

## Dogs A.C.T Regulations - Part 14 - Use of Wheelchairs and motorised Vehicles

Commenced – 1 January 2011

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### 14.1 General.

1. Dogs ACT has a duty of care to all users of our grounds during the course of any event. Any restriction placed on the use or movement of persons or exhibits during any events is in place as part of our obligations to the Work Safety Act 2008 and our Occupational Safety and Health procedures.
2. These regulations are not designed to deter the use of our grounds or facilities but to ensure a safe environment for all persons and exhibits while using our grounds.
3. The Work Safety Act 2008 qualifies the requirement of safety duty holders to manage risk by taking “reasonably practicable” steps to eliminate or minimise risks.

### 14.2 Definitions:

**Reasonably Practicable:** The national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment "shall be to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work/course of an event, by minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in that environment."

**Wheelchair:** A personal chair mounted on wheels for persons who cannot walk. Generally moved by pushing or being pushed;

**Motorised Wheelchair:** A personal chair mounted on wheels for persons who cannot walk. – Powered by rechargeable batteries;

**Personal:** Individual, specific, purpose built, particularised, exclusive.

**Motorised Scooter (3 wheels):** A larger device for the personal mobility of a person who has walking difficulties. This device is normally used in shopping malls or on flat surfaces and may be registered for use on the road under the Motor Traffic Act.

**Motorised Scooter (4 wheels):** A large device for the mobility of persons who have walking difficulties. This device may be used in shopping malls (usually restricted because of their size) or on flat surfaces and may be registered for use on the road under the Motor Traffic Act.

**Motorised Vehicle:** Any vehicle operated by combustion or electric motor not restricted to motor car, motor bike, lawn mowers, vendor vehicles.

**Wheeled Device:** Includes pushbike, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, and carts.

**Dog Trolley:** Specifically designed trolley for the movement of dogs at dog shows and event.

### 14.3 Pedestrian access only

The Dogs ACT grounds and other areas used in the course of any event held on those grounds must remain a “pedestrian access only” area through the course of that event.

### 14.4 Use of prohibited motorised vehicles

No motorised vehicle or wheeled device is to be used or operated on the Dogs ACT grounds during the day or days of any event held on the Dogs ACT grounds.

- a. The movement of vendor vehicles, contractors and event staff unless in the case of an emergency must be completed at least (1) one hour before the commencement and not before (1) one hour after the completion of the event.
- b. The grounds must be made safe for the access and use of any emergency vehicle before that vehicle enters the Dogs ACT grounds.

#### 14.5 Use of wheel chairs.

A disabled exhibitor may use a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair in order to exhibit their dogs.

- a. Prior permission and agreement for the use of this type of conveyance must be sought in writing from Dogs ACT Council. (This only needs to be done once and kept on record by the Dogs ACT administration)
- b. At the time of entering a show the exhibitor should advise the show secretary that they will be using a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair.
- c. All wheelchairs must on the day of the event be moved or driven at a slow walking pace only; a reasonable pace to exhibit the dog in the show ring may be applied without inconvenience or restriction to other exhibitor or exhibits.
- d. At no time during the conduct of the event is a wheelchair (motorised or otherwise) to be used in such a manner and speed that restricts, hinders or cause risk or actual presence of a danger to other exhibitors and/or exhibit;
- e. Where the situation in 14.5.d arises, the Show/Trial Representative's report is to include sufficient details for the Dogs ACT Council. That exhibitor is to be advised that the incident has been included in the Show/Trial Rep's report to the Council.
- f. The show secretary shall advise the steward that the wheelchair is to be bought into class or group/show lines ups at either end of the line up. (The other exhibitors in that class can be consulted by the show committee or ring steward as to which end of that class the wheel chaired exhibitor may use).

#### 14.6 Use of motorised scooters

1. Before any exhibitor uses a "**motorised scooter (3 wheels)**" on the Dogs ACT grounds, permission must be sought and granted in writing by the Dogs ACT Council.
2. It is the responsibility of that exhibitor
  - a. To show that they can not use a more practical type of conveyance (see 14.5) or they have no other reasonable means of mobility.
  - b. To show that the use of this type of conveyance will not restrict, hinder or cause the risk or actual presence of a danger to other exhibitors and/or their exhibits. (See Work Safe A.C.T policies <http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/page/view/1247> )
  - c. The use of the motorised scooter must be in accordance of Dogs ACT Regulations Section 14.5 -Use of wheel chairs.
3. "**Motorised Scooter (4 wheels)**" is not to be used on the Dogs ACT grounds during show/event days. (See regulation 14.4).

#### 14.7 Assistance for handlers with disabilities.

Disabled Handlers are allowed assistance where necessary within the Ring. This assistance can include but not be limited to, assistance with handling, stacking, gaiting or placing a dog on or off the table, in the show ring or heel work in the Obedience Ring.

IMPORTANT: In line with other Dogs ACT regulations, any assistance given to a competitor must not disadvantage other exhibitors/competitors in any way.