

Dogs on Leash on Public Transit

36% of Vancouver households have one or more dogs, with an estimate of 110,000 to 145,500 total dogs.

Case Studies

Calgary	Toronto (adopted in 1990)	Seattle
Allowed at all times	Allowed during non-peak hours	Allowed at all times
Pay the same fare as the owner	Free	If small and can sit in lap, free, if large, pay the same fare as the owner

Other cities that allow dogs on leash on transit: Boston, San Francisco, London, all of Germany, all of Italy, Copenhagen, Prague, Brussels, Budapest, Helsinki, and Amsterdam

In all cities:

Dog must be on leash

Dog may not sit on seat

Driver/controller may prohibit or remove any dogs that pose a threat or are not under control

In some cities:

All dogs must wear a muzzle

Limit amount of dogs per transit vehicle

Dog must have a valid city license

Benefit

Equity	Those who require animal therapy to handle depression and anxiety, seniors, and low-income earners would be able to bring their animals to: vet appointments, training appointments, and parks/trails
Environment	Fewer trips using cars
Economic	If a fee is charged, Translink can benefit from a new form of income

Cost

Allergens	2000 study on Helsinki City Transport, which currently allows dogs on leash on transit, (population size identical to Vancouver) found that prohibiting pets would probably bring only a modest reduction in levels, as few pets are carried, and much allergen contamination comes from passengers' clothes. ¹
Fear of dogs/dangerous dogs	Calgary: "We have a 311 centralized call system for citizens inquiries. Our 311 transit coordinator hasn't had any complaints regarding dogs, fear of dogs, dangerous dogs or dog allergies on Transit."

Petition: over 320 signatures

Presentation by: Amy Morris, amorris@sfu.ca

SFU MPP Candidate 2013

¹ Partti-Pellinen, K., Marttila, O., Mäkinen-Kiljunen, S., & Haahtela, T. (2000). Occurrence of dog, cat, and mite allergens in public transport vehicles. *Allergy*, 55(1), 65-68.