



DOG HANDLERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS (DHRO)

*For Exhibitors, Sponsors & Feature Participants
(as at November 2023)*

Pet Projects International Pty Ltd (PPI), the organiser of the Dog Lovers Festival (DLF) places animal welfare and the safe interaction of dogs and people as its highest priority.

The **Animal Management Plan (AMP) and Dog Handlers Responsibilities and Obligations (DHRO)** have been prepared to ensure the highest level of welfare is provided for all dogs that are presented and cared for on-site during the event, and in what is a unique environment. The conditions outlined in this AMP & DHRO are applicable to any persons bringing dogs to the event including but not limited to all Exhibitors, Sponsors, Presenters, and Feature participants.

All dog owners/handlers and dogs are required to comply with the relevant legislation which includes but may not be limited to: The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Care and Protection Regulations 2012 and any relevant compulsory or voluntary Codes of Practice. Also the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, and the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulations 2019

The local government council is the Brisbane City Council and the relevant legislation they administer is *Animals Local Law 2017* that regulates the keeping of domestic animals. The council publishes their requirements on their website and they can be found [here](#).

All owners/handlers bringing a dog into the Festival have an obligation to familiarise themselves and comply with all of the above legislations and advisories.

The owner/handler who has registered to bring any dog into the Festival is considered the "*competent person in effective control*" of the animal, and this person holds the relevant duty of care for their dog(s) and to the community. This includes, but is not limited to the control, comfort, safety and welfare of their animal and the interaction of any animal under their control, and with any other person or animal, at any time, whilst on-site at the Dog Lovers Festival.

For the purpose of the AMP & DHRO, all dogs are treated equally regardless of size or breed. Consequently, the burden of care is placed upon the *competent person in effective control* for the control, comfort, safety and welfare of their animal and DLF has prepared this Animal Management Plan to assist exhibitors in contributing to an enjoyable environment where both exhibitors and the public can celebrate their love of dogs in a safe and positive environment.

Making the right decision about bringing your dog to the Festival. Will it cope?

The Dog Lovers Festival can be a busy, noisy and stressful environment for animals. With large crowds and repetitive stranger interactions, sudden loud noises, constant audio visual and live presentations and PA announcements along with hundreds of other dogs. It's crucial that you are confident your particular dog will cope.

It is a mandatory requirement that any dog brought into the Dog Lovers Festival is in peak condition (physical and mental) and good health.

If your dog does not cope in stressful situations or you do not know if the dog you are bringing to the event is capable of coping, it must not attend.

1. GENERAL CONTROL OF DOGS AT THE FESTIVAL

DLF will have Animal Welfare Officers patrolling the festival at all times to monitor the condition of all dogs on-site and to ensure that all conditions of the Animal Management Plan are always being adhered to.

DLF reserves the right and full authority to demand the immediate removal of any dog from the event if it considers that the dog is showing any ongoing signs of stress and aggressive behaviour or believed to be suffering any negative effects from its presence at the event.

All owners/handlers must immediately comply with any warning or direction given by Animal Welfare Officers, DLF management, security personnel or other authorised DLF representatives. Documented warnings or directions may be issued if deemed necessary and non-compliance with any written warning or direction will result in a demand to remove the dog from the event.

All owners/handlers bringing dogs to the Festival should have contingency plans in place to allow for the removal of their dog (if required). This means not having to leave your stand unattended during the removal, having a second person to take the dog home or having someone on call to collect your dog.

Removal from the event does not include taking your dog outside and leaving it tied up or locked in your vehicle – it means taking your dog home. Any dog found unattended in a vehicle will be immediately reported to the relevant local council, Venue Security, the RSPCA Inspectorate or the Queensland Police.

DLF has set the following rules as the minimum conditions that must be maintained at all times when controlling dogs at the festival.

- a. It is mandatory that a minimum of two people are present on your stand at all times and that one person is designated as the competent person in effective control. Stands must not have any more than 2 dogs per person in effective control. (For example: a stand with one dog must have a minimum of 2 people but a stand with 2 people can have up to 4 dogs total and an additional 2 dogs per additional person in effective control.
- b. At no time may a dog be left with only one person on the stand. This is to ensure that at no time a dog is left unsupervised because you are busy with a visitor and that there is always someone available to rest, relieve and closely monitor your dog.
- c. All animals on stands are to remain under direct supervision at all times and must be restrained by a collar (or harness) and lead at all times
- d. At no time may a dog be left unattended on any stand even if the dog is restrained.

