



30th May 2012

To: Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)

A submission in support of Proposal P1018 Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas.

I live near Cygnet in the Huon Valley south of Hobart, Tasmania. Unfortunately the law governing dogs in Tasmania, The Dog Control Act 2000, is draconian and badly needs review. As far as dog owners are concerned it is full of responsibilities and contains no rights at all.

Cygnet has several coffee shops and they all have outdoor dining areas which are suitable for dogs. All of the local cafe owners are in favour of allowing dogs into these outdoor dining areas. This is partly because they own and love dogs themselves and partly because dog owners are valuable customers who they would prefer not to turn away.

I am a retired veterinary surgeon and am not aware of any diseases which are readily transferable from dogs to people as long as the usual hygiene procedures are followed. I agree with Dr Scott Weese and Dr Maureen Anderson of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses, Ontario, Canada; who argue that *having a dog in a restaurant should be less risk than having people in a restaurant since people can transmit some infections to each other over short distances by coughing and sneezing.* It is also possible to transmit many infections to other people simply by touching door handles etc.

I have been used, while living in the UK, to travelling with my dog on public transport; taking them in to pubs and cafes and to having them stay with me in some hotels without any problems.

Yours Sincerely,



Margaret Littleton (Dr.)