

Animals and pests in food premises

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code), Standard 3.2.2, sets out requirements that relate to animals and pests in food premises.

The Code states that a food business must not permit live animals (except seafood or other fish or shellfish) in areas in which food is handled or served. Exemptions are in place for assistance animals such as guide dogs.

A food business may also choose to allow dogs in outdoor dining areas, providing certain criteria are met. For more information about dogs in outdoor dining areas, refer to Food Safety Fact Sheet 49 - *Dogs in outdoor dining areas – information for food businesses* and Food Safety Fact Sheet 50 - *Dogs in outdoor dining areas – information for customers*.

Assistance animals

All food businesses **must** permit an assistance animal in areas used by customers. This applies to both outdoor and indoor eating and drinking areas and any other customer areas. Assistance animals are not permitted to enter non-customer areas such as a kitchen, storeroom or other places where food is handled.

The definition of 'assistance animal' refers to a guide dog, a dog trained to assist a person in activities where hearing is required and any other animal trained to assist a person to alleviate the effect of a disability. This definition is contained in section 9 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

Pests

Pests can carry pathogenic organisms, and shed hair, urine and faeces, which can contaminate food. They can gain access to food premises on food and packaging material and through doors and other openings.

Standard 3.2.2 requires food businesses to take all practicable measures to:

- prevent pests entering the food premises;
e.g. - fit screens to doors and windows, install self-closing doors, double doors or air curtains.
- ensure there are no holes or gaps in ceilings, walls and floors.
and
- eradicate, and prevent the harbourage of, pests on the food premises and those parts of vehicles used to transport food:
e.g. - have regular pest control treatments undertaken by a licensed pest management technician.
- ensure the premises and equipment are clean and dry
- ensure food and waste is stored appropriately.

For further information

Queensland Health has a variety of fact sheets with detailed information on food safety. Fact sheets can be accessed from the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety.

Contact your local government if you have any further questions. Contact details can be found at www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/local-government-directory.html or your local White Pages.