TriMet Administrative Rules For the Transport of Non-Canine Service Animals

Authority: TriMet Code Section 28.10(O) Effective March 15, 2011

1. Authority

The General Manager has authority to promulgate administrative rules governing the safe and efficient operation of the District Transit System. ORS 267.140. The TriMet Code (TMC) Section 28.10(O) authorizes the General Manager to promulgate administrative rules regarding the definition of "Service Animal" for any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to miniature horses recognized as an exception under the U.S. Department of Justice regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA). It shall be the policy of the District to permit the transport of non-canine service animals upon a District Vehicle and District Transit System, subject to the fulfillment of the requirements and conditions contained in these Rules. Animals that do not satisfy the requirements of these Rules must comply with TMC Section 28.15(A) (6) (b) providing for the transport of pets.

2. Service Animals Under FTA Regulations

These Rules are specifically intended to comply with the ADA, as implemented by U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations governing "Service Animals" on TriMet transit vehicles and facilities (49 CFR Part 37). The FTA regulations define "Service Animal" as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." To the extent a non-canine animal meets the FTA definition of "Service Animal" that animal is excepted pursuant to these Rules from the definition at TMC Section 28.10(O).

3. Compliance and Enforcement

Nothing in these Rules or the existence of these Rules shall prevent the District from taking any lawful steps to protect the safety of its employees, passengers and the District Transit System. Specifically, these Rules do not authorize the transport of any animal that is determined by TriMet to pose a safety risk or fundamentally alter TriMet's vehicle or transit operations, the vehicle cannot accommodate the type, size, and weight of the animal, the person has not demonstrated she or he has sufficient control of the animal, or the animal is not housebroken and represents a potential biohazard. The failure to abide by these Rules may result in a denial of service to the animal. In addition, in accordance with the TMC, Chapter 28, the violation of any Rules contained herein shall constitute a violation of the TMC and any such person in violation shall be subject to any and all remedies provided the TMC for a violation, including but not limited to a warning, citation or an exclusion.

4. Amendment

The General Manager may amend these Rules at any time to conform to applicable laws and to implement effective procedures and requirements for the safe and efficient operation of the District transit system.