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Carriage of Search and Rescue Dogs

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Guidance for Ground Crew

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easyJet

Background

easyJet has recently gained approval to enable us to carry Search and Rescue dogs from a national search and rescue dog association called SARDA IN (Search and Rescue Dog Association Ireland North) in the passenger cabin on all UK and Austrian registered company aircraft.

easyJet are currently in discussion with the Swiss regulator FOCA to understand if they will also grant permission for these dogs to travel on easyJet Switzerland in the same manner.

With immediate effect, Search and Rescue dogs from SARDA IN are permitted to travel in the passenger cabin on all company aircraft with the exception of easyJet Switzerland (HB Tails)

The local customs that affect assistance dogs are not applicable in the case of search and rescue, and these dogs may travel to any destination on the easyJet network.

What is a Search and Rescue dog, and why do they need to travel?

Search and Rescue dogs are highly trained animals in a number of different ways designed to assist with the location of missing persons and are used to support in a number of situations, including natural disasters, missing persons or to help an authority in their search.

Search and Rescue dogs from SARDA IN are highly trained to the same level as that of an assistance dog which would be accepted for carriage and includes the following behaviours:

- Will perform specific tasks on behalf of the owner
- Is trained to behave appropriately in public places
- Will immediately follow the instructions of the owner and always remain under their control
- Is trained to sit or lie at the owner's feet, and to go to the toilet on command
- Can be recognised as a search and rescue dog by wearing an identifying jacket or harness.

Animals not accepted for carriage

Dogs, or any other animal that does not meet the requirements of an assistance or search and rescue dog is not allowed to travel on an easyJet flight. These include:

- Emotional support / therapy dogs
- Self-certified dogs
- Untrained psychiatric dogs
- Any other animal or pet e.g., cats, birds, rodents, etc.

Seating

Search and Rescue dogs may be allocated any non-restricted seat. Where possible the search and rescue dog will be provided with an additional seat, which should be booked as an object. There should be no reason to reallocate seats for this group, and an extra seat may not always be possible if it's a last minute booking. SARDA IN are aware of these conditions.

Information for Ground Crew

SARDA IN staff travelling with a search and rescue dog will have already provided details of the dog travelling and confirmation of its training in advance. The SSR code PETC should also have been applied to the booking, and a comment added to ERES to state 'SARDA PRE APPROVED'

Customers may arrive at bag drop or may proceed straight to the departure gate

The search and rescue dog can be accepted for travel if the customer has in their possession

- Their ID badge, which clearly displays their photo, name and role alongside the SARDA IN Logo
- A non flight specific letter issued by easyJet

Handlers and their dogs are advised to arrive at least 2 hours before their flight to have documents checked. In extreme circumstances, when the staff are responding to a deployment call out this may not be possible and easyJet staff should make every reasonable effort to assist.

If a search and rescue dog is not correctly documented, or if you are in doubt that the dog is a genuine search and rescue dog, contact the ICC or ASL for support.

Search and Rescue dogs and their handlers are subject to same time constraints as other customers. Flights will not be delayed for them to travel.

Further support and assistance is available to all colleagues via Katie Isaacson and Ryan Duffield in easyJet Flight Operations during standard office hours. If you require support with a Search and Rescue dog travelling, please contact the ICC.

Examples of SARDA IN Documentation

SARDA IN will email confirmation that the dog travelling has completed it's training, this may be a statement in their email. For awareness they will also carry an ID badge and letter similar to that shown below:

