

Dogs A.C.T.

A.C.T Canine Association inc.

Dogs A.C.T. Regulations – Part 14 – Use of Wheelchairs, Motorised Vehicles and Wheeled Devices. Assistance for handlers with disabilities.

Commenced – 1 January 2011

Amended – 1 June 2012

Amended – 16 December 2013

Amended – 14 December 2022

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14.1 General.

1. Dogs A.C.T. has a duty of care to all users of our grounds during the course of any event. Any restriction placed on the use or movement of persons or exhibits during any events is in place as part of our obligations to the Work Safety Act 2008 and our Occupational Safety and Health procedures.
2. These regulations are not designed to deter the use of our grounds or facilities but to ensure a safe environment for all persons and exhibits while using our grounds.
3. The Work Safety Act 2008 qualifies the requirement of safety duty holders to manage risk by taking “reasonably practicable” steps to eliminate or minimize risks.
4. Upon application to the Dogs ACT Council, a disabled exhibitor may use a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair in order to exhibit their dogs. (1.6.12)
5. Upon application to the Dogs ACT Council a disabled exhibitor may use the service of a runner in order to exhibit their dogs. (1.6.12)

14.2 Definitions.

Reasonably Practicable: The national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment "shall be to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work/course of an event, by minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in that environment."

Wheelchair: A personal chair mounted on wheels for persons who cannot walk. Generally moved by pushing or being pushed;

Motorised Wheelchair: A personal chair mounted on wheels for persons who cannot walk. – Powered by rechargeable batteries;

Personal: Individual, specific, purpose built, particularised, exclusive.

Motorised Scooter (3 wheels): A larger device for the personal mobility of a person who has walking difficulties. This device is normally used in shopping malls or on flat surfaces and may be registered for use on the road under the Motor Traffic Act.

Motorised Scooter (4 wheels): A large device for the mobility of persons who have walking difficulties. This device may be used in shopping malls (usually restricted because of their size) or on flat surfaces and may be registered for use on the road under the Motor Traffic Act.

Motorised Vehicle: Any vehicle operated by combustion or electric motor not restricted to motor car, motor bike, lawn mowers, vendor vehicles.

Wheeled Device: Includes pushbike, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, and carts.

Dog Trolley: Specifically designed trolley for the movement of dogs at dog shows and event.

14.3 Pedestrian access only.

The Dogs ACT grounds and other areas used in the course of any event held on those grounds must remain a “pedestrian access only” area through the course of that event.

14.4 Use of prohibited motorised vehicles and wheeled devices.

No motorised vehicle or wheeled device is to be used or operated on the Dogs ACT grounds during the day or days of any event held on the Dogs ACT grounds.

- a. The movement of vendor vehicles, contractors and event staff unless in the case of an emergency must be completed at least (1) one hour before the commencement and not before one (1) hour after the completion of the event.
- b. The grounds must be made safe for the access and use of any emergency vehicle before that vehicle enters the Dogs ACT grounds.

14.5 Use of wheel chairs. (1.6.12)

Upon application to the Dogs ACT Council, a disabled exhibitor may use a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair in order to exhibit their dogs.

Prior permission and agreement for the use of this type of conveyance must be sought in writing from Dogs ACT Council. (This only needs to be done once and kept on record by the Dogs ACT administration)

