**Altona Yacht Club Inc – Policy & Procedure Rev 0 27/03/2017**

**Policy Number – 10**

**Policy – Companion Dogs**

# Preamble:

Altona Yacht Club Inc welcomes members and visitors and encourages them to bring their companion dogs to the club if they desire.

Members who bring their dogs need to recognise some people (especially children) have a genuine fear of dogs and some dogs are anxious around a large number of unfamiliar people.

