

GUIDE DOGS ACCOMPANYING BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS ARE PERMITTED IN FOOD RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

This circular seeks to remind all food retail establishment operators that guide dogs accompanying blind or visually impaired persons are permitted in food retail establishments under current legislation.

Guide dogs are permitted in food retail establishments under the regulations

2 Under the Environmental Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations, live animals such as pets are not permitted to be brought into or kept in a food establishment, with the exception of pet cafés¹. However, a food establishment licensee **may permit any guide dog accompanying a blind or visually impaired person to be brought into the dining or refreshment area or toilets of the licensed premises.**

3 Within the food establishment, the guide dog is required to be: (i) kept under proper control; (ii) restrained from straying or causing annoyance or nuisance, or from damaging any property; and (iii) held in a leash. The guide dog should also not be fed within the food establishment unless it is a pet café. We have worked with Guide Dogs Singapore to remind guide dog users to comply with the regulations involving the use of guide dogs.

Guide dogs support persons with visual impairment

4 Guide dogs are specially selected and trained to help blind or visually impaired persons travel independently and safely. Guide dogs can be identified by the harness worn on their body, which may carry messages such as “Guide Dog at Work” and “Do Not Distract”. Please refer to the following examples of guide dog identification:

¹ Pet cafés are food shops where patrons may bring their pets along when they dine in these food shops. A pet café licence is issued to such food establishments.



For more information, please refer to Guide Dogs Singapore's FAQs page:

<http://guidedogs.org.sg/resources/frequently-asked-questions/>



5 As operators of food retail establishments, we seek your understanding and encourage you to show your care towards persons with disabilities by allowing guide dogs in your establishment. You can also show your support by displaying signage welcoming guide dogs. You may contact Guide Dogs Singapore to request for complimentary "Guide Dog Friendly Business" decals to be displayed to indicate your inclusive policy.

6 Operators who wish to find out more about guide dog access in public spaces like food retail establishments can visit the webpage of Guide Dogs Singapore, a charity that pairs suitable candidates with guide dogs.



7 Let us work together to create a more inclusive society for all.



Guide Dogs Singapore's webpage:
<https://guidedogs.org.sg/guide-dogs/guide-dog-laws/>

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