

Transportation of Animals Policy

Purpose. Tableland Services, Inc., operating Somerset County Transportation Service (SCTS), permits animals to be transported under certain circumstances while maintaining a safe and accessible environment for passengers, drivers, and animals. Because SCTS provides shared-ride transportation, animals must remain appropriately controlled throughout the trip.

Service Animals

Individuals with disabilities may travel with a service animal in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. A service animal is an animal individually trained to perform work or tasks for an individual with a disability.

Service animals:

- Are not required to travel in a carrier or crate;
- May accompany the passenger aboard SCTS vehicles without an additional charge; and
- Must remain under the control of the passenger through a leash, harness, tether, voice command, signal, or other effective means appropriate to the individual and animal.

When it is not apparent that an animal is a service animal, SCTS staff may ask whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. Staff will not require certification, identification, documentation, or disclosure of the passenger's disability.

An animal whose sole purpose is emotional support, comfort, or companionship and that has not been trained to perform disability-related work or tasks is not considered a service animal.

Pets and Other Animals

Passengers may transport a pet or other animal, when traveling to or from a veterinary or animal-related appointment, when the animal can be transported safely.

Whenever reasonably possible, the animal must be secured in an appropriate carrier or crate provided by the passenger. If an animal cannot reasonably be transported in a carrier, the passenger must contact SCTS when scheduling the trip so transportation arrangements can be reviewed in advance. The animal must remain appropriately restrained and under the passenger's control at all times.

Passengers should advise reservation or dispatch staff when an animal other than a service animal will accompany them.

Passenger Responsibilities

Passengers traveling with an animal are responsible for:

- Providing any necessary carrier, crate, leash, harness or restraint;
- Maintaining control of the animal while boarding, riding, and exiting the vehicle;
- Keeping the animal from roaming freely or interfering with the driver or other passengers;
- Caring for and supervising the animal throughout the trip; and
- Cleaning up any mess caused by the animal.

SCTS drivers and employees are not responsible for physically handling, restraining, placing, or removing an animal from a carrier.



Safety and Animal Behavior

An animal may be excluded or transportation may be discontinued when the animal:

- Is not under the passenger's control;
- Behaves aggressively or poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
- Cannot be safely transported or secured;
- Interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle; or
- Creates a significant health or sanitation concern.

Decisions involving a service animal will be made in accordance with applicable ADA requirements and based on the actual behavior of the animal rather than assumptions, fears, breed, or appearance.

When a safety concern arises, the driver should contact dispatch or supervision for assistance and document the incident in accordance with SCTS procedures.

Questions or Assistance

Passengers who have questions about transporting an animal or who need assistance making appropriate transportation arrangements should contact SCTS.

Tableland Services, Inc.

Somerset County Transportation Service
541 E. Main Street
Somerset, PA 15501

Questions / Transportation Arrangements

814-701-3691

Please advise reservation or dispatch staff in advance when traveling with an animal other than a service animal.

Effective Date: September 2026