



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & REGULATION

Animals in a Food Business

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ARE ANIMALS ALLOWED INSIDE A FOOD BUSINESS?

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code does not permit animals in food businesses, which includes in any indoor dining area and in food handling areas. The only exception to this rule is for assistance animals. Assistance animals are identifiable by a harness containing the round blue and white Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs badge and must, by law, be permitted in any areas members of the public can access, including in enclosed dining areas.

WHAT AREAS OF A FOOD BUSINESS ARE ANIMALS ALLOWED?

With approval from the business owner, animals are only permitted in the outdoor dining area of the food business. An outdoor dining area is an area that is only used for customers consuming food and drink outside. If the area is enclosed by 3 or more walls it is considered an indoor dining area and as such animals, with the exception of assistance animals, are not permitted in these areas.

It is important to remember the animal cannot be taken through an enclosed area to get to an outdoor dining area. The access to the outdoor dining area must be outdoors.

Additionally, customers must have their dog restrained and within their reach while dining.

HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE CODE AS A FOOD BUSINESS?

There are several ways to comply with the Food Standards Code:

- Display these requirements on entrance doors to the business, so your customers can be easily informed.
- Install physical barriers to prevent animals entering a food business such as self-closing screen doors