2. KEEPING DOGS AND VISITORS SAFE AT THE FESTIVAL

During the Dog Lovers Festival, the *competent person in effective control* holds absolute responsibility for the control of their animal and must take all possible actions to minimise any risks associated with having a dog at the event.

- a. DLF will provide a sign to all stands where dogs are present and this is for your dog's well-being and protection advising visitors of protocol. It is a mandatory requirement that this sign be displayed on your stand at all times and it will state that "*You must ask for permission and supervision by the person in control prior to approaching any dog on this stand*". Additional signs will be located at each entry as well as at other prominent positions around the event to repeat the key safety messages.
- b. Dog beds, rugs or similar items must be located away from the edge of stands so that dogs (including their tails) don't get stood on or cause a trip hazard. Please ensure you have booked a stand large enough to comfortably accommodate a dog within the perimeter of your stand area.
- c. It is essential that you visually monitor your dog and "listen" to what they are telling you. Refer to our [Canine Body Language Document](#) for common behaviours and what they look like, but remember your dog is a unique individual and may not display all of these traits. You can use this information to get an idea of what to look for in your dog and what feelings they are displaying to you.

d. The Dog Lovers Festival recognises its obligations under the following Acts:

[Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(Commonwealth\)](#)

[Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 \(Qld\)](#)

In recognising DLF obligations under these Acts DLF has made reasonable adjustments to ensure access to people with accredited assistance dogs are able to work and participate at each of its events.

These reasonable adjustments are made within the context of DLF's obligations in providing a workplace that is free of risk to the health and safety of workers, exhibitor and visitors under the applicable WHS/OH&S Acts and Regulations in each state.

They ensure we meet our obligations of consultation, reasonable adjustment and the provision of a site that is free of risk to health and safety we require exhibitors, or their staff or any volunteers with assistance animals to register and provide their assistance animal accreditation prior to attendance during both the bump in and bump out period of the festival.

The period of bump in (construction and set up) and bump out (tear down and pack up) are considered to be high risk construction periods by the State regulators due to the nature of the activities undertaken and the movement of plant and equipment.

Should you wish to discuss this with a DLF Representative, please contact Operations Manager: Trudi Borin at trudi@eventmi.com.au

3. INCIDENT REPORTING:

Any observed, uncharacteristic aggression, rushing or snapping will be treated as an incident (near miss) and you will be directed to immediately remove your dog from the venue. Notwithstanding this removal, if a third party (public or staff member) has been affected, in any way by the incident, they may exercise their rights and report the incident to the Brisbane City Council via phone on (07) 3403 8888. You will be required to assist any third parties in the exercise of their rights. <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-and-safety/pets-and-livestock/keeping-a-pet-in-brisbane/dog-attacks-declared-dangerous-or-menacing-animals>

The *competent person in effective control* will be required to provide the following information to the Brisbane City Council:

- time and date of the incident
- where it happened
- name of the dog owner
- dog registration number
- a description of the dog
- a detailed description of the incident

Any incident that results in an injury requiring medical treatment as defined under the Work Health and Safety Act will be reported in accordance with the Act. 2011. Any third party will be advised of their rights immediately.

In the case of a reportable injury the Brisbane City Council may also be notified and you may be considered guilty of an offence under the *Animals Local Law 2017*.

4. INTERACTION BETWEEN YOUR DOG AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER DOGS

We appreciate that an important part of the visitor experience is interaction with dogs. The *competent person in effective control* is required to fully supervise any interactions between any persons or other dogs, and their dog. This primary rule is set to avoid injury or distress to dogs or people. Owners/handlers not wishing for their dog(s) to be handled by members of the public should provide a physical barrier such as a rope line, fencing or keep their dog in an appropriate pen or travel crate.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all people at the event, all owners/handlers must ensure their dog is suitably controlled/restrained when approaching or being approached, by any person.

