

## Assistance Animals

For the safety of visitors, and to protect native flora and fauna, domestic animals are restricted in certain places managed and protected by the Harbour Trust. No domestic animals, except for assistance animals (as defined by the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*), are permitted to access Harbour Trust land at North Head which includes North Head Sanctuary or Cockatoo Island.

### What are assistance Animals?

Assistance animals are any animal that are trained or accredited (in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*), to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability. This includes but is not limited to, guide dogs, service dogs, hearing assistance dogs, physical assistance animals and psychiatric assistance animals.

### What is their role in the community?

Assistance animals help people navigate the world safely. Through the support of an assistance animal, people with a disability can have active participation in public life and for personal activities.

### Are they allowed on Harbour Trust Land?

Yes. We want everyone to have access enjoy these iconic sites and have a sense of place and belonging when they enter. Assistance animals are allowed on Harbour Trust land if being used by a person with a disability as long as it:

- is under the control of a person (restrained on a lead or by another reasonable means), and
- meeting the appropriate standards of hygiene and behaviour.

In the event that the assistance animal causes damage on Harbour Trust Land, the Handler will be liable.

### How do we identify Assistance Animals?

Assistance animals are not required to wear a vest or harness that identifies them as a service/assistance animal. It is within the powers of the Ranger to ask for evidence of accreditation for the animal, if required.

### When are assistance animals not allowed?

A Ranger may seek the removal of the animal from Harbour Trust Land if:

- the handler is unable to provide evidence of accreditation or suitable training for the animal; or
- there is reasonable suspicion that the animal has an infectious disease, and it is reasonably necessary to protect public health or the health of other animals.