

COELUM.

Traveling with Service and Emotional Support Animals.
by Jessi Saba



FEBRUARY NEWS on Mexican Aviation

COELUM: Pronunciation: 'che-l&m, is Latin for airspace or sky. The Romans began questioning the rights they had in the space above the land they owned and to how high above did that right extended to. Ad coelum et ad inferos, they discussed, meaning that their right of property would extend as high up to the heavens and down to hell.

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Traveling with animals has always created a conflict between passengers and between the passenger and the airline. It is only natural to expect certain people to be comfortable with animals on board, some to be uncomfortable, feel or be in actual danger, and some to whom this issue is not important.

Traveling with animals is a matter highly regulated across the globe but traveling with animals on board the main cabin is still challenging and cause of many conflicts. To travel with any animals, the owner must provide certain documentation to the airline, such as a good health certificate issued by a certified veterinary, including vaccinations and relevant data proving the good health of the animal. It is important to consider that certain airlines around the world, allow pets to travel on the main cabin in short flights, limiting the number of pets to a certain amount, but these have to remain in a cage for the duration of the flight.

In addition to the above, there are other kind of animals that can travel on the main cabin such as trained service animals and emotional support animals. Service animals are specifically trained to aid its owner in certain activities due to a disability of its owner, while emotional support animals are considered to provide psychiatric service to the owner. These animals can fly inside the main cabin without having to be in a cage, as their purposes is to aid their owners as necessary. This is certainly amazing for passengers with disabilities or psychiatric or emotional issues, but it is only fair to consider that while this regulation is helpful to them it might not be safe for other passengers.

In Mexico for example, a service animal could be a dog, a miniature horse (less than 3 feet), or a capuchin monkey¹. In the United States, for example,

service animals are limited to dogs, while in Europe it could be a dog or a cat. Canada, for example, contemplated the same as in Mexico, with the addition of a pig. Of course, it is essential for these animals to be completely trained, for the safety of all crew and passengers, but legislation around the world is different.

Statistics show that passengers are traveling more and more with animals on the main cabin. Statistics also show an increase in incidents, such as allergic reaction to certain animal hair, bites, or attacks.

“In Mexico for example, a service animal could be a dog, a miniature horse, or a capuchin monkey.”

It is no secret that there is no strict regulation on service and emotional support animals. While regulation in almost everywhere requests for example, for the owner to provide a certificate issued by a health professional considering it necessary for a person to travel with its pet given a disability or an emotional or psychiatric issue, these certificates are often provided by any doctor who is a friend of the owner of the pet. Further than that, it is known that there are websites exclusively dedicated to issue these false certificates for a fair price.

The service and emotional support animal figure has been completely distorted. People with no real need are alleging their pets are emotional support or service animals just to travel with them on the main cabin, presenting false, untrue or distorted information to the airline to have their pets travel on the main cabin. The matter has become completely fraudulent, everywhere. It is important to mention, that this has become fraudulent also by the exaggeration of

1.- https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5515461&fecha=08/03/2018

news claiming that airlines fail to adequately protect animals traveling as cargo; cases of animal deaths, injuries and losses during travel have caused people to obtain any documentation that will allow them to travel with their pets, for their safety. Statistics show that in 2019, 11 pets died and 7 were injured during air transportation while traveling on US carriers². It is also estimated that in 2018 - 784,000 pets were transported in the US, 751,000 emotional support animals, and 281,000 service animals³. The number of incidents, against the number of pets transported is relatively small, being losses, death and injuries of pet very rare during air transportation. Further details can be reviewed to know exactly the causes of death or injury of these unfortunate pets, but some of them are not attributable to the airlines⁴.

“...there has been an increase in incidents of pets biting and attacking other passengers, despite their training...”

