

BOARD POLICY 1.43

Dogs Policy

Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board ('the Board')

1. Scope

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 Board. This document outlines the policy of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board for the entry and occupancy of dogs within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort. This policy is specific to dogs with all other animals excluded from the Resort.

This policy outlines and assists the Board to manage the resort whilst allowing residents to live with their dogs. The policy also:

- Outlines the dog permit eligibility criteria and how the process is administered fairly.
- Establishes the Board's tolerance for non-compliance and enforcement standards.
- Outlines the Board's expectations regarding the behaviour of permit holders.

The Board's approach in updating the Resort policy on dogs has been to balance environmental risks with the social, emotional, and physical benefits of ownership whilst taking into account residential and employment considerations. The intent of this policy is to establish the terms and conditions that allow for responsible and manageable dog ownership in the Resort.

2. Definitions

ASC means **Alpine Shire Council**.

Assistance Dog means an accredited dog specially trained to assist a person with a disability and has met the State standards for public access rights, as determined under the **Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)** and **Equal Opportunity Act 2010**.

FCRM means **Falls Creek Resort Management**.

Permanent Resident means a person who resides, leases, or abides within Falls Creek at their primary residence year-round, and obtains a permanent resident permit from FCRM.

Seasonal Employee means a person who resides and works within Falls Creek for a limited period of time for the purpose of seasonal employment.

Stakeholder means a person who holds **Leasing** interests within the resort.

The Board means **Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board**.

The Regulations means **The Alpine Resort (Management) Regulations 2020**.

The Resort means **Falls Creek Alpine Resort**.

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3. Enforcement of the Policy

3.1 Authorised Officers

- Enforcement of the Dog Policy will be through Authorised Officers from FCRM and Authorised Officers from approved external contractors.
- Authorised Officers will be required to produce Personal Infringement Notices to dog owners found in breach of the conditions of authority in accordance with the protocols under the delegated authority of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997.
- The Board will ensure that there are an adequate number of Authorised Officers in FCRM to undertake this function.
- FCRM Authorised Officers must review infringements issued by external contractors.
- Where the removal of dogs is deemed necessary, this function will be contracted to the ASC.
- Dogs found at large in the Resort, or dogs in breach of the conditions of authority that require removal from the Resort, will be transported and impounded at the pound facilities in Bright by the ASC.
- The costs associated with the capture, transport, impoundment and release will be charged to the dog owner on release of the animal.

3.2 Signage and Communication

Communication will play an integral part in the management of dogs in the Resort. Signage will be provided communicating the expectation of dogs and their owners within 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.

3.3 Miscellaneous Operational Requirements

The Board will provide an adequate number of dog waste refuse bins located at appropriate locations throughout the Village and an extended area adjacent to the Village. The refuse bins will be adequately stocked with tidy bags.

Note: Emptying of the refuse bins will be incorporated in the Waste Services Contract (currently supplied by 4Site Australia Pty Ltd).

4. Bringing in and keeping of dogs at Falls Creek

A person entering the Resort with a dog must have a signed valid authority ("Permit") to keep or bring a dog into Falls Creek.

On 31 May each year all previous dog permits will be considered void, requiring all owners to re-register their dogs.

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FCRM will charge a fee on approval for a permit to bring or keep a dog in Falls Creek.

Three types of permit eligibility criteria are available for dog owners entering or staying in the Resort. Descriptions for the eligibility criteria are as follows:

4.1 Permanent Resident

- This is an annual permit available to Falls Creek permanent residents. Permanent residents must be able to supply two (2) of the following documents at the time of permit application as proof of residency:
 - a. Registration on the electoral role at Falls Creek.
 - b. Drivers licence with a Falls Creek address.
 - c. Lease document or other evidence of property ownership at Falls Creek.
 - d. Motor vehicle registration in the name of the person with a Falls Creek address.
 - e. An employer's statement that confirms the person is a long-term year-round employee in a position at Falls Creek.

4.2 Stakeholder or Licensed Operator

- This is an annual permit for Falls Creek stakeholders and licensed commercial operators who regularly visit Falls Creek in either a professional or leisure capacity. One (1) of the following documents must be supplied at the time of permit application:
 - a. Lease document or other evidence of property ownership at Falls Creek.
 - b. Utilities invoice with the applicant's name and a Falls Creek address.
 - c. An approved FCRM business license.

