



**CANADIAN SOCIETY
OF ALLERGY AND
CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY**

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June 19, 2009

Mr. Calin Rovinescu
President & CEO, Air Canada
P.O. Box 1400, Station Airport
Dorval, Québec H4Y 1H4

Dear Mr. Rovinescu;

I am writing to you about your recent decision to allow pets to travel in the cabin on Air Canada and Jazz flights. As President of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CASCI), I wish to express our concern for patients who have severe allergic rhinitis and asthma due to animal danders.

Given that cat and dog allergy affects 20-30% of the Canadian population, we worry that allergic patients, placed close to pets in the cabin, can experience acute asthma, and suffer unnecessary illness. Cat and dog allergen can exist as extremely small particles that fill an enclosed space and may precipitate severe symptoms in allergic patients. As an allergist, and a member of the CSACI, I feel it would be much safer and beneficial to your customers, to not permit pets to travel in the cabin with passengers.

Air Canada took a unique stand in 2006 in not allowing pets to travel on board with their owners.

We strongly urge Air Canada to reconsider their decision to permit animals to be carried in the cabin.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Richard Warrington, MB.BS, PhD, FRCPC
President, CSACI