



## FSD Policy Regarding Puppies in Personal Vehicles

### **Policy:**

It is the policy of Freedom Service Dogs (FSD) to require puppy raisers to maintain control of a puppy while in any vehicle. This policy, if followed, will reduce the chance of accidents, injury and any physical harm to puppy raisers, the puppy, passengers, and the general public.

### **Procedure:**

When a puppy is being transported in any vehicle, the puppy raiser must ensure the appropriate placement of the animal in the vehicle. This may be on the passenger side floor board, the back seat, the back seat floor board, or if a hatchback, the trunk area.

If a puppy is unable to remain in any of the aforementioned locations within the vehicle, the puppy should be transported in a crate which fits into the vehicle.

The puppy should never be allowed to sit on the driver's lap or in the passenger-side front seat. In the case of an accident, the puppy is placed at risk of severe injury from airbags and impact with the windshield.

### **Policy Procedures to Be Adhered to in All Instances of Puppy Transport**

- If the transport vehicle is too small for a crate and the puppy is unable to maintain a safe position within the vehicle, the puppy raiser should reach out to Puppy Development staff to find a reasonable solution.
- If the puppy is growing warm while in the rear area of the vehicle, the windows may be lowered no more than a few inches, to provide airflow. The windows should never be lowered so much that the puppies have the ability to put their heads out the window. This helps avoid any risk of flying debris injuring the puppy.
- If a puppy raiser is found to have transported a puppy sitting on the front passenger seat or in the driver lap, Puppy Development staff will have conversation with the individual about the risks of such behavior.
- If the behavior continues to occur, Puppy Development staff may consider the option of re-homing the puppy with another puppy raiser, if appropriate.