

## submissions

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 May 2012 8:44 PM  
**To:** submissions  
**Subject:** pet dogs in outdoor dining areas  
**Attachments:** cafe culture.docx

Hello,

Please find attached a column published in the Sunday Tasmanian newspaper on 13/5/12  
As the author of the weekly 'pets' column since 2002, I send this column as a submission in support of relaxing guidelines around pet dogs in outdoor eateries.

The column is brief – around 400 words. Please let me know if you require a copy of the published article.

Also, as program coordinator for Delta Dog Safe Tas I support FSANZ's proposal.

Delta Dog Safe is a dog-bite prevention program for children.

Preventing dog bites requires the promotion of responsible management of dogs along with community education on appropriate behaviour around dogs.

Allowing well-behaved dogs to interact more with their owners in public places helps to promote the responsible management, training and socialisation of dogs.

This is of benefit to dogs, their owners and the wider community.

Kind regards

Anne

**Anne Boxhall**

***Pet Column***

***Sunday Tasmanian***



Cafe Culture

We've seen it happen and probably been a part of it. A dainty baby or an entertaining toddler arrives on the scene at a cafe, in a park or a shop. Adults previously unknown to each other start chatting and delighting in the charms of the little one. Psychologists tell us we're programmed to be attracted to baby faces as part of nature's plan to encourage good care of infants. Biologists tell us that being attracted to all that is alive and vital is part of what it is to be human. The term *biophilia* was coined to describe the innate need human beings have for contact with nature. It literally means *love of life or living systems* and may explain why it's not only babies and toddlers who are good at breaking the ice in social settings. Animals are also renowned for their capacity to bring people together in positive ways. Research is supporting the biophilia hypothesis that contact with nature through pets and the great outdoors has significant social health, mental health and physical health benefits. By opening up our neighbourhoods to pets in supported and planned ways, we are *letting life back in* for ourselves and enhancing health and well being collectively. Back in 2002, research by Dr Lisa Wood of the University of Western Australia concluded that "social benefits of pets are not merely neighbourhood niceties but can positively influence health at the individual and community level." With growing policy and public interest in re-building a sense of community and the high rates of pets living in neighbourhoods, there is a strong case to optimise the role that pets can play in this process. Along with a potential ripple effect for non-pet owners, these findings have practical implications for the way pets are valued, included and accommodated in urban areas. In many European cities, well socialised dogs cheerfully abound in coffee shops, on the Underground, in parks and gardens and shops. City planners in Paris are streets ahead, providing gutters which regularly flush to eliminate rubbish, including dog waste. It remains a mystery as to why pets are more restricted in this country compared to other developed nations. Happily, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) announced last week they are re-examining the rules on dogs at outdoor eateries. As a result, eateries choosing to accommodate dogs in their alfresco areas would be provided with consistent set of national guidelines. You can congratulate FSANZ on their proposal by lodging a simple submission, at [www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au)

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