

Australian Capital Territory

Domestic Animals (Assistance Animal Accreditation) Guidelines 2023

Disallowable instrument DI2023-12

made under the

Domestic Animals Act 2000, section 95 (Assistance animal standard and accreditation guidelines)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 95(3) of the Domestic Animals Act 2000 (the Act) provides that the Minister may determine guidelines for the accreditation of assistance animals in the ACT under a Disallowable Instrument.

This instrument provides guidelines for the accreditation of assistance animals in the ACT, in particular the two-year timeframe for accreditation, the recognition of existing accreditations by jurisdictions and organisations that meet the ACT's standards, the requirements for assistance animal assessors to be registered to test and accredit assistance animals, and the requirements for assistance animal trainers to be registered to train assistance animals.

The guidelines for recognising other jurisdictions ensure that existing full assistance animal accreditation systems where assistance animals are tested against public access standards that are level to or exceed the ACT's standards are recognised. These accreditations are automatically recognised under the ACT accreditation framework.

The guidelines for recognising existing assistance animal organisations ensure that the training, testing and accreditation of assistance animals by organisations which uphold the public access standards that are equal to or exceed the ACT's standards can be recognised. These organisations include those recognised by other jurisdictions in addition to any organisations relevant to the ACT community that meet the public access standards. These accreditations are automatically recognised under the ACT accreditation framework.

The standards for registered assistance animal assessors and trainers cover a maximum five-year timeframe for registration and set out the required qualifications, experience, animal welfare and best practice methods, ability to work with vulnerable people and secure record keeping.

The determination of the assistance animal accreditation guidelines is made by disallowable instrument.