

Assistance Animal Policy

Background

Perisher welcomes assistance animals to its resorts, provided the animal is working as an assistance animal at the time and, when requested, the person in charge of the assistance animal provides reasonable evidence of accreditation to us that the animal is an assistance animal.

Scope

This Policy sets out Perisher's requirements in relation to assistance animals, balancing the rights and obligations, and the health and safety, of people with assistance animals and other resort guests and employees, as well as assistance animals.

This Policy applies to:

- our resorts in the Kosciuszko National Park, being Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes, Blue Cow and Guthega, including the ski slopes, and the tobogganing and snow play areas,
- our facilities at Bullocks Flat,
- the Skitube alpine railway, and
- the Station Resort, near Jindabyne.

Policy

What is an 'assistance animal', and who is the 'owner' of an assistance animal?

For the purposes of this Policy:

- 'assistance animal' has the same definition as in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth), and
- 'owner' has the same definition as in section 7 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW).

What evidence of accreditation is needed?

When requested, the person responsible for the assistance animal must provide us with reasonable evidence of accreditation that the animal is an assistance animal.

Perisher accepts a range of evidence options in recognition of the variation in accreditation schemes across states and territories and the right of a person with a disability to train their own assistance animal (consistent with the ["Pets in parks policy"](#) issued by the NSW Government). One of the following items or documents is sufficient:

- a coat, cape, vest, badge, harness, medallion, permit or other similar visible item worn by the animal that is provided by a training organisation accredited by Assistance Dogs International that clearly identifies the animal as an assistance animal,

- registration papers (or other recognition) from a local council in Australia showing that the dog (or other animal) is registered as an assistance animal under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW) or other state or territory legislation,
- an assistance animal transport pass or permit issued by a state or territory government,
- state or territory certification or accreditation of assistance animals, or
- documents that show the animal has completed a training program with an organisation accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

Use of Skitube and lifts

- Assistance animals are permitted on the Skitube between Bullocks Flat and Perisher Valley, and between Perisher Valley and Blue Cow.
- Assistance animals are not permitted on chairlifts or surface lifts, including T-Bars, platters, rope tows and conveyer lifts, due to the risk of injury to others or to the assistance animal (eg; an anxious animal falling from a chairlift, or an assistance animal being injured by a sharp ski or snowboard edge if a skier or boarder falls when riding a surface lift).

Other health and safety considerations

- Owners of assistance animals must take all reasonable precautions in relation to the health and safety of resort employees and other guests, and their assistance animal (including awareness of adverse weather conditions, and safety on busy slopes, particularly as skiers and boarders may not be expecting to come across an assistance animal).
- The person in charge of the assistance animal is responsible for keeping the assistance animal under effective control at all times, and removing any faeces deposited by the animal. An assistance dog must wear a collar and tag and be kept under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate cord, leash or equivalent that is attached to the dog and held by that person.
- Owners are liable for any personal injury or property damage caused by an assistance animal.



Nathan Butterworth

Vice President & General Manager - Perisher

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