

This petition is a request for New York City and the MTA to expand the rules to allow, not only dogs in carry bags, but also well-behaved, leashed dogs on the subways.

Dogs are our best friends, our family, and a major part of our life. As owners we want what is best for them. We want to be able to keep them healthy, by taking them regularly to the vet. We want to keep them social, by participating in the many different dog events held in the city. Unfortunately, many dog owners do not have private means of transportation. In addition, many dog owners have animals that are too large or heavy to fit into containers that are allowed within the current guidelines of public transportation. Options such as taxis fail dog owners because drivers are given the right to refuse passengers with dogs and often do. Pet taxis are too expensive for frequent travel and usually need to be scheduled in advance. Dog owners in Manhattan and surrounding boroughs are left with no options.

Issues and Suggested Solutions

Of course, there are issues regarding dogs riding public transportation: waste, noise, the possibility of bothering other passengers, even the fear of an attack. In response to these concerns, we offer the following solutions:

1. The American Kennel Club offers a program called the Canine Good Citizen. As stated on their website, “CGC is a certification program that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club” (AKC 1).

We propose that only dogs that have passed the CGC test be allowed on the subways. One possible way of implementing this would be to send the CGC certificate along with the city dog license each year and receive a noticeable and recognizable MTA tag for your pet to wear on their collar. Only dogs with the special tag would be allowed on the train and offenders could be ticketed. Distributing the MTA pet travel tag could be an additional source of income for the city.

Details of the CGC testing requirement have been attached to this petition.

2. **Dogs will have to be leashed at all times.**
3. **Let well-behaved, leashed dogs ride during off-peak hours only.** We realize that traveling during rush hour is an inconvenience. Restricted hours could be 5-9am and 4-7pm. (This policy is practiced successfully in San Francisco, CA.)
4. Dogs that have passed the CGC would be housebroken and under the control of their owner and therefore the possibility of a dog urinating or defecating while walking in the train station or corridors is slight. However, if this were to happen, the owner would be subject to a fine. (And, of course, responsible owners clean up after their dog.)

5. If necessary, passengers with dogs could be limited to certain cars on the train or a certain number of dogs per car, or both. This will allow passengers who are uncomfortable with dogs to avoid the dogs entirely.
6. If necessary, a fare could be charged for leashed dogs. This would be another source of revenue.

Precedent

There are other cities in the US that currently allow dogs on public transportation. For example:

Boston, Massachusetts:

"Certified Service animals and guide dogs are allowed on all trains. Dogs are permitted on all trains if they are leashed or carried and they do not annoy any customers or occupy seats. Small animals may be transported on any train if they are carried in an enclosed animal container".

San Francisco, CA:

"Non-service animals may not ride weekdays 5-9am and 3-7pm. During the permitted hours, a muzzled and leashed pet dog (one per vehicle) may be allowed. All other pets and non-service animals must be carried in small closed containers. A fare equal to the owner's must be paid for each non-service animal".

Seattle, WA:

"Assistive dogs ride without charge, and so do small dogs who can sit on your lap. Large dogs, leashed, pay the same fare as you and have to ride on the floor. Other animals, like cats or dogs or monkeys have to be carried in their pet carriers".

The Canine Good Citizen Program

AKC's Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) Program Sponsored by K9 Advantix®

Training/Testing: CGC Test Items

Before taking the Canine Good Citizen test, owners will sign the **Responsible Dog Owners Pledge**. We believe that responsible dog ownership is a key part of the CGC concept and by signing the pledge, owners agree to take care of their dog's health needs, safety, exercise, training and quality of life. Owners also agree to show responsibility by doing things such as cleaning up after their dogs in public places and never letting dogs infringe on the rights of others.

After signing the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge, owners and their dogs are ready to take the CGC Test. Items on the Canine Good Citizen Test include:

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness, and must not break position or try to go to the evaluator.



*Take the bite out of fleas, ticks & mosquitoes**

AKC's Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) Program
Sponsored by K9 Advantix®

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. With the dog sitting at the handler's side, to begin the exercise, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility. The evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.

Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

Test 5: Walking through a crowd

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20 feet long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.

Test 7: Coming when called

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to "stay" or "wait" or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.

Test 8: Reaction to another dog

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express

natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.

Test 10: Supervised separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g, "there, there, it's alright").

Equipment

All tests must be performed on leash. Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle or slip collars made of leather, fabric, or chain. Special training collars such as pinch collars, head halters, etc. are not permitted in the CGC test. We recognize that special training collars may be very useful tools for beginning dog trainers, however, we feel that dogs are ready to take the CGC test at the point at which they are transitioned to regular collars.

The evaluator supplies a 20-foot lead for the test. The owner/handler should bring the dog's brush or comb to the test.

Encouragement

Owners/handlers may use praise and encouragement throughout the test. The owner may pet the dog between exercises. Food and treats are not permitted during testing, nor is the use of toys, squeaky toys, etc. to get the dog to do something. We recognize that food and toys may provide valuable reinforcement or encouragement during the training process but these items should not be used during the test.

Failures - Dismissals

Any dog that eliminates during testing must be marked failed. The only exception to this rule is that elimination is allowable in test Item 10, but only when test Item 10 is held outdoors.

Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, attacks, or attempts to attack a person or another dog is not a good citizen and must be dismissed from the test.

We, the undersigned, request that New York City and the MTA expand the rules to allow, not only dogs in carry bags, but also well-behaved, leashed dogs on the subways.*

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Please only sign one copy of this petition, whether physically or electronically. Thank you.

Completed signature sheets, along with a copy of the petition should be sent to the address at right. Feel free to Cc Mayor Bloomberg. **KEEP COPIES.**

MTA
Mr. Peter S. Kalikow
Chairman
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739