

Barwon Coast Caravan Parks Dog Trial rules

Background

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) will be undertaking a 'dog trial' in its Caravan Parks, starting in the off-peak camping season in 2025.

The trial period will run from Thursday 12 June, to Friday 12 September and only apply to caravan park campsite bookings within that period. It does not apply to cabins.

The trial is in response to feedback from campers and the wider community and intends to find a balanced approach to the feedback received as well as increasing the use of the Caravan Parks in a low demand period. The following guidelines provide information on when and how dogs may stay in Barwon Coast Caravan Parks during the trial period.

Scope

The following guidelines apply to all Caravan Parks managed by Barwon Coast; Barwon Heads Caravan Park, Breamlea Caravan Park and Riverview Family Caravan Park.

Dog and animal access to other Crown Land managed by Barwon Coast falls under the relevant Victorian or Local government legislation and rules. These guidelines do not supersede any other legislation regarding dogs or animals.

Dog Trial Rules

- 1.0** Guests must notify and discuss the prospect of dogs staying with them at a Barwon Coast Caravan Park **prior to their arrival**. Failure to do this may result in the refusal of the guest's dog(s) stay at the Caravan Park.
- 1.1** Dogs will only be permitted to stay in Barwon Coast Caravan Parks during the trial period advertised. The trial period may be altered at Barwon Coast's discretion.
- 1.3** Barwon Coast does not provide 'dog friendly' camping sites all year round. During the trial period, a limited number of dog friendly camping sites (not the whole park) will be made available at each caravan park and are subject to availability at any particular time.
- 1.4** From time to time, due to operational requirements or grounds maintenance, each caravan park may need to alter the available sites or total number of dog friendly camping sites.
- 2.0** Guests that are permitted to have dogs stay with them must observe and be aware of the following:
 - a** A maximum of two dogs is permitted per dog friendly campsite.

- b** The dogs must be kept under effective control at all times and must not be left unattended.
- c** The dogs must be registered.
- d** The dogs must have received the C3 vaccine (for canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus and canine parvovirus).
- e** When dogs are outside the van/tent/annexe/RV etc they must always be on a lead under the effective control of a person who can manage the dog. Maximum lead length is 3m.
- f** Dogs are not permitted in common areas such as camp kitchens, playgrounds, laundries or toilet blocks.
- g** At night, dogs must be tied up or corralled in a suitable enclosure from which the dog cannot escape.
- h** Owners must not allow dogs to enter other camping sites.
- i** Owners must clean up after their dogs immediately and dispose of the waste in bins provided.
- j** Excessive barking will not be tolerated and will be treated as excessive noise issues as per the Caravan Park and Camping Grounds Rules.
- k** Aggressive behaviour by any dog will not be tolerated. Owners will be asked to take steps to correct the aggressive behaviour in the first instance. If the aggressive behaviour cannot be mitigated the dog will be required to leave the caravan park.
- l** All other relevant Victorian and local council regulations must be followed in respect to the dogs, including, but not limited to, dog regulations (such as timeshare regulations and lead regulations) on surrounding beaches.
- m** Any dog that has been declared a dangerous dog, menacing dog or restricted breed dog, within the meaning of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, must NOT be brought into any caravan park.
- n** No exceptions to these conditions and guidelines will be made for any camper, owner or dog without the express permission of the relevant caravan park manager.

3.0 Assistance Animals

An assistance animal is a trained support designed to facilitate the participation of people with disability in accessing various aspects of personal and public life.

Section 9 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, sets out the legal definition of an assistance animal as a dog or other animal that:

- a) is accredited under a State or Territory law to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of disability; or
- b) is accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed in the regulations; or
- c) is trained to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability and meets standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.

- 3.1** Barwon Coast complies with all Victorian and Commonwealth legislation regarding Assistance Animals. These animals are permitted in all Barwon Coast managed caravan parks.
- 3.2** Guests will be asked to provide proof, in advance, that the animal is a certified assistance animal as outlined within Victorian and Commonwealth legislation
- 3.3** The guidelines and rules relating to dog control and behaviour, set out above, also apply to assistance animals.
- 4.0** **Cats and other animals**
- 4.1** Cats and other animals (excluding assistance animals) are not permitted in any Barwon Coast caravan park. Any guest who brings a cat or other types of animals into the caravan parks will be asked to remove them immediately and may also have their booking cancelled. In this instance, the guest(s) will only be entitled to a refund for the portion of their stay that was not used.
- 5.0** **Liability**
- 5.1** Dog owners are personally responsible and will be held to be so, for any and all personal injuries and/or property damage or losses in relation to any actions by or because of their dog or other animal.
- 6.0** **Permit Sites**
- A dog or other animal is not permitted on a permit site at any Barwon Coast caravan park at any time throughout the year, including the trial period. A permit site is a camping site, the occupancy of which, is conditional on a 12-month or seasonal permit being issued.