

Dog Park and Off-Leash Policy

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT **do not** allow our pups or dogs in any off-leash dog areas, including dog parks and beaches, or on off-leash nature walks. The pup/dog must remain on leash at all times when outside of an enclosed yard.

This decision has been made with the welfare of our pups being paramount. When entering an environment such as a dog park, dogs of unknown health status and temperament will be encountered. It only takes one negative experience to occur, to result in our pup developing a lifelong issue of reactivity towards other dogs.

Socialisation of our pups with other dogs is essential to develop good social skills and confidence. It is important for a Guide Dog to be able to understand the body language of other dogs, and respond appropriately. This is achieved through repeated positive dog to dog interactions, including off-leash play, with carefully matched playmates, as discussed in our Successive Training and Enrichment Program.

Alternative locations to facilitate these dog to dog interactions could include fenced in yards, tennis courts, or even in larger fully fenced fields when supervised by a trained Guide Dog Volunteer or Staff member. However, when utilising these areas, ensure that you are complying with all local council regulations and, maintaining control of the pups and/or dogs at all times.