1. Upon application to the Dogs ACT Council, the Dogs ACT Council will consider requests from disabled Members to use the services of a wheel chair, motorised wheel chair to assist in the exhibition of dogs in conformation Classes.
2. Such applications must be accompanied by documentary evidence of a disability relevant to the use of the wheel chair in the form of a Doctor’s Certificate or evidence of a Disability Pension.
4. When approval is given in such cases, the following conditions apply;
 - a. At the time of entering a show, the exhibitor must advise the show secretary that they will be using a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair.
 - b. In any case where an exhibitor intends to use a wheelchair or motorised wheelchair at a show, a copy of their approval letter must be either sent with the relevant entry forms or presented at the Secretary’s Office for the show at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the advertised commencement time for judging.
 - c. All wheelchairs must on the day of the event be moved or driven at a slow walking pace only; a reasonable pace to exhibit the dog in the show ring may be applied without inconvenience or restriction to other exhibitor or exhibits.
 - d. At no time during the conduct of the event is a wheelchair (motorised or otherwise) to be used in such a manner and speed that restricts, hinders or cause risk or actual presence of a danger to other exhibitors and/or exhibit;
 - e. Where the situation in 14.5.4d arises, the Show/Trial Representative’s report is to include sufficient details for the Dogs ACT Council. That exhibitor is to be advised that the incident has been included in the Show/Trial Rep’s report to the Council.
 - f. The show secretary shall advise the steward that the wheelchair is to be bought into class or group/show line-up at either end of the line-up. (The other exhibitors in that class can be consulted by the show committee or ring steward as to which end of that class the wheel chaired exhibitor may use.)

14.6 Use of motorised scooters

1. Before any exhibitor uses a “**motorised scooter (3 wheels)**” on the Dogs ACT grounds, permission must be sought and granted in writing by the Dogs ACT Council.
2. Such applications must be accompanied by documentary evidence of a disability relevant to the use of the motorised scooter in the form of a Doctor’s Certificate or evidence of a Disability Pension.

3. It is the responsibility of that exhibitor
 - a. To show that they cannot use a more practical type of conveyance (see 14.5) or they have no other reasonable means of mobility.
 - b. To show that the use of this type of conveyance will not restrict, hinder or cause the risk or actual presence of a danger to other exhibitors and/or their exhibits. (See Work Safe A.C.T policies <http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/page/view/1247>)
 - c. The use of the motorised scooter must be in accordance of Dogs ACT Regulations Section 14.5 - Use of wheel chairs.
3. **“Motorised Scooter (4 wheels)”** is not to be used on the Dogs ACT grounds during show/event days. (See regulation 14.4).

14.7 Assistance for handlers with disabilities. (1.6.12)

Upon application to the Dogs ACT Council, disabled handlers are allowed assistance where necessary within the Ring.

This assistance can include but not be limited to, assistance with handling, stacking, gaiting or placing a dog on or off the table in the show ring, or heel work in the Obedience or Rally Ring.

1. Prior permission and agreement for the use of a runner/assistant must be sought in writing from Dogs ACT Council. (This to be kept on record by the Dogs ACT administration.)
2. Upon application, the Dogs ACT Council will consider requests from disabled members to use the services of a runner to assist in the exhibition of dogs in conformation classes.
3. Such applications must be accompanied by documentary evidence of a disability relevant to the use of a runner in the form of a Doctor’s Certificate or evidence of a Disability Pension.
4. When approval is given in such cases, the following conditions apply;
 - a. At the time of entering the show, the exhibitor must advise the show secretary that they will be using a runner or assistant in the ring.
 - b. In any case where an exhibitor intends to use a runner at a show, a copy of their approval letter must be either sent with the relevant entry forms or presented at the Secretary’s Office for the show at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the advertised commencement time for judging.
 - c. Any approval given by Dogs ACT or similar approval given by another member body of the ANKC, may only be used for the exhibition of dogs owned or co-owned by that member to whom the approval has been issued.
 - d. The runner used must be a member of Dogs ACT or of another member body of the ANKC.
 - e. When utilising the services of the runner, the disabled exhibitor is required to either leave the ring or retire to the perimeter of the ring as closely as possible to the point at which the dog is to be, or was, presented for assessment by the judge and at such times is not permitted to gesture to the exhibit in any way.
5. Notwithstanding, these points any exhibitor who, on the day of the show suffers an injury which precludes them from exhibiting a dog to best advantage may utilise a runner on the same conditions as outlined in 14.7.4d and 14.7.4f, but only with the prior approval of the Show Secretary and both the Judge and the Steward of the Class concerned.
6. **IMPORTANT:** In line with other Dogs ACT regulations, any assistance given to a competitor must not in any way disadvantage or impede other exhibitors/competitors.