

13 June 2012

Foods Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
Boeing House
55 Blackall Street
BARTON ACT 2600
submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Dear FSANZ,

Proposal P1018 - Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas

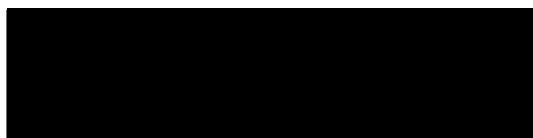
RSPCA Australia supports the proposal to remove restrictions on the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas.

RSPCA Australia considers that allowing socialised companion dogs in outdoor dining areas will improve dog health and welfare. Many dogs suffer from separation anxiety, boredom and loneliness when left at home which can negatively impact upon their quality of life. Many dog owners would like to take their dog to dining areas but may not be able to either because there are restrictions in place or because of a perceived view that dogs may not be welcome. Removing restrictions will not only help to improve dog health and welfare by increasing their opportunities for mental and physical stimulation, it will also enhance the pet-owner relationship bond providing benefits to humans.

In addition, the risk assessment regarding food safety implications arising from the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas concludes that the potential risk of foodborne transmission of zoonotic agents from companion dogs in outdoor dining settings to humans is considered to be very low to negligible.

RSPCA Australia considers that the benefits of allowing socialised companion dogs in outdoor dining areas far outweigh any potential risks and we generally support the removal of current restrictions.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Neil
Chief Executive Officer
RSPCA Australia

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