

Dogs



Scientific name: *Canis familiaris*

In general, dogs are not considered suitable animals for housing at a school.

When dogs visit a classroom, it is inappropriate to subject them to any procedures other than observation, discussion of behaviour and limited, well-supervised handling.

Varietal range difference

There is an enormous range of dogs kept in Australia. They are grouped according to original breed, use or type:

- Toys, including Maltese and Chihuahuas
- Terriers, including Australian Terriers and Airedales
- Gundogs, including Spaniels and Pointers
- Hounds, including Beagles and Whippets
- Working, including German Shepherds and Kelpies
- Non-Sporting, including Dobermans and Samoyeds
- Utility, including Boxers and Schnauzers.

Section 14 of the *Companion Animals Act* (1998) prohibits dogs on school grounds except where the principal gives permission. Dogs must be kept on a leash in school grounds.

When selecting dogs to visit schools, particular attention should be given to the suitability of the dog's temperament. Dogs that have difficult temperaments and are fearful, timid or dominant, should not be used in the school situation.

Any dog that has been declared dangerous under section 33 of the *Companion Animals Act* must not be allowed on school grounds. Local councils retain this information.

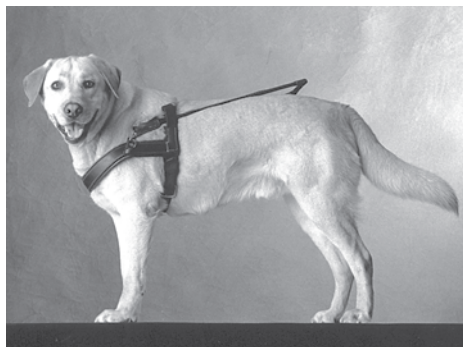
Working Dogs such as Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs

The care of these animals is the responsibility of their handlers who are expected to be skilled in the care and handling of their dogs.

All relevant vaccinations and parasite control should be up-to-date, regularly performed, as per veterinary recommendations, and documented.

It is expected that when these dogs are being used to assist with handling of livestock, they have been suitably trained. This should protect both dogs and livestock against injury. The following welfare points should be considered:

- do not muster or herd animals in extreme environmental conditions
- do not allow dogs to bite or worry livestock



When a service animal visits a school, the supervising teacher is responsible for providing an appropriate environment for observation.

- excessive barking of dogs and yelling of handlers should be prevented so as not to overstress the livestock or the working dogs.

Suggested resources

Websites

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

www.aspca.org/media

Dumb Friends League

www.ddfl.org/tips.htm

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

www.rspca.org.au

Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching

www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART

University of Sydney (Faculty of Veterinary Science)

www.library.usyd.edu.au/VEIN/links/dogs.html

Printed texts

Allen, E. et al (1992) *Every Dog*, Oxford, England.

Australian Veterinary Association (1999) *Pet PEP*.

Fogle, B. (1992) *The Dog's Mind: Understanding Your Dog's Behaviour*, Penguin, England.

Contacts

RSPCA

NSW Animal Welfare League

Delta Society

Australian Veterinary Association

Local council

Petcare

Approved activities: dogs

Please note:

The categories of activities are explained in Table 2, on page 16, in Part A of these guidelines.

The letters and numbers used in approved activities correspond to those detailed in Table 3, Description of Activities, on pages 17–19 of Part A of these guidelines.

A. Very low impact activities

- **Observation of the normal behaviour of animals (Category 1)**

The internal classroom may be unsuitable to observe dogs because of floor surfaces, hanging objects and unfamiliar smells that may cause stress for the animal. Outdoor areas are likely to be more suitable for observation.

When dogs visit the classroom, they should be present only for the duration of the class time. A source of fresh drinking water should be provided and dogs need to be protected from stress such as loud noise and crowds. If a dog becomes distressed for any reason, it should be removed immediately from this environment.

When a service animal such as a seeing-eye dog visits a school, the handler or owner is responsible for its welfare. The supervising teacher is responsible for providing appropriate facilities if they are required and assisting students to understand the animal and its needs.

The service animal is not to be used for any purpose other than observation of its behaviour while it is with the owner.