

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I need a dog permit?

The *Alpine Resort (Management) Regulations 2020* provide the regulatory framework for the control of dogs within Falls Creek Alpine Resort. Dogs or any other animals cannot be brought into the resort without the authority of the Falls Creek Resort Management (**FCRM**) Board.

How do I apply for a dog permit?

Application forms are available on FCRM website - <https://corporate.falls creek.com.au/environment> or by contacting our Visitors information Centre.

Who is eligible to apply for a dog permit?

- Permanent Resident
- Stakeholder or Licensed Operators
- Seasonal Employee
- Assistance Dog

What if I don't fit into any of these categories?

If you do not fit within the above categories, you are not eligible to get a dog permit.

Where can I walk my dog off lead?

During summer season, dogs are permitted off lead in the Village area provided the dog is always under effective control by a responsible person capable of controlling the dog.

During the winter season Lower Slalom Overnight Carpark is the only allocated area at Falls Creek where you can walk your dog off lead during the declared snow season.

Why isn't there more off lead area's?

There have been multiple locations that have been proposed for an off-lead area. Each area that has been proposed has unavoidable restrictions, environmental constraints or require more discussion to approve the off-lead area. FCRM is committed to working towards more off lead areas but are unable to provide this for the 2021 permit applications.

Where are the area's I cannot walk my dog?

Under no circumstances will dogs be permitted to enter the following areas:

- The Mt McKay area west of Road 24 and Road 46 (including Road 24 and Road 26),
- The Summit, Frying Pan Spur and Ruined Castle areas,
- On any designated mountain bike trails,
- Any alpine bog or associated alpine fen in the resort,
- The Gully area bounded by Gebi's, Snow Ski Apartments, Falls Creek Road and the Gully Chairlift, and
- Any area of Alpine National Park beyond the resort boundaries.

What are the other conditions of having a dog in resort?

1. The Dog must be micro-chipped. Owners must provide proof of micro-chipping as a condition precedent to the permit being applied for and issued.
2. Dogs must be restrained from causing:
 - a. Danger or unreasonable disturbance to other persons, and
 - b. Damage or interference to property, and
 - c. Disturbance or injury to wildlife.
3. The Dog must be housed indoors overnight.
4. The Dog must not act in any way which breaks any term of a lease or sub-lease in the Resort.

Where do you dispose of the dog excrement?

The Owner or responsible person with the dog, is responsible for cleaning up and properly disposing of any excrement. Proper disposal of excrement includes either:

- a. Bagging faeces, securely knotting the bag and placing in the designated dog faeces disposal bins within the village
- b. DOUBLE – bagging faeces and securely knotting the bag and placing in any of the garbage collection sheds located throughout the village.

Are Assistance dogs allowed into resort?

Yes, Assistance dogs are allowed into resort pending approval by FCRM.

What are the conditions for Assistance dogs entering the resort?

Assistance dogs are specially trained to enable people with a disability to participate in all aspects of society. They are trained for a range of purposes including assisting people who are blind or vision impaired, supporting children with autism and supporting people with mental health difficulties.

Assistance dog owners will be required to notify FCRM of the intention to enter the resort, yet no fee will apply. Whilst in the resort, handlers are required to provide evidence that the dog is an assistance dog.

Types of evidence accepted are:

- Identification card issued for the animal by an accredited assistance dog training provider.
- A letter from the visitor's medical practitioner stating that it is an assistance dog and what its purpose is.
- A state or territory government-issued public transport assistance animal pass.
- Accepted into Falls Creek alpine resort Assistance Dog with a public access license issued by Assistance dogs Australia.

How can I tell if my dog is an Assistance dog?

Assistance Dogs is a generic term for a guide, hearing, or service dog specifically trained to perform identifiable physical tasks and behaviors to assist a person with a disability in order to aid in quality of life and/or independence. Assistance dogs are covered under many legislative access laws for public access rights when working with their handler who lives with a disability.

Assistance Dogs Australia's accredited dog and handler teams will have:

- Completed a Public Access Test (PAT) to receive accreditation – this is an annual test.
- A navy blue jacket that is clearly marked to include:
 - Assistance Dogs International logo.
 - Assistance Dogs Australia logo.
 - A handler's license including photo identification.
 - ID tag on their collar.

Assistance dogs without a public access license are not allowed into the Falls Creek Alpine resort.

Assistance dogs are not to be confused with a therapy, emotional support or companion dog which are not required to undertake a Public Access Test (PAT).

All dogs can intrinsically provide emotional support to a human being. Assistance dogs are different from emotional support dogs in that they are specifically trained to perform identifiable tasks to increase independence and/or quality of life.

Reference: <https://www.assistedogs.org.au/about-us/faqs/>

Will there be more signage to communicate off lead, restricted and on lead areas?

Communication is an integral part of managing dogs in the Resort. Signage plays an important continual aspect of communicating the expectation of dogs in the Resort.

A clear sign at the immediate entrance to the Resort at Howman's Gap clearly states the requirement for an authority to bring or keep a dog in Falls Creek.

Additional signage will be installed in resort including signage identifying:

- 'On lead' and 'off lead' zones;
- Conservation areas (no dogs); and
- 'Dogs permitted' areas.

Why has there been an increase in cost for dog permits?

The increase of the dog permit is to align with the management costs for dog permit administration including compliance.