

ASSISTANCE DOG REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Assistance Dogs exemption from registration fees

Recent changes mean that assistance dogs are now exempt from registration fees, where eligibility criteria has been met and Council has been provided evidence of this. More information can be found on Animal Welfare Victoria's website <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animals-act/registration-legislation-and-permits/updates/assistance-dog-registration-scheme>.

To be eligible for free registration, the owner of an assistance dog must demonstrate that:

- They have a disability, as defined under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth), and require an assistance dog;
- The assistance dog has been trained to perform tasks or functions to alleviate the effects of the disability;
- The assistance dog has completed obedience training;
- The assistance dog is at least 12 months of age;
- The assistance dog is microchipped;
- The assistance dog is desexed;

All eligibility criteria must be satisfied to be eligible for free registration.

Please note a person is not eligible despite meeting the above requirements, if:

- The dog is declared a dangerous or menacing dog or is restricted breed dog.
- The applicant has been found guilty of two or more offences under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (VIC) with respect to the same assistance dog.

The Application for Registration of Assistance Dog must be filled out, and supporting documentation as outlined in the application must be attached. Incomplete applications will be sent back, and you will have 21 days to complete your application, after which time your dog will be considered as not registered with Council and applicable infringements may apply. If you are having difficulties with finalising any of the supporting documents, please contact the Customer Experience team to advice of any delays.

If you have any questions on the application, please don't hesitate to contact the Community Safety Team on 03 5220 7111 who will be happy to answer any questions.

Supporting documentation requirements:

Evidence of disability requiring the owner to be accompanied by an assistance dog

Applicants must provide evidence of a disability which necessitates them to be accompanied by an assistance dog. This can include:

- A declaration from a health professional as part of a registration application form; or
- A written recommendation from and/or a declaration by the relevant treating medical practitioner to verify that the applicant has a disability and will require the assistance of an assistance dog

The application form includes a declaration to be completed by a health professional.

ASSISTANCE DOG REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM 2023-2024

Evidence regarding dog's training and suitability to be recognised as an assistance dog

Evidence needs to be provided that the dog meets the definition of an assistance dog under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Specifically, this requires that the dog has been trained to perform tasks or functions that help to alleviate the effects of the applicant's disability.

The applicant is also required to provide evidence of that their assistance dog has undertaken training in obedience.

The obedience training will need to be provided by a person who either:

- Holds a qualification in Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training; or
- A Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services; or
- Is a qualified dog obedience trainer with one of the following Ministerially approved dog obedience training organisations:
 - [Australian Association of Professional Dog Trainers Inc](#)
 - [Four Paws K9 Training](#)
 - [The Kintala Dog Club Association Inc.](#)
 - [Delta Institute](#)

The application form includes a declaration to be completed by the relevant trainer, together with an obedience certificate.

Training to perform tasks to alleviate effects of disability

In addition to this the applicant will need to provide evidence that the dog has been trained to perform tasks or functions that help alleviate the effects of the applicant's disability – this training can be performed by anyone, including the applicant themselves.

This is part of the evidence required for the dog to meet the definition of an assistance dog under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.