

submissions

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 May 2012 8:05 AM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Food standards code review feedback

Categories: Yellow Category

Hi,

Following the article about dog dining policy review in the Sunshine Coast Daily 23rd May, I am in full support of restaurants being able to choose whether to allow dogs to dine with their owners.

This will no doubt cause a stir but at the end of the day, the fact remains: my husband and I used to buy a coffee each every morning after walking our dog before work. Now I opt for instant coffee after our walk because we can't take our dog without a) breaking the law and b) being met with disapproving stares from other diners despite the fact that he sits next to the table and falls asleep.

If you consider we spent a combined \$10 a day at our favorite local cafes that is \$70 a week for just two people that could be going to local businesses. We budgeted for this cost because it allowed us time to sit by the beach together and spend time together with our dog which at the end of the day is more important than \$10. Because we can't take the dog along in most situations, we walk, go to work, and keep that money in our pockets.

The issue of intolerance to animals in outdoor dining goes much deeper than their cleanliness, it is harming many local businesses that would otherwise profit from allowing owners bring their pets along (within reason). I assure you there are plenty of responsible dog lovers on the coast and I'd be curious to see if business picks up if cafe owners have a choice to allow pets or not.

I moved here from the usa in 2008 and have been surprised how for a beachy laidback area the Coast is so very intolerant to dogs.

Letting restaurants choose will be a positive step in the direction of growth and lifestyle on the Sunshine Coast.

Thank you for giving us the chance to have a say.

Regards,

Shawn Mare Ravazzano

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