

submissions

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 June 2012 4:26 PM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dogs in Outdoor Areas of Eating Establishments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [REDACTED]

[To Whom it May Concern at Food Standards Australia and New Zealand:](#)

We recently spent some time in New Zealand. One of our favourite cafes on the Wellington waterfront went up in our estimation (and that of all our dog-owning friends) for providing a separate menu for dogs. It seems to work for everyone and the atmosphere reflects the imaginative and welcoming attitude of the owner.

We would like to add our voices to those of other dog owners who have sent submissions on this issue:

- 1) Latest findings on the low likelihood of dog-borne disease from dogs being allowed in outdoor café/restaurant premises would surely indicate that the hygiene argument is no argument at all. As long as dogs are not on tables or laps or licking tableware – even as a dog owner I find this unacceptable and would support the removal of the animal.
- 2) The most disturbing aspect of potential regulation on this matter is the removal of choice from owners of premises serving food and drink. Leaving the decision in their hands gives them the opportunity to monitor whether or not they are losing or gaining custom by THEIR decision to allowing or ban companion dogs.
- 3) Although it may be a negative argument, having worked behind the scenes in the hospitality industry for many years, I would urge FSANZ to concentrate on monitoring adherence to current food safety standards by food-serving establishments, producers and importers.
- 4) On a personal level, any dog owner or anyone who knows a dog owner would have picked up on the fact that the family pet is just that – family. It would be a sad situation if dog owners stopped taking the family pet on holidays because the pet could not participate in family activities like morning coffee, lunch, etc.

We are all for well-trained, controlled dogs who don't interfere with the enjoyment of other groups. In our local area, in 5 years we have never seen an instance of aggressive, dirty or intrusive dogs at our local food outlets.

Everyone wins if Proposal P1018 is adopted, business proprietors, their customers and FSANZ, who would be viewed as a forward-thinking body committed to a commonsense approach to this important issue.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Dunn
Peter Dunn
Charlie Brown Dunn
I