



Emotional support animals are considered pets instead of service animals under the new rules, which go into effect next month.

The federal government gave its \_\_\_\_\_ approval on Wednesday to a set of rules that clamp down on the types of service animals allowed on U.S. flights, reserving the designation for dogs and \_\_\_\_\_ airlines from having to accommodate a variety of emotional support animals.

The changes, which \_\_\_\_\_ more than 15,000 public comments since the Department of Transportation proposed them at the beginning of the year, will take effect next month.

They have kindled an intense debate \_\_\_\_\_ the airlines, advocates for people with disabilities who rely on service animals and passenger rights groups, and came as a growing number of travelers have taken a variety of animals on flights in recent years.

Most recently, transportation regulators had said that dogs, cats and \_\_\_\_\_ horses should be prioritized as service animals by airlines. But passengers have tried to travel with monkeys, birds and rabbits, raising eyebrows of other passengers and testing airline policies.

Federal transportation officials said Wednesday that disruptions caused by taking unusual species \_\_\_\_\_

airlines had "eroded the public trust in legitimate service animals" and that there were increasing cases of travelers "\_\_\_\_\_ representing their pets as service animals."

The new rules require airlines to treat psychiatric service animals the same as other service animals. The owners of those service animals must provide documentation developed by the Transportation Department attesting to the animal's health, behavior and training.

Passengers traveling with service animals will no \_\_\_\_\_ be required to physically check in at the airport instead of online.

The new rules stopped short of banning emotional support animals outright, but proponents said that airlines would no \_\_\_\_\_ have to accommodate nonservice animals in the cabin.

Some airlines, including Delta and Southwest, said they were reviewing their policies on taking animals on flights. And some airlines allow passengers to take small pets in the cabin for a \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ group Airlines for America, which includes all of the major U.S. carriers, welcomed the changes. "The Department of Transportation's final rule will protect the traveling public and airline \_\_\_\_\_ members from untrained animals in the cabin, as well as improve air travel accessibility for passengers with disabilities that travel with trained service dogs," the group's president,

Nicholas E. Calio, said in a \_\_\_\_\_ on Wednesday.

Some advocates for people with disabilities said the new rules were too \_\_\_\_\_ and did not take into account travelers with special needs.

"There's a large number of people with intellectual and emotional disabilities that benefit from having that kind of support on a trip," Curt Decker, the executive director of the National Disability Rights Network, said in an interview on Wednesday night.

Mr. Decker said that travelers with disabilities were being \_\_\_\_\_ because of other people abusing the system and that airlines had brought the problem on themselves by charging costly fees for transporting pets in cargo holds.

"There's no one in the disability community that thinks a turkey is a service animal," Mr. Decker said.



A woman tried unsuccessfully in 2018 to board a flight at Newark Liberty International Airport with a peacock that she described as her emotional support animal

Adapted from: The New York Times

aboard	among	between	company
crew	drew	fee	final
fraudulently	freeing	last	lobbying
longer	longer	miniature	penalized
rigid	statement		