



DOGS AT RIDES POLICY

Incorporation No.	A00008959W	Version	V3
ABN No.	35048091068	Approved by SMC on	30 November 2019

PURPOSE

The Victorian Endurance Riders Association Inc. (VERA) is committed to supporting affiliated Ride Organisers to create a safe sporting environment for all attending. To assist with the creation of a safe sporting environment a Dogs at Rides Policy has been developed to provide guidelines for appropriate behaviour and handling of dogs by VERA. Members and non-members attending endurance rides.

POLICY

VERA places great importance on member safety at affiliated events and requires that all dog owners maintain control over their dogs at all times during the running of an endurance ride. Dogs shall not be allowed to be off leash at any time. At all times dogs must be either attached to a solid structure or under the control of a human being as per Rule 26.5 of the AERA Rulebook.

Where a Ride Organiser specifies that no dogs are allowed at an event all attending members and non-members will respect this request and dogs will not be permitted on the ride base. **The only exception to this requirement will be guide and service/assistance dogs.**

RESPONSIBILITIES

The VERA State Management Committee is responsible for maintaining and enforcing this policy. VERA Chief Stewards are responsible for identifying any breaches of the policy, implementing disciplinary action and reporting any incidents to the VERA SMC.

The owner of any dog that attends any VERA affiliated events will be responsible for adhering to this policy and are responsible for the behaviour of their dog.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures must always be adhered to :

1. Dogs are to be restrained and on a leash at all times.
2. When in the owner's camp site or anywhere on the ride base, dogs must be on a leash and secured to either a solid object or held by a responsible human being.
3. When in the owner's camp site, dogs must not be able to reach or interfere with other camps nor are they allowed to impact on the safe passage of passers-by.



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4. Dogs are not to be left unattended in camp or elsewhere. Riders must ensure that they nominate a suitable person to be responsible for their dog's behaviour while they are absent.
5. Dogs must be on a lead when moving through the camp that ensures the dog remains under control without danger to anyone else.
6. Aggressive behaviour by any dog will not be tolerated.
7. The owner of any dog that displays persistent anti-social behaviour, such as continuous barking, may be asked to remove their dog from the ride base if this behaviour continues.
8. Refusal to restrain a dog after being requested to do so by the Chief Steward, VERA SMC member and/or a member of the Ride Organising Committee will lead to the owner of the dog being asked to remove the dog from the ride base.
9. Failure to follow this policy may lead to disqualification of the rider associated with the dog or other disciplinary action being implemented.