure your service animal is well-fed and hydrated before the flight, as it may not be possible to provide food or water during the journey. Follow any specific feeding schedules recommended by your veterinarian.

9. Bathroom Breaks: There are pet relief areas throughout airline terminals. Make sure to arrive at the airport early enough so that you can plan a bathroom break for your dog. We recommend that pets go before and after their flights.
10. Comfort Items: Bring familiar toys, blankets, or other comfort items to help your service animal stay relaxed during the flight. These items can also provide a sense of security in an unfamiliar environment.
11. Communicate with the Crew: Once onboard, inform the flight attendants about your service animal and any specific needs you may have. They can provide assistance and ensure your comfort throughout the flight.