# Pets

**Policy**

King County Marine Division (KCMD) allows patron-escorted pet cats and dogs onboard King County Water Taxi (KCWT) vessels.

**Objective**

To allow transportation onboard KCWT vessels for patrons traveling with a pet cat or dog that is consistent with other modes of transit within the region.

**Responsibility**

Deckhands and Information Agents

Captains have the ultimate authority to deny service to any person or animal that poses a safety risk to crew or other passengers.

**Procedure**

**General**

Deckhands and Information Agents are responsible for understanding and enforcing this KCMD pet policy. Vessel Captains shall support Deckhands and Information Agents whenever needed.

KCMD has adopted a policy for the carriage of pets that is similar to other regional modes of transit. A patron-escorted pet cat and/or dog may be allowed transit onboard a KCWT vessel provided they meet the following criteria.

**Cats**

Cats must ride in an enclosed, ventilated pet carrier within reach of a passenger who accepts responsibility for them throughout the trip.

**Dogs**

Well behaved dogs may ride provided they are:

- **Leashed** – when on the exterior aft decks of the vessel. They must be under direct control of a passenger who assumes responsibility.

- **Crated** – when in any passenger space on the vessel. They must be in an enclosed, ventilated pet carrier within reach of a passenger who accepts responsibility.

**Service Animals**

Dogs that are trained service animals that perform a specific function required to assist someone with a disability are permitted in the passenger cabin and may require a reasonable accommodation to this policy to allow them to perform their duties per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For more information about service animals’ reference GENR 0110, Service Animals.

Any animal not considered a service animal or a pet cat or dog meeting the criteria stipulated earlier is not permitted aboard a KCWT vessels.

**Captains Discretion**

Based on the circumstance, the Captain of the vessel has the discretion to instruct people to take action that is contradictory to some element of this policy. For example, due to rough weather the Captain may close the exterior decks of the vessel, instructing all passengers and pets to ride in the cabin even though a dog may be leashed and not crated.