

Therapy Dogs Welcome Travelers

ARTICLE READING

Airports can be exciting, but they can also make people nervous. Long lines, loud announcements, and fear of missing a flight can create stress. For this reason, some airports invite trained therapy dogs to walk around the waiting areas. Travelers can ask to touch the dog or sit nearby for a few minutes. The dogs do not check passports or carry bags. Their main job is to stay calm and make people smile. A handler watches the dog and makes sure it is comfortable. Some travelers take a photo, while others simply enjoy a quiet moment before boarding. The program can be especially helpful for children and people who do not enjoy flying. Even a short visit with a friendly animal can make a long trip feel easier.

If an airport could welcome one more kind of therapy animal, which animal would you choose and what would it do?

1. How do you usually feel before a long trip, and what helps you relax?
2. What animal would be useful at an airport besides a dog?
3. What simple trick could a therapy animal perform for travelers?

4. Should travelers be allowed to bring their own pets into every airport? Why?
5. What message would you put on a therapy dog's vest?
6. Can a few minutes with an animal change a person's whole day? Give a reason.