

Dog and Animal Policy



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

Updated 6 June 2020

PURPOSE

To find a balanced approach and in response to community feedback, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (THE AUTHORITY) have developed the following policy to provide clarity on when and how dogs and other animals may stay in its caravan parks.

1. SCOPE

- 1.1. This policy applies to all Caravan Parks operated by THE AUTHORITY.
- 1.2. Dog and animal access to other Crown land managed by THE AUTHORITY falls under the relevant Victorian or local government legislation and rules. This policy does not supersede any other legislation regarding dogs or animals.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Dogs

- 2.1. Guests must notify and discuss the prospect of dogs staying with them at an AUTHORITY Caravan Park before their arrival. Failure to do this may result in the refusal of the guest's dog(s) stay at the Caravan Park.
- 2.2. Dogs will only be permitted to stay in THE AUTHORITY's Caravan Parks during the period 1 February to late December (start of the Victorian public school holidays), excluding Labour Day weekend (March), Easter school holidays, Melbourne Cup weekend and at other times as advised by management.
 - (a) Management reserves the right to alter these times at their discretion.
- 2.3. While THE AUTHORITY does not provide 'dog friendly' Camping Sites at all its Caravan Parks, a limited number of dog friendly Camping Sites (not the whole park) will be made available at some Caravan Parks. Caravan Parks will advise guests if they offer dog friendly Camping Sites when enquiries are made.
- 2.4. While these Camping Sites will generally be available at participating Caravan Parks:
 - (a) THE AUTHORITY cannot guarantee the availability of any particular dog friendly Camping Sites; and
 - (b) From time to time, due to operational requirements or grounds maintenance, THE AUTHORITY may need to alter the availability, total number or which Camping Sites are dog friendly.

- 2.5. Guests that are permitted to have dogs stay with them must:
- (a) No more than two (2) dogs are permitted per allocated site.
 - (b) Dogs must be kept under effective control at all times and must not be left unattended.
 - (c) When dogs are outside the van/tent/annexe/RV etc they must always be on a lead under the effective control of a person who can manage the dog.
 - (d) Dogs are not permitted in common areas unless advised by Caravan Park management.
 - (e) At night, dogs must be tied up or corralled in a suitable enclosure from which the dog cannot escape.
 - (f) Owners must not allow the dog(s) to enter other Camping Sites.
 - (g) Dog owners must clean up after their dogs immediately and dispose of the waste in designated bins.
 - (h) Excessive barking will not be tolerated and will be treated as per excessive noise issues as per the terms and conditions of the booking.
 - (i) Aggressive behaviour by dogs will not be tolerated. Owners will be asked to take steps to correct the aggressive behaviour in the first instance. If the aggressive behaviour cannot be mitigated the Dog(s) may be required to leave the Caravan Park.
 - (j) All other relevant Victorian and local council regulations must be followed in respect to the dogs.
 - (k) No exceptions to these conditions will be made for any camper without the express permission of the relevant Caravan Park Manager.
- 2.6. Any dog that has been declared a dangerous dog, menacing dog or restricted breed dog, within the meaning of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, must NOT be brought into any AUTHORITY managed Caravan Park.

Assistance Animals

- 2.7. The AUTHORITY complies with all Victorian and Commonwealth legislation regarding Assistance Animals. These animals are permitted in all AUTHORITY managed Caravan Parks.
- 2.8. Guests may be asked to provide proof, in advance, that the animal is a certified assistance animal as outlined within Victorian and Commonwealth legislation.
- 2.9. THE AUTHORITY seeks to provide the best experience for all its guests. Guests with an assistance animal should speak to the relevant Caravan Park management to arrange the best access and location (subject to availability) for their stay.
- 2.10. The rules relating to dog control and behaviour, set out above, shall also apply to assistance animals.

Cats and other animals

2.11. Cats and other animals (excluding assistance animals) are not permitted in any AUTHORITY managed Caravan Parks. Any guest who brings a cat or other types of animals into the Caravan Parks will be asked to remove them immediately and may also have their booking cancelled.

3. LIABILITY

3.1. Dog owners are personally responsible and will be held to be so, for any and all personal injuries and/or property damage or losses in relation to any actions by or because of their dog.

4. DEFINITION

Assistance Animal:	<p>An assistance animal is a trained support designed to facilitate the participation of people with disability in accessing various aspects of personal and public life.</p> <p>Section 9 of the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>, sets out the legal definition of an assistance animal as a dog or other animal that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) is accredited under a State or Territory law to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of disability; or(b) is accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed in the regulations; or(c) is trained to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability and meets standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.
Caravan Park:	<p>Any AUTHORITY managed facility providing overnight accommodation.</p>
Camping Sites:	<p>Any space as designated by THE AUTHORITY at its Caravan Park. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camping spaces, both powered and unpowered• Cabins or similar structures used for accommodation; or• Permit sites <p>Areas that constitute a ‘Camping Site’ shall be at the discretion of THE AUTHORITY.</p>

5. RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*

- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- Caravan Park Booking Terms and Conditions

6. APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

Approved By	Approved Date	Review Date	Version
CEO	19 Jan 2022	19 Jan 2023	1

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 December 2020 to deliver better protection and management of the iconic coast and parks of Victoria's Great Ocean Road.

In partnership with the Traditional Owners, our role is to manage, protect and foster resilience of the natural, cultural and heritage values of coastal Crown land and marine waters along the Great Ocean Road.