

Animals at food premises

The dos and don'ts of bringing animals to food premises.

Did you know that live animals are not permitted at food premises as they can spread dirt and germs? This can make people sick, especially the young, the elderly, and those that have compromised immunity. This is why there are rules that must be followed if you want to bring your dog to a food premises.

Below is a summary of the requirements from the Food Standards Code (National standard, enforceable under the *NSW Food Act 2003*), and the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW law):

Food handling areas

With the exception of fish and shellfish, no animals are allowed where food is handled by staff (i.e. kitchen, storage and serving areas)

Indoor dining areas/Assistance animals

Only assistance animals (i.e. Guide Dogs, or other genuine assistance animals referred to in section 9 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*) are allowed in areas used by customers, including indoor dining areas.

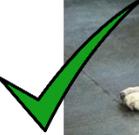
Outdoor dining area

You can have a dog in an outdoor dining area only if:

- The business owner gives permission, **and**
- The dog is on a leash and under the adequate control of a competent person, **and**
- The dog is not fed whilst at the food premises, **and**
- The dog is kept on the ground (not to be placed on a lap or chair etc.), **and**
- The dog does not pass through any indoor areas to access the outdoor dining area.

NOTE: Outdoor dining areas are substantially open and may have a roof. Where there are permanent or temporary blinds drawn, or walls to enclose the area, this is then classified as an indoor dining area where only assistance animals are allowed.

Quick reference

 	<p>Dogs are not allowed on chairs or tables at a dining area. They must stay on the floor.</p>
 	<p>Dogs cannot be kept on the lap or carried when at a food premises. They must stay on the floor.</p>
 	<p>You cannot feed or permit your dog to be fed at a food premises.</p>
 	<p>Only companion dogs are permitted at outdoor dining areas, and only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the business owner gives permission, and • the dog is on a leash and is under adequate control, and • the dog is not fed at the premises.
 	<p>Assistance animals are permitted where customers are allowed.</p>
 	<p>In accordance with the Food Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food handlers must observe hygiene requirements, and • food handlers must wash hands before commencing or recommencing food handling, and • food handlers must have clean clothing so as not to contaminate food.