



Application to take an assistance dog on a cruise
Commonwealth Biosecurity Act 2015

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable. 'Personal information' that is collected under or in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* is also 'protected information' under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The collection of protected information including personal and sensitive information by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the department) in relation to this form is being collected under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* for the purposes of assessing your application to travel with your assistance dog and related purposes. If the relevant personal information requested in this form is not provided by you, the department may be unable to process your application. Information collected by the Department will only be used or disclosed as authorised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The personal information requested on this form may be disclosed to other Commonwealth or State Agencies. It will not usually be disclosed overseas. In every case it will only be disclosed if authorised by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

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Initial document review and endorsement: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment use only [At least 30 days before embarkation].

- I am a veterinary officer or biosecurity officer of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- I have reviewed Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 5 and I am satisfied with the information that has been provided.
- I have specified the ports where the assistance dog must be inspected and cleared for disembarkation in Appendix 5.

Signature

Title, given name(s) and surname	Position	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Final document review and endorsement: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment use only [Within 5 days before embarkation].

- I am a veterinary officer or biosecurity officer of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- I have reviewed the information provided in Appendix 4 relating to the external parasite treatment administered to the assistance dog and I can confirm that it is compliant with the department's requirements and will provide continuous external parasite protection for the expected duration of the cruise and until the scheduled date of disembarkation at the final port of arrival.
- I am satisfied that the information provided in Appendix 4 is compliant with the specified requirements and the application is approved.

Signature

Title, given name(s) and surname	Position	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)



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Steps to be followed to complete the 'Application to take an assistance dog on a cruise' (the application).

1. The applicant must complete Appendices 1 (Applicant and cruise details), 2 (Assistance dog details), 3 (Applicants details) and Appendix 5 (List of all ports the cruise vessel will visit, the scheduled arrival date for each port, and the scheduled departure date for each port) – Appendix 4 should remain blank until step 6 of this process.
2. Once step 1 is complete, the applicant must scan/photograph **all pages** of the application and any relevant attachments and email it to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment at: imports@agriculture.gov.au (i.e. fully completed Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 5; and blank Appendix 4).
3. The application with completed Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 5 (and blank Appendix 4) must be received by the department for review no later than **30 calendar days** before the scheduled date of the animal boarding the vessel. If the animal is being exported to New Zealand, the applicant must also nominate the Australian port city (e.g. Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne) where official veterinary health certificate and an export permit will be issued by the department.
4. Determination of a dog's eligibility as an assistance animal will be subject to the cruise line operator's own criteria.
5. If the department determines that the information provided in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 5 is compliant with requirements then pre-approval will be granted for the assistance dog to be prepared for boarding the cruise and the application will be endorsed ('Initial document review and endorsement'), the ports where the assistance dog will be permitted to disembark (with or without prior inspection) will be identified in Appendix 5 and the application will be returned to the applicant.
6. The applicant must then work with their registered veterinarian to complete Appendix 4 – this must be completed within five (5) days of the the scheduled date of the animal boarding the vessel.
7. Once Appendix 4 is complete, the applicant must scan all pages of the application and any relevant attachments and email them to the department at: imports@agriculture.gov.au (i.e. fully completed Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).
8. If the department determines that the information provided in Appendix 4 is compliant with requirements then final approval will be granted ('Final document review and endorsement') and the application returned to the applicant.
9. The final endorsed application must be kept by the applicant for the entire cruise and provided to the department's biosecurity officer at the time of disembarkation at the Australian ports listed in Appendix 5.

APPENDIX 1: Applicant and cruise details**Applicant's details****Title****Given name(s)****Surname****Address line 1** (Must be a physical address, a P.O. Box will not be accepted.)**Address line 2****Suburb****State/Territory****Postcode****Country****Email****Work phone****Home phone****Mobile****Cruise details - Summary****Vessel Name****Vessel's International Maritime Organization No.****Date the dog will first embark the vessel**
(dd/mm/yyyy)**Australian port where the dog will first embark the vessel****Will the cruise visit New Zealand?**

Yes No (circle correct answer)

Cruise arrival date in final port (dd/mm/yyyy)**Final Australian port of arrival****Name of cruise company****Cruise company phone****Cruise company email**

Cautionary Notes:

1. If the cruise itinerary includes any New Zealand ports the assistance dog will need to be prepared for export in accordance with Australian and New Zealand requirements before the cruise departs Australia. This includes veterinary examination, treatments, and the issuance of an official veterinary health certificate to accompany the assistance dog. Information regarding this process can be found at the following web address: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/companion>.

