



LOUISVILLE
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For Immediate Release

Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport Adds 'SDF WAGS Program' to Enhance Travel Experience

Therapy Animals in the Airport Beginning Today for Passenger Support

Louisville, KY (July 30, 2019) – The Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF) announced today a brand new customer service amenity that can come with a wagging tail and a wet nose, the SDF WAGS Program. Certified pet therapy animals and their handlers will now make visits to the airport terminal two to three times a week. These visits are aimed at helping make the travel experience more enjoyable and less stressful.



The therapy animals and their handlers are part of Wonderful Animals Giving Support (WAGS) Pet Therapy of Kentucky, Inc. The volunteer organization has provided animal assisted therapy to the Greater Louisville area since 1999.

The SDF WAGS Program marks the first time a pet therapy program has been introduced at the Louisville airport.

“As our goal to be the best airport in the country, it’s important that we not only have the best facilities, but offer an exceptional experience to our travelers and visitors,” said Dan Mann, Executive Director of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority. “Traveling can be stressful and is not always for positive reasons. We believe having therapy animals in the terminal not only elevates our airport, but helps ease the stress, calm the anxious and it hopefully can add a smile to someone’s day.”

Therapy animals and their handlers will wear attire with the logo that clearly identifies them as part of the SDF WAGS Program. They will roam the airport, including locations that are both pre- and post-security checkpoint, at various times on Monday through Friday. Passengers and other airport guests are free to approach them for quality cuddle time.

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“One of the reasons we are so happy to be working at the airport is because we recognize that not all people come to the airport are there for pleasant reasons. Many people are coming because of stressful situations such as traveling to a funeral, military deployment, medical treatment, job interviews, children visiting parents who live out of town and many other scenarios,” said Linda Laun, Co-Founder of WAGS Pet Therapy of Kentucky, Inc. “WAGS volunteers and their pets are committed to bringing a little joy and respite from that stress. The special bond between people and pets, and the intuitiveness of our animals, allow us to reach out and bring a little comfort. The visits at the airport give us the opportunity to interact with a population that is unique in both its diversity and number. We are so pleased to have this opportunity.”

All therapy animals and their handlers have undergone extensive training through WAGS Pet Therapy of Kentucky, Inc. Each pet therapy team also completes a stringent evaluation for possible scenarios they may encounter in airport setting.

The Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport is served by six airlines offering flights to more than 30 nonstop destinations including 19 of the region’s top 20 domestic markets. With just one stop, travelers from across the region can reach more than 460 destinations in the U.S. and worldwide.

For additional information regarding Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, visit www.FlyLouisville.com.

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