



Because of the ever-increasing crowding at boarding time, many passengers show up with four-legged companions. According to airline info, most of them are not certified service dogs. It's a cheater's way of boarding before anyone else, to get first divs on overhead space above their seats.

Many of the phony service dog owners are seniors, and with a bit of acting and a fancy dog vest, they manage to get aboard ahead of everyone else. They may deserve an Academy Award for acting, but not early seating.

Airlines have had enough of the scam and are fighting the abusers by requiring written proof of the dogs' qualifications. Therefore, if you honestly need to board your flight with your faithful service dog, be prepared. When at the check-in desk, you must show written proof both from your physician and appropriate service dog organization. Otherwise, it's back in line for you and Fido.