



What are Disability Dogs?

When dogs provide assistance

There are certain dogs that receive special consideration under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and are eligible for free council dog registration.

These are accredited Disability, Guide and Hearing Dogs that provide freedom and independence to people with physical disabilities by assisting with everyday tasks. Along with assisting the blind and deaf, these dogs can pick up dropped items, open and close doors and cupboards, press the pedestrian button at a crossing, pay the cashier at the shops and provide warning to its owner if they are about to have a diabetic seizure or are in danger.

We understand...

...these dogs provide real help to improve the lives of their owners assisting daily activities and tasks.

Disability Dogs: the Fast Facts

- Guide dogs are those dogs being trained for use or being used to lead legally blind persons.
- In South Australia, any dog that is a bona fide hearing dog (or hearing dog in training) will have a certificate issued by Lions Hearing Dogs.
- For Disability Dog accreditation the owner must provide evidence to the Dog and Cat Management Board they can't carry out daily functions as well as an able bodied person without the aid of the dog.
- Police, customs, correctional services, air force, army and the SES all have dogs that do not need to be registered.
- Accredited dogs have unlimited public access and receive free council dog registration.
- All dogs should wear identification, contact details and ideally, be micro-chipped for identification should they be separated from its owner.

We understand...

...how valuable a guide dog, hearing dog or assistance dog is, being specially trained to perform specific physical tasks and have behaviours that assist a person with a disability and reduce their need for support in their day-to-day activities.



Disability Dogs

To be accredited, the dog must satisfy criteria:

- That the owner cannot carry out functions as an able bodied person without the aid of a dog
- The dog is of sound temperament and suitability
- The dog is not a prescribed breed.

1: Evidence required for the Board

The applicant must provide the Board with a letter from both a General Practitioner and a Specialist stating both the illness and details of the disability and certifying that the dog is necessary for them to carry out the activities of daily living. The dog must be assessed for its temperament and capabilities by the accredited trainer appointed by the Dog and Cat Management Board, who will issue a certificate.

2: Evidence required by the Council

To receive free registration the owner must produce the Board certificate.

Dogs owned or used by the Crown

Dogs of the police, customs, air force, army, correctional services and SES dogs do not need to be registered. If such a dog attacks a person they can take legal action against the agency that owns it but cannot have it destroyed. Councils cannot impose Control Orders on these dogs.

Guide Dogs

These are dogs being trained for use or being used to lead legally blind persons. They must be given access to all public areas including public transport. Guide dogs are provided by two organisations, the Guide Dogs SA/NT and The Royal Society for the Blind and are to be given free dog registration by councils. Guide dogs in training wear a distinctive coat and guide dogs in public wear a harness.

Hearing Dogs

The Lions Hearing Dog Association, who holds the register of accredited dogs, trains hearing dogs in South Australia. Any bona fide hearing dog (or hearing dog in training) will have a certificate issued by Lions Hearing Dogs and have unlimited public access and free registration.

Disability Dogs: a Good Owner tip

These dogs provide people with disability the freedom and independence to safely and confidently enjoy an enriched lifestyle, deal with day-to-day tasks and better participate in the community. As dog owners, it's great to do what we can to let them do their jobs.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit dogandcatboard.com.au



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at www.lga.sa.gov.au View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at www.dogandcatboard.com.au