

submissions

From: Sarah Glasson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 June 2012 4:37 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Food Standards Code - dogs in cafes

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the FSANZ request for public comment on the issue of changing the law so cafe and restaurant proprietors can allow dogs on their premises if they wish.

I do not dislike dogs, but as a former dog owner, I am aware that even the most obedient dog can behave unpredictably.

Recently, I was sitting in the indoors eating area of a cafe, at one end of a long table. A gentleman seated at the other end stood up to leave, and his large dog moved out from under the table.

I had not seen the dog when I sat down. The dog was quiet and appeared elderly, and obviously used to being in such places.

As the man walked along the length of the table past me, his dog followed, and as it drew level with me, it paused and shook itself vigorously. Its head was taller than the table and its back not far below it, and I cannot imagine that my coffee and food, and myself, escaped some of the spray of saliva and fur detritus.

What dog owner can guarantee their pet is not going to have a good shake as it gets up? Dogs tend to stretch and shake themselves after a rest.

Is the cafe proprietor going to be required to provide replacement food and drink to affected patrons? Who is going to decide whether food contamination has occurred?

With my experience of this incident, if the law is changed I will avoid cafes that allow dogs to sit with their owners.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Glasson

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