People have tried to bring peacocks, snakes, penguins, turkeys, ducks, chickens, kangaroos, and hamsters, among others, to flight in the man cabin arguing they are emotional support animals⁵. Given this bizarre and exaggerated response from passengers, the US Department of Transportation recently advised that they are seeking public comment on the regulation pertaining to service animals on planes. As part of the changes to the regulation it is proposed to tighten the regulations, and limiting it to only service dogs, and removing the obligation to airlines to recognize emotional support animals as service animals. In addition, changes to the regulation include the ability of the airline to evaluate the behavior of the animal and refuse to provide in cabin

transportation, as well as the limitation for dogs to travel exclusively on the dog’s breed, regardless of their training. The US Department of Transportation received over 4,000 comments on this subject.

Service animals and emotional support animals, certainly provide aid, tranquility, and assist people with disabilities and mental health issues, and limiting the access that these particular passengers might have to flying with their service or emotional support animals in the main cabin could be deemed unfair and difficult, but the rights of other passengers have to be taken into account. All passengers are entitled to travel comfortably and safely. For some, the presence of pets in the main cabin can cause health issues, such as allergic reactions, and lack of comfort, not to mention that there has been an increase in incidents of pets biting and attacking other passengers, despite their training, and in the incidents related to the relieve of pets while on board, as not all pets relieve in a sanitary manner during flights, causing also a health concern for all passenger.

It is extremely important to have this debate in all jurisdictions, to have strong regulations and severe penalties for those who commit fraud or present false information or certificates and to guarantee the safety, health, and comfort of all passengers – equally.

2.- <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/air-travel-consumer-reports-2019>

3.- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/2018/07/16/dot-comfort-animals-service-dogs/788558002/>

4.- Details of every incident is available at <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/air-travel-consumer-reports-2019>

5.- <https://www.businessinsider.com/support-animals-people-have-tried-to-bring-on-planes-2018-1#kangaroos-10>

IATA announces a new system for the neutralization of carbon emissions.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Xpansiv CBL Holding Group (XCHG), have associated to develop the Aviation Carbon Exchange (ACE), a platform that will aid airlines and aviation stakeholders to exchange CO2 emission reductions for compliance purposes or voluntary compensation. According to the association, ACE will serve as a centralized market for eligible emission units for the International Carbon Aviation Compensation Reduction Scheme (CORSA). www.a21.com.mx/normatividad/2020/02/03/anuncia-iata-nuevo-sistema-para-neutralizacion-de-emisiones February 03, 2020.

Increases the demand for commercial pilots in Mexico.

Last year passenger transport grew 12% in Mexico, airlines are incorporating more aircraft into their fleet and require more pilots. According to the Mexican Association of Aviator Pilots (ASPA), about 400 pilots from different private schools in the country graduate each year, but they are insufficient. The growth of commercial aviation forces airlines to hire very young pilots, with little experience and few hours of flight. For this reason, Mexican firms launch public calls to hire pilots. www.elsiglodetorreon.com.mx/noticia/1670049.crece-demanda-por-pilotos-de-aviacion-comercial-en-mexico.html February 05, 2020.

Mexico is in negotiations to buy Russian helicopters.

Then Russian Foreign Minister announced that Mexico has been considering a proposal for the purchase of military helicopters manufactured in Russia, this after having President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announcement on the cancellation of the purchase of 8 American military helicopters in 2018. The Minister detailed that according to a new supply with a Russian arms exporter, it could follow the purchase of about 50 of its aircraft. www.a21.com.mx/fuerza-aerea/2020/02/08/mexico-en-platicas-para-comprar-helicopteros-rusos February 08, 2020.

CANAERO appoints new president for 2020.

The National Air Transport Chamber (Canaero) appointed Luis Noriega as the new President of the agency for the management of the 2020 period. The Board of Directors of the chamber elected the current Director of Air Canada for Mexico, Central America and Cuba, within the framework of the LIV Ordinary General Assembly, who replaces Alejandro Alonso Olivares, representative of Canaero during 2019. The new airline representative stated that in 2019 the industry managed to exceed 101 million passengers, 5% more than in 2018; while, in a matter of cargo, around 774 thousand tons of high-value cargo were mobilized. www.t21.com.mx/aereo/2020/02/12/canaero-nombra-nuevo-presidente-2020 February 12, 2020.

2020, Decisive for the future of the Mexican aviation authority.

