

Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government

Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)



June 2, 2010

New dog-friendly Pets in Café laws pass

New laws that allow dogs to be taken to outdoor areas of cafes and restaurants have passed through the Upper House of State Parliament today, Minister for Local Government Barbara Perry said.

“These new pet-friendly laws mean that at the café owner’s discretion, people can now enjoy a coffee or meal without necessarily having to leave their dog at home,” Ms Perry said.

“This new legislation has successfully struck a balance between having dogs in cafes and maintaining food and safety standards.”

Under the new laws, it is now at the café or restaurant owner’s discretion whether to allow dogs into their outdoor dining areas.

For those Cafes that do allow dogs, the following applies:

- The outdoor dining area must not be enclosed and must be able to be entered by the public without passing through an enclosed area;
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times;
- Dogs can be provided with drink, but not food;
- Dogs must be on the ground at all times.

Ms Perry said the changes reflect the vibrant outdoor café culture that is now evident in many communities.

“More than 1.4 million dogs are now owned in NSW and these common sense changes reflect the fact that we are an increasingly pet-friendly society.”

The new laws include an exemption to allow dogs at cafes in off-leash areas to remain off-leash and also be provided with food and water.

These changes follow concerns raised by the Member for Balmain Verity Firth relating to the operation of cafes located in off-leash areas.

Ms Firth today welcomed the granting of the exemption.

“This is great news for cafes that operate in leash free zones such as Café Bones in my local area,” Ms Firth said.

“I am pleased that the Minister has listened to the community concerns that I raised about this issue and acted quickly to make the necessary clarification.”