



## **ASSISTANCE DOGS ACCOMPANYING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE PERMITTED IN RETAIL FOOD BUSINESSES FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2026**

This circular seeks to inform all retail food business operators that assistance dogs accompanying persons with physical disabilities, visual impairments and/or hearing impairments will be permitted in retail food businesses from 1 November 2026.

### **Assistance dogs to be permitted in retail food businesses**

2. With effect from 1 November 2026, assistance dogs accompanying persons with physical disabilities, visual impairments and/or hearing impairments are permitted to be brought into the dining or refreshment areas or toilets of licensed retail food businesses.

3. Previously, under the Environmental Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations<sup>1</sup>, entry was limited to guide dogs assisting individuals with visual impairments. With the new changes, assistance dogs accompanying persons with physical disabilities and/or hearing impairments will also be permitted in these food businesses. This is part of the Government's broader efforts in expanding the use of assistance dogs in public spaces<sup>2</sup>, and aligns with the Enabling Masterplan 2030, which aims to support persons with disabilities (PwDs) to live independently, and ensure that our physical and social environments are accessible and inclusive for everyone.

4. Within retail food businesses, assistance dogs are required to be: (i) kept under proper control; (ii) restrained from straying or causing annoyance or nuisance, or from damaging any property; and (iii) held in a leash. Assistance dogs should also not be fed within the premises, except in the case of pet cafés<sup>3</sup>.

### **Assistance dogs support persons with disabilities**

5. Assistance dogs are specially selected and trained to help persons with various disabilities live more independently. They can be identified by the harness, vest, or other identifying equipment worn on their body, which may carry messages such as "Service Dog" or "Working Dog". Please refer to the following examples of identification:

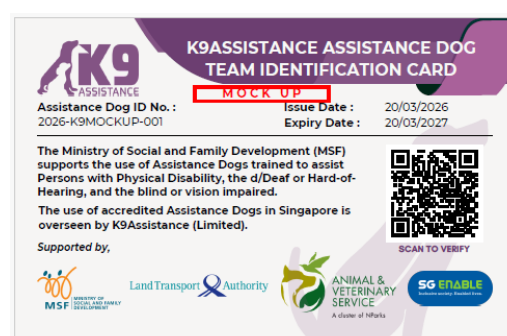
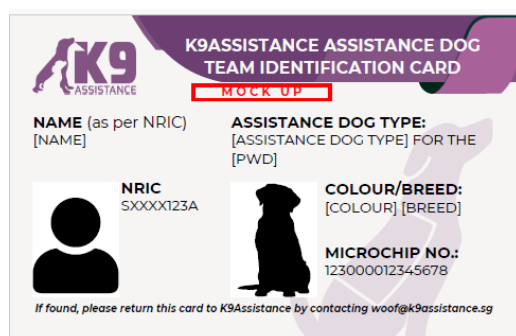
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<sup>1</sup> Under Regulation 29, the licensee of a food business or private market may permit any guide dog accompanying a blind or visually impaired person to be brought into the dining or refreshment area or any toilet of the licensed premises if the guide dog meets the necessary requirements.

<sup>2</sup> These include public housing, public transport, and licensed food businesses.

<sup>3</sup> Pet cafés are food shops where patrons may bring their pets along when they dine in these food shops. A pet café licence is issued to food businesses that allow pets on their premises and serve pet food.

## Identification:



## Fostering a more inclusive dining environment

6. Operators of retail food businesses are encouraged to allow PwDs and their assistance dogs in your establishment to foster a more inclusive dining environment for all. Those who wish to find out more about assistance dogs in public places such as retail food businesses can visit the webpage of K9Assistance or Guide Dogs Singapore.



7. Let us work together to create a more inclusive society for all.



Guide Dogs Singapore's webpage:  
<https://guidedogs.org.sg/>



K9Assistance's webpage:  
<https://www.k9assistance.sg/>

**Issued by the Singapore Food Agency, the Ministry of Social and Family Development and SG Enable**

**Date: 28 Sep 2026**