Despite the incorporation and operation of the recently created Federal Civil Aviation Agency (AFAC, by its acronym in Spanish), an entity that replaces the historical Directorate General of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC, by its acronym in Spanish), we run the risk of descending back to the second category in terms of international security certification under the International Aviation Security Assessment (IASA), program of the Civil Aviation Organization International (ICAO), affecting our transportation and connectivity as meaning that Mexico lacks the necessary framework to supervise airlines based on international minimum standards. www.t21.com.mx/opinion/vuelo/2020/02/19/2020-decisivo-futuro-autoridad-aeronautica-mexicana February 19, 2020.

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Aviation industry without certainty on the airport system.

Industry specialists who attended the last session of the Technical Committee of "Airspaces", organized by the Services to Navigation in the Mexican Airspace (SENEAM), ended with several questions about the re-configuration of airspace for the Metropolitan Zone of Mexico's Valley, in particular with the issue of approximations and the Point Merge system, pointed out nearby sources that requested anonymity. www.t21.com.mx/aereo/2020/02/20/industria-aun-sin-claridad-sobre-sistema-aeroportuario February 20, 2020.

Coronavirus, potential risk for the air sector.

After the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) started in China, logistics companies in the air sector still do not see any harm to the industry because it is a virus that is transmitted by human contact. However, regarding passengers, members of the National Chamber of Air Transport (Canaero) indicated that no indications of flight restrictions have been generated in Mexico but that they will be ready to take the necessary measures if the Ministry of Health warns of any risk in customs and airports in Mexico. www.t21.com.mx/aereo/2020/02/24/coronavirus-riesgo-potencial-sector-aereo February 24, 2020.

Santa Lucia's Control Tower will have 12 positions.

The group of engineers currently working on 'Santa Lucia' announced that the control tower, now in process of construction for the International Airport of Santa Lucia, that is said to be not only the biggest in the country but also earthquake resistant, will have 12 positions for air traffic control. Moreover, it was also declared that the Federal Government is planning on inaugurating the aforementioned airport on March 21, 2022. www.a21.com.mx/aeropuertos/2020/02/26/tendra-torre-de-control-de-santa-lucia-12-posiciones February 26, 2020.

ASA initiates with 15% growth.

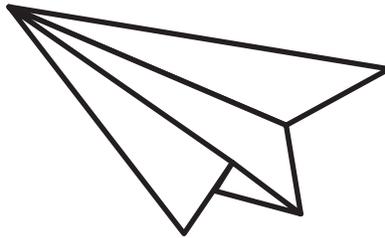
Airports and Auxiliary Services (ASA, by its acronym in Spanish) served more than 300 thousand passengers throughout its aerodrome network during the first month of the year, representing a growth of 15.7% compared to the same period of 2019. Particularly among its managed airfields, ten terminals stood out: Puebla, Puerto Escondido, Ciudad Obregon, Ciudad del Carmen, Chetumal, Tepic, Colima, Uruapan, Campeche and Loreto, which concentrated 93.8% of the users. www.a21.com.mx/aeropuertos/2020/02/26/inicia-asa-con-crecimiento-del-15 February 26, 2020.

Interjet owes more than MXN \$3 billion (US\$151 million) to the Federal Government.

Interjet owed until the end of 2019 more than MX\$3 billion (US\$151 million) in VAT, ISR, fuel, migration, airport taxes and use of airspace, according to official documents accessed by the Mexicans against Corruption and Impunity (MCCI) office. www.aristeguinoticias.com/2702/mexico/interjet-adeuda-mas-de-3-mil-millones-de-pesos-al-gobierno-federal-mcci/ February 27, 2020.

Pilots, willing to collaborate with Andres Manuel López Obrador to create airline.

The pilots considered positive the statement of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador about the possibility of creating "an airline for Mexicana workers". In a statement, the Mexican Association of Aviator Pilots (ASPA) said it is willing to work together with the federal government and the corresponding authorities to carry out this initiative that would benefit thousands of workers and aviation in the country. www.forbes.com.mx/pilotos-dispuestos-a-colaborar-con-amlo-para-crear-aerolinea/ March 02, 2020.



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