

Aug. 10, 2016

Animal Relief Areas Available Inside PHL

PHILADELPHIA – A new facility for disabled travelers with service dogs as well as for passengers with emotional support animals and small pets opened in Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) last week.

Seven temporary Animal Relief Areas were installed post-Security inside PHL's terminals. With these interim facilities, the Airport is in compliance with a U.S. Department of Transportation regulation to provide service animal relief areas inside air terminals that serve more than 10,000 departing passengers each year.

The Airport, which has 43,000 daily enplanements, will look to install permanent animal relief areas as terminals are refurbished over the next several years.

Because these new animal relief areas are located inside the terminals, travelers do not have to leave Security. Previously, travelers had to exit the terminal to access PHL's seven outdoor relief areas and be rescreened by TSA.

Service dogs are trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities, such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, or calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack. These animal relief areas are accessible to and accommodate all persons with disabilities.

"These relief areas will make traveling more convenient and less stressful for passengers with disabilities," said Airport Chief Operating Officer Kieran Sheridan. "In addition to service dogs, the relief areas can be used by other animals who are traveling in the aircraft cabin with their owner."

Each interim animal relief area is 8 x 7 feet, contains artificial K-9 grass and a red faux fire hydrant. The area is bordered on three sides by a 3-foot-high wall. It contains a waste station with doggie bags.

The locations of the new animal relief areas are:

- Terminal A-West near Gate A16
- Terminal A-East near the Gate A1 shuttle bus stop
- Terminal B at the B end of the AB-Link
- Terminal C at the C end of the CD-Link
- Terminal D at the D end of the CD-Link
- E at the E-1 gate
- Terminal F s just past the checkpoint, in the elevator/escalator lobby