With the large number of dogs and various breeds onsite, dog-to-dog aggression is a possibility. To ensure the safety and welfare of all animals participating at the event, all exhibitors must ensure their dog is suitably controlled when approaching or being approached, by any other dog. It is a requirement that when moving around the venue that all dogs are on a short leash and a single person has control of no more than two dogs at a time. Be aware that when coming around blind corners dogs will see other dogs before you do. Always ask for permission from other dog handlers before allowing your dog to approach any other dog.

5. TOILETING AND DOGGY TIME OUT

It is your responsibility to ensure that all dogs (excluding puppies) are toilet trained. It is the owners/handlers responsibility to ensure that regular breaks are scheduled for your dog to be removed from the venue for rest, relief and downtime and that they monitor their animals for signs of boredom, restlessness or listlessness.

There is a dog rest and relief area set up on the loading dock and access is located at the rear of Hall 3. There are also small areas outside the BCEC (for this purpose it is your responsibility to abide by all laws and regulations relating to dogs within that space so please take note of all signage and regulations posted within any grassed areas). Exhibitors are responsible for the provision and removal of their own bags to clean up dog waste. If an animal relieves itself within the building, the exhibitor is required to secure the immediate area for slip or biohazard and contact the event organiser, info desk, security, or cleaning staff immediately.

Please ensure when exiting and entering the Festival that you have your Exhibitor Access Pass on you at all times.

6. FEEDING AND HYDRATION

All dogs must be provided with easy access to fresh drinking water, and it is your responsibility to ensure this is regularly replenished so dogs are kept well hydrated.

With dogs on-site for the entire day, exhibitors are required to provide the food required for their dogs at the event and make suitable preparations for storage onsite.

Please consider that all dogs can be territorial or possessive of toys and food and react aggressively or defensively to protect their possessions. For this reason, allowing dogs to have play or chew toys, bones or providing bowl feeding, is not allowed on any stand, unless the dog has been isolated from public interaction. Exhibitors are encouraged to feed their dogs in small, regular servings so that unattended food does not cause unwanted interaction with other dogs at the event. All foods are to be stored in sealed containers at all times.

Take great care to ensure your dog remains well hydrated and help avoid the possibility of heat stress. Exhibitors are required to provide their own water and water bowl on their stand for the dogs' welfare but must place the bowl where it will not present a trip hazard or be in danger of coming into contact with live electrical equipment. Water bowls cannot always be filled at the venue and to guarantee quick and easy access to water we recommend that you bring your own.

Exhibitors are advised to place prominent signage on their stand, disallowing incidental feeding of their animals by members of the public.

7. VETERINARY SUPPORT

DLF has arranged for a vet to be available during event open hours. The scope of duties of the vet will be limited and may include emergency assistance and dog first aid, in addition to providing oversight and direction relating to animal welfare, including directing exhibitors to remove dogs if deemed necessary.

8. ANIMAL EVACUATION

In the event of an incident that requires emergency evacuation from the venue, all exhibitors, contractors, event staff, members of the public and other persons shall follow the directives of the appointed emergency evacuation wardens and proceed to the nominated emergency evacuation point and await further instruction.

Owners/handlers should consider the welfare and safety of their animal during an emergency evacuation event.

All animals shall be under the direct supervision and restraint of the competent person in effective control, at all times. Consideration should be made to whether animal carriers or crates are required for animal evacuation. Storage and use of such items must be kept within your stand's footprint, not block emergency aisle ways or pose obstruction to persons exiting the building for the purposes of emergency evacuation.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss any part of the Animal Management Plan, please contact Trudi Borin, Operations Manager at the Dog Lovers Festival office: Email: trudi@eventmi.com.au

9. DOG REGISTRATION & YELLOW ID TAGS

Upon registration of your dog, you will be emailed a confirmation email and a yellow dog registration tag. This tag must be fixed to your dog's collar prior to arrival at the Festival and must remain on your dog at all times and on all days of the Festival. This yellow tag identifies to security and event staff that you have acknowledged the AMP & DHRO and will ensure a smooth entry into the Festival. If you do not have access to a coloured printer or your tag breaks, there are secure plastic tags available from the Dog Registration Booth at the entrance to the Festival or from the Information Booth inside the Festival. Simply produce your confirmation email to obtain a replacement tag.