In accordance with New Zealand Government requirements, where the dog is destined to travel to New Zealand, the dog will **NOT** be permitted to disembark from the vessel in Australia, once the department has issued an official veterinary health certificate for export to New Zealand. Australian Government veterinary officers can only issue an official veterinary health certificate prior to export to New Zealand in certain Australian cities/ports, notably Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, but **NOT** Hobart. Travellers destined to New Zealand must arrange for the official veterinary health certificate to be issued before the vessel, where planned, departs mainland Australia for New Zealand. Australian ports where the department can issue an official veterinary health certificate will be identified in Appendix 5 for relevant cruises.

2. The assistance dog will also need to be prepared for export from New Zealand to Australia before departure from the final New Zealand Port. This includes veterinary examination, treatments, and the issuance of an official veterinary health certificate to accompany the assistance dog. Information regarding this process can be found at the following web address: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/step-by-step-guides/category-1-new-zealand>.
3. Current advice from the New Zealand Government (New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (email: info@mpi.govt.nz; Phone +64 4 894 0100)) is that the assistance dog can only depart the cruise vessel after biosecurity clearances have been completed in the port of Auckland – biosecurity clearance cannot be conducted at any other New Zealand port.
4. Prospective travellers considering taking an assistance dog to sea on a vessel under biosecurity control should consider arranging for the animal to have a rabies vaccination and rabies neutralising antibody titre (RNAT) test before leaving Australia for any unforeseen event where the traveler, assistance dog or vessel are forced to visit a foreign country. When an assistance dog leaves Australia and visits a foreign country, including foreign waters, it **immediately** loses its Australian health status. This means an assistance dog might not be able to return to Australia at short notice. Please note that foreign countries have their own import requirements for assistance dogs and these are unlikely to have been addressed by the procedures undertaken prior to commencing a cruise on a vessel under biosecurity control. In the event that the cruise vessel makes a visit to a foreign country or foreign waters for any reason, the department must be notified as soon as possible and will consider additional measures case by case.

APPENDIX 2: Assistance dog details

Animal details

Animal name

Age (in years) or date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Breed (for mixed breed animals, indicate the breed/s which the animal most closely resembles)

Sex

Male (entire)

Female (entire)

Male desexed

Female desexed

Microchip details

Microchip number

APPENDIX 3: Applicant's declaration

I hereby apply for permission to take the assistance dog on the cruise nominated above.

I declare that:

- a. I, or a person under my care, have a disability that is alleviated by the assistance dog.
- b. I have confirmed in writing with the cruise company that they are accepting carriage of the dog as an assistance animal, having met their eligibility criteria. I am able to provide evidence of this written confirmation upon request.
- c. I have confirmed in writing with the cruise company that the cruise vessel will be under biosecurity control for the duration of the proposed cruise between Australian ports (and New Zealand ports if the cruise itinerary includes New Zealand). I am able to provide evidence of this written confirmation upon request.
- d. I have confirmed in writing with the cruise company that there will be no other animals on board the cruise vessel for the duration of the proposed cruise except other assistance dogs that have boarded the vessel in Australia (or New Zealand if the cruise itinerary includes New Zealand). I am able to provide evidence of this written confirmation upon request.
- e. I have confirmed in writing with the cruise company that for the duration of the proposed cruise, the cruise vessel will not travel through the waters or port(s) of any foreign countries, including but not limited to New Zealand (unless the cruise itinerary includes New Zealand and the assistance dog will be prepared for export to New Zealand in accordance with Australian and New Zealand requirements before departing Australia), New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea or Indonesia. I am able to provide evidence of this written confirmation upon request.
- f. I understand that the assistance dog may only disembark the vessel at the ports identified in Appendix 5.
- g. I understand that if the dog is travelling to New Zealand, that the dog cannot disembark in any Australian port once official health certification has been issued for the dog to be exported to New Zealand.
- h. I understand that if the cruise itinerary includes any New Zealand ports that, based on current advice from the New Zealand Government, the assistance dog can only disembark the cruise vessel at a New Zealand port after biosecurity clearances have been completed in the port of Auckland – biosecurity clearance cannot be conducted at any other New Zealand port.

Note: Permission for the assistance dog to disembark at a New Zealand port will need to be sought from the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (email: info@mpi.govt.nz; Phone +64 4 894 0100). In this instance you should liaise with the cruise company and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries while preparing for the cruise to determine whether the assistance dog will be permitted to disembark in a New Zealand port, and if so, whether any additional requirements will need to be met to allow the dog to disembark.

