

## DOGS IN NTSA NATURE RESERVES POLICY

|                          |               |             |      |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|------|
| Policy Number            | 047           | Version     | 1.0  |
| Approved by NTSA Council | 23 March 2017 | Review Date | 2022 |

### 1 Introduction

The National Trust of South Australia is responsible for the management of 26 nature reserves across South Australia.

Some reserves are used by local people and others for exercising of dogs but, until now, the National Trust has not had a policy regarding dogs in nature reserves.

### 2 Purpose

The primary purpose of the National Trust's nature reserves is conservation of native flora and fauna.

Some reserves can accommodate dogs without significant impact, but other reserves contain plants as well as particular animal communities that may be disturbed by dogs, and

2.1 The following policy sets out criteria relating to access to NTSA nature reserves by dogs.

### 3 Policy

3.1 Three (3) scenarios are considered under this policy:

3.1.1 Dogs permitted off-leash, *and*  
dogs permitted off-leash under effective control

3.1.2 Dogs permitted on-leash

3.1.3 No dogs permitted

3.2 The primary purpose of nature conservation for the National Trust's nature reserves is not compatible with freely roaming dogs, therefore

3.2.1 **Off-leash** dogs are allowed only in exceptional circumstances as indicated in the accompanying Policy Schedule.

3.2.2 **On-leash** dogs may be permitted in NTSA reserves where:

3.3.1 there are well-defined walking trails and/or vehicle access tracks where dog-walking is confined to such trails and tracks, *and*

3.3.2 there are no fauna species or communities of particular conservation significance or sensitivity.

This applies in particular to urban/peri-urban NTSA nature reserves where dog-walking is already practised without significant apparent impact.

Where dogs are allowed in a reserve under this policy, dog-free areas may be designated for the purposes such as but not limited to public health and safety and the amenity of reserve users.

3.3 Dogs **not permitted** in NTSA nature reserves where:

3.3.1 there is no well-established trail or track network; *or*

3.3.2 there are fauna species or communities of particular conservation significance or sensitivity; *or*

3.3.3 the reserves are in rural areas well separated from urban and peri-urban development.

Reserves currently satisfying the above criteria are listed in the accompanying Policy Schedule.

3.3.4 Persons with a disability may be accompanied by a trained assistance animal such as a guide dog, or hearing dog, in any reserves which have trails or tracks that are safe for access.

## 4 Application of Policy

4.1 The National Trust will develop consistent signage which will include, amongst other things, advice to reserve visitors about dog access.

## 5 Policy Review

- 5.1 this overall policy should be reviewed every five(5) years
- 5.2 The accompanying schedule should be reviewed every two(2) years but may be reviewed more frequently, *and*
- 5.3 Both reviews should occur in consultation with local volunteers involved in reserve management.
- 5.4 The Chief Executive Officer has the authority to amend the accompanying Policy Schedule in consultation with the Natural Heritage Advisory Committee (NHAC) and local volunteers.

## National Trust of SA Nature Reserves Policy Schedule

### Reserves in which dogs are **not allowed**

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Agery    | Roachdale     |
| DB Mack  | Roch Bend     |
| Fraser   | Malcolm Wicks |
| HK Fry   | Mulburra Park |
| Loveday  | Woolmer       |
| Lenger   | Zelling       |
| Nurrutti |               |

### Reserves in which dogs are **allowed on-leash**

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Doris Odgers | Overland Corner                |
| Heron's Bend | Sandison                       |
| Engelbrook   | Watiparinga                    |
| Heron's Bend | Wilabalangaloo ( <i>no</i>     |
| Nurragi      | <i>dogs allowed around the</i> |
| Heron's Bend | <i>BBQ areas</i> )             |

### Reserves in which dogs are **allowed off-leash**

Brinkworth (*in mown  
recreational sections only*)