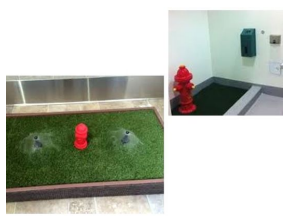


Rose: Service animals deserve proper airport bathroom

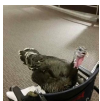
The Register's Editorial 3:32 a.m. CDT July 24, 2016



(Photo: Des Moines International Airport/Special to The Register)

A **rose** to the **Des Moines International Airport** for moving forward — albeit with a lot of grumbling from the airport board — on plans to [comply with federal requirements for a service-animal "bathroom."](#) Yes, it's easy to be scornful of a federal regulation that requires larger airports to have service-animal relief areas, especially when the cost of construction is expected to exceed \$80,000. But the federal rule is not an attempt to coddle four-legged travelers. It's

an attempt to accommodate the disabled people who rely on service animals in their daily life. For these individuals, the lack of a relief area is a definite obstacle to air travel. It's in everyone's interest to have a relief area for animals in airports. That was made clear in 2014, when a US Airways flight was [forced to make an emergency landing](#) in Kansas City, Mo., after a large dog in the passenger cabin twice relieved itself at 30,000 feet. That same year, a woman was escorted from a flight in Connecticut after her [large, pot-bellied pig defecated in the aisle](#) and began squealing uncontrollably. As long as trained, legitimate service animals — as opposed to questionable, owner-designated "emotional-support pets" — are allowed on airplanes, our airports should be designed to accommodate them.



DES MOINES REGISTER

Passenger takes turkey on Delta flight as emotional support animal, and now we're so confused

A **thistle** to the **Iowa Board of Regents** for continuing their [legal fight to legitimize "walking quorums"](#) in which board members deliberately skirt the requirements of the state's Open Meetings Law. A former University of Iowa employee is suing the regents, alleging several of its members met privately with Bruce Harreld before Harreld hired as UI's president. The employee alleges the board structured those meetings so Harreld never met with more than two board members at a time, avoiding a quorum that would have triggered the legal requirement for an open meeting. Iowa Attorney General Thomas Miller, who is always happy to spend the public's money in an effort to shut off citizens' access to governmental meetings and records, is asking that the case be dismissed. Regardless of whether Miller's request is granted, it's galling to see the regents and state's top law enforcement officer — both of whom claim to be champions of transparency in government — working so hard to undermine the Iowa Open Meetings Law.