- i. Should the assistance dog be required to disembark from the vessel at any other port, not listed in Appendix 5, prior to the final Australian port of arrival, I will notify the department’s regional office in the relevant state or territory as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after disembarkation.

During any temporary disembarkation from the cruise vessel I confirm that:

- i. The assistance dog will remain leashed and under my / the handlers direct control at all times.
- ii. I will make the assistance dog available to be inspected and cleared for disembarkation at the ports identified in Appendix 5.
- iii. I will promptly inform the department of any illness of the assistance dog. If I seek veterinary treatment of the assistance dog, I will advise the attending veterinarian that the assistance dog is under biosecurity control and that a veterinary report for the department is required. In this instance they should contact the department by phone on 1800 900 090 or by email at imports@agriculture.gov.au
- iv. I acknowledge/understand that if necessary a biosecurity officer may exercise powers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* including requiring the assistance dog to be inspected, treated, tested or removed to the government Post-Entry Quarantine Facility in Mickleham, Victoria.
- j. I will manage the assistance dog in accordance with all directions to move, treat, or isolate the dog under biosecurity control under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* as issued by a biosecurity officer of the department.
- k. I understand that the department may seek to verify at any time any of the information that I have provided, including the basis of any declaration that I have made in this application.
- l. I have read and understood the information provided in the **Cautionary Notes** found on page 4 of this document.

I declare that the information that I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Name	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
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APPENDIX 4: Health Certificate for an Assistance dog cruise



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Health Certificate for the assistance dog
Commonwealth Biosecurity Act 2015

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Animal details

Animal name

Microchip number

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Declaration by an Australian registered veterinarian prior to the cruise

I declare that:

I am a registered veterinarian in an Australian state or territory and I have personally scanned and verified the assistance dog's microchip number; and

EITHER (Strike out the one that does not apply)

- (For cruises which include New Zealand in the itinerary) The assistance dog has been prepared in accordance with requirements for export to New Zealand. A copy of the signed veterinary health certificate for the export of the assistance dog to New Zealand is attached to this certificate.

OR (Strike out the one that does not apply)

- (For cruises which do not include New Zealand in the itinerary) I examined the assistance dog within 5 days of the scheduled date of the animal boarding the vessel and certify that the assistance dog was showing no clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, nor any signs of external parasites at that time.

Date of examination (dd/mm/yyyy):.....

- Within five (5) days of the scheduled date of the animal boarding the vessel, I treated the assistance dog with a compliant external parasite treatment that is topical, kills ticks and fleas on contact (and not reliant on the animal being bitten by the tick or flea) and will provide continuous external parasite protection for the expected duration of the cruise and until the scheduled date of disembarkation at the final port of arrival¹.

Date of treatment (dd/mm/yyyy):

¹ A list of compliant external parasite treatments is available on the departments website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/step-by-step-guides/parasite-treatment>

Name of product:

Active ingredient(s):

Dose rate(s):

Based on manufacturer’s directions, the treatment will expire on the following date (dd/mm/yyyy):
..... which is after the expected date that the assistance dog will disembark from the vessel
in the final port of arrival.

AND

- 1. I understand that the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment may seek to verify any of the information that I have provided, including the basis of any declaration that I have made in this certificate.

I declare that the information that I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Title, given name(s) and surname:	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board Number:	

Once the veterinary examination is completed this form and all required attachments must be scanned and emailed to the department at: imports@agriculture.gov.au for final assessment and if applicable for approval. Without final departmental approval of the completed documentation the assistance dog will not be able to board the cruise vessel.

APPENDIX 5: Cruise itinerary: List of all ports at which the cruise vessel will visit.

				Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment use only					
Port	Scheduled arrival date	Scheduled departure date	Any required official vet. health certificate for NZ will be issued at this port: (Yes/No)	Dog may disembark at this port (Yes/No)	Inspection by Biosecurity Officer required (Yes/No)	Inspection outcome (Compliant/Non-compliant)	Inspection date	Biosecurity Officer name	Biosecurity Officer signature

NOTE:

1. If the cruise itinerary includes any New Zealand ports please review the cautionary notes provided in Appendix 1.

a. Contact the department’s regional office for an official veterinary health certificate and export permit to export the assistance dog to New Zealand.

Contact details for the department’s regional offices can be found here: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/companion>

b. Permission for the assistance dog to disembark will need to be sought from the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (email: info@mpi.govt.nz; Phone +64 4 894 0100). In this instance you should liaise with the cruise company and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries while preparing for the cruise to determine whether the assistance dog will be permitted to disembark in a New Zealand port, and if so, whether any additional requirements will need to be met to allow the dog to disembark.