4.3 Seasonal Employee

- This is a seasonal permit for dog owners with genuine seasonal employment at Falls Creek. Dog owners obtaining this permit type must also have their primary residence in Falls Creek during the permit period. Both of the following documents must be supplied at the time of permit application:
 - a. Evidence of genuine seasonal employment at Falls Creek; and
 - b. Evidence that Falls Creek is the place of primary residence during the permit period.

Table of Fees (2021 - 2023):

Permanent Resident	\$ 134.00
Stakeholder	\$ 184.00
Seasonal Employee	\$ 184.00
Desexed dog - reduction in fee	Less \$20
Assistance Dog	No Fee

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4.4 Assistance Dogs

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.

4.5 Additional information

FCRM has the right to refuse any application in category 4 that is deemed to have non-genuine documentation.

Each permit will be subject to all the Conditions of Authority.

The requirement for an authority does not apply to a person who is transporting a dog through the Resort in a vehicle.

- Annual permits will be valid from 1 June until 31 May the following year.
- Winter seasonal permits will be valid from 1 June until the close of the declared snow season at Falls Creek of the same year.
- Summer seasonal permits are valid from the close of the declared snow season until 1 June of the following year.

Annual permits and seasonal permits that are applied for and issued after 1 June will only be valid until the end of the specified period of that permit type. The full cost of the permit will be charged for late issue permits. Processing timeframes for issuing of dog permits is 14 days.

Please note:

The Board reserves the right to refuse any application for an authority.

The Board has the right to ultimately determine the residency status of a dog.

The Board reserves the right to set permit fees annually to reflect a fee for service cost recovery model.

RESTRICTED or DANGEROUS breeds of dogs will not be eligible for a permit.

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5. Conditions of Authority

A permit is subject to the following conditions:

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. Evidence of consent from the Head Lessee to keep a dog in the accommodation complex must be provided.
3. When outdoors during the declared snow season, the dog is to be:
 - a. Kept on a FCRM supplied colour coded lead at all times by a responsible person capable of controlling the dog; and
 - b. Permitted to be off-lead and kept under control only within the boundary of Lower Slalom Car Park.
 - c. Not permitted on the Frying Pan Spur Aqueduct between the Village Bowl and the Nordic Bowl between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm.
4. When outdoors outside of the declared snow season the dog must be:
 - a. Under effective control by a responsible person capable of controlling the dog at all times.
 - b. Kept on a lead at all times in the following areas:
 - o The Frying Pan Spur aqueduct trail between Wishing Well and the Falls Creek Alpine Resort boundary near the Rocky Valley dam wall.
 - o On Slalom Street within a 50m proximity of the Falls Creek Primary School.
 - o In Slalom Plaza within a 50m proximity of Falls Creek Childcare.
5. Under no circumstances will dogs be permitted to enter the following areas:
 - a. The Mt McKay area west of Road 24 and Road 46 (including Road 24 and Road 26),
 - b. The Summit, Frying Pan Spur and Ruined Castle areas.
 - c. On any designated mountain bike trails.
 - d. Any alpine bog or associated alpine fen in the resort, and
 - e. The Gully area bounded by Gebi's, Snow Ski Apartments, Falls Creek Road and the Gully Chairlift.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The dog must be housed indoors overnight.
9. The dog must not act in any way which breaks any term of a lease or sub-lease in the Resort.

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The Board may revoke the permit, issue an infringement, or refuse to renew a permit in the event that any of the above conditions and the Regulations are not met.

6. Violations

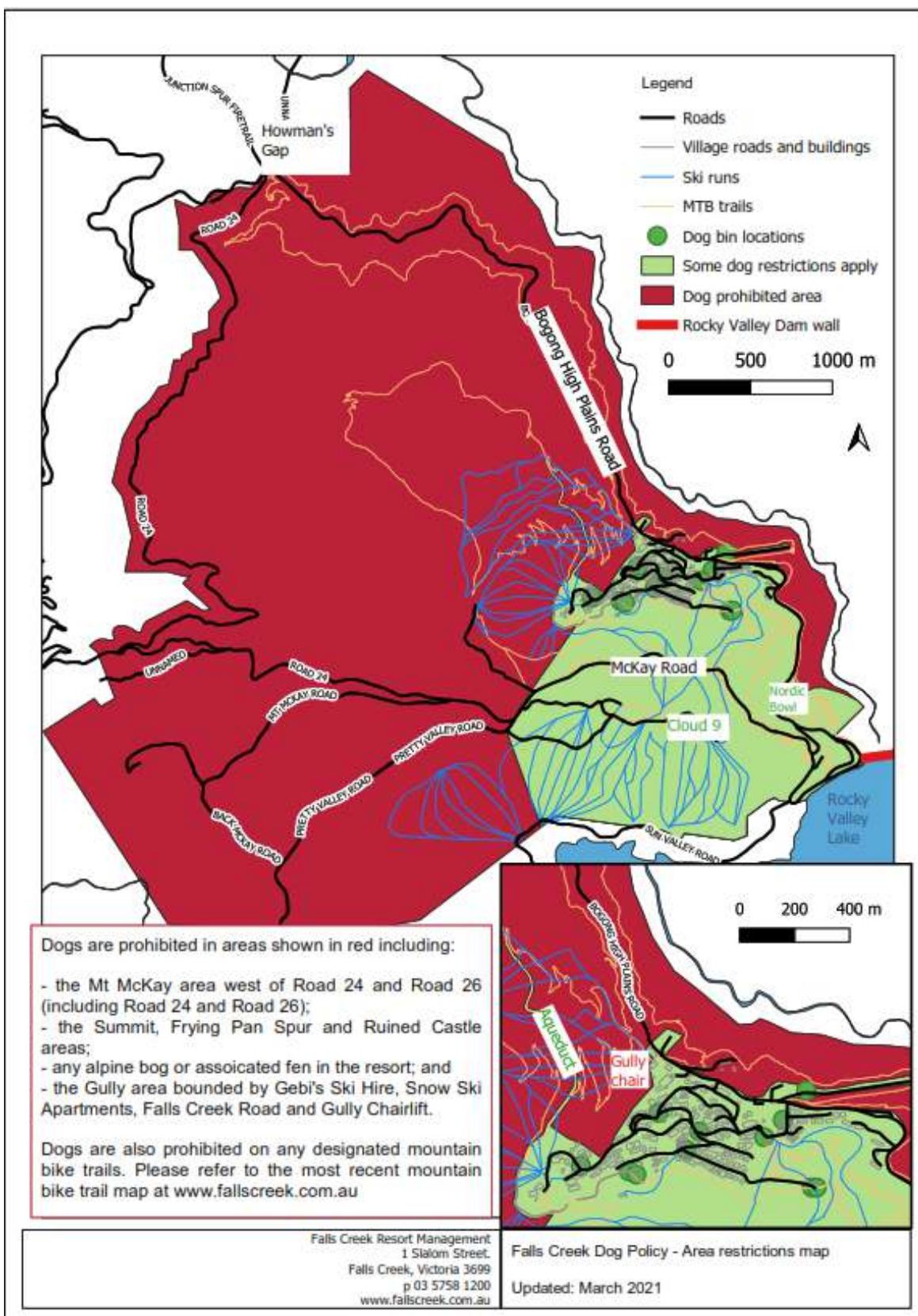
If a dog is found in breach of the Conditions of Authority:

- a. It may be removed from the Resort and transported to a pound; and
- b. The permit may be revoked; and
- c. A penalty of 10 penalty units may be applied in accordance with the Regulations: and
- d. On-the-spot fines of 1.5 penalty units may be issued to the dog owner / keeper / controller at the time of the violation of the Authority.
 - i. Penalties may also be applied for dogs found at large, dog attack and dogs creating a nuisance under the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.
 - ii. A dog owner / keeper / controller found in violation of the Conditions of Authority on three occasions, for either the same or different Conditions of Authority, will have the permit revoked and the dog will be removed from the Resort. The owner / keeper / controller will not be issued with an Authority to keep a dog in the Resort thereafter.
 - iii. A dog attack will result in the immediate revocation of the Authority to keep a dog in the Resort and the dog will be immediately removed from the Resort and impounded under the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.
 - iv. Dog owners are liable for all costs associated with the capture, removal, impoundment and release of dogs found in violation of the authority.
 - v. Dogs removed from the resort will be transported and deposited at the Alpine Shire dog pound in Bright.

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7. Map



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8. Other references and related documents

Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 and Regulations 2020.

Disability Discrimination Act 1994 (Cth).

Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.

Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Internal infringement review procedures.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.

Resorts Environmental Management Plan.

Authorisations and Document Parameters

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Amendment summary:	<p>Changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- New template.- Updated Map.- Increased signage and communication.- Annual fees to be set based on the principle of full cost recovery.- Included Definitions- Assistance Dogs clause included.- Head Lessee consent clause included.- 50m from Childcare exclusion zone clause included.- Inclusion of processing timeframes.		