



ASSISTANCE ANIMALS:

Guide Dogs, Seeing Eye Dogs and Lions Hearing Dogs

Are you aware that people with a vision or hearing impairment accompanied by an assistance animal can go into restaurants, retail outlets, hotels motels, supermarkets, hospitals, taxis, buses, trams, trains and all other public areas?

REMEMBER: NEVER PAT, DISTRACT OR OFFER FOOD TO A GUIDE DOG, SEEING EYE DOG OR HEARING DOG WHILE IT IS IN HARNESS. IT IS A WORKING ANIMAL UNDER THE CONTROL OF ITS OWNER.

Although many Victorians are generous in providing open access to people accompanied by their assistance animal, not everyone is aware of their legal obligation.

The rights of a person accompanied by an assistance animal are covered under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. Both these acts override the Food Act 1984 which prohibits dogs from entering food premises.

These Acts cover assistance animals, which have been trained by accredited organisations, or are in the process of being trained. Guide Dogs, Seeing Eye Dogs and Hearing Dogs are all assistance accredited working dogs. The dogs should be wearing a harness identification lead or a coat identifying them as working dogs.

Compliance with the laws will ensure that owners and managers of public facilities will avoid prosecution and/or embarrassment resulting from refusing access to assistance animals.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT GUIDE DOGS, SEEING EYE DOGS AND HEARING DOGS

Guide Dogs Victoria

Phone: 1800 013 015

Email: info@guidedogs.asn.au

Website: www.guidedogs.asn.au

Vision Australia blindness & low vision services

Phone: 1300 847 466

Website: www.visionaustralia.org.au

SEDA Seeing Eye Dogs Australia

Phone: 1300 847 466

Website: www.seda.org.au

Lions Hearing Dogs Inc. Australia

Phone: (08) 8388 7836

Website: www.hearingdogs.asn.au



City of
KINGSTON