Operational Safety and Access Policy – Animals

Darling Downs Potters' Club Ltd

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1. Purpose

This Policy establishes requirements for managing animals on Club premises in order to:
a) maintain a safe working environment;
b) protect members, visitors, and animals from foreseeable risks;
c) support accessibility obligations;
d) meet insurance requirements; and
e) ensure compliance with applicable law.

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2. Scope

This Policy applies to all animals brought onto Club premises, including those accompanying members, visitors, or participants.

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3. General Rule

Animals are not permitted in Operational Areas or Public Areas of the Club.

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4. Assistance Animals (Legal Exception)

4.1 This prohibition does not apply to assistance animals as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) and applicable Queensland law, where access is required by law.

4.2 Assistance animals must remain under effective control of their handler at all times.

4.3 The Club may request reasonable evidence that an animal is an assistance animal under applicable law. This may include accreditation, identification, or documentation from a recognised assistance animal training organisation.

4.4 The Club will assess the animal's behaviour and control in determining whether access can be safely provided.

4.5 The Club may only refuse or restrict access to an assistance animal where permitted by law, including where the animal:

- is not under effective control;
- presents a genuine and unreasonable safety risk that cannot be reasonably managed; or
- is not an assistance animal within the meaning of applicable law.

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5. Safety and Control

The Club may require removal of any animal where necessary for safety, operational risk management, or compliance with applicable law.

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6. Board Authority

The Board may impose additional conditions on animal access where reasonably necessary for safety, legal compliance, insurance requirements, or operational risk management.

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7. Policy Intent

This Policy ensures the Club maintains a safe, controlled environment while complying with legal obligations relating to assistance animals.

It is designed to manage risk in high-hazard operational areas while recognising lawful access rights where applicable.

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8. Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least every two years or earlier if required due to legal, insurance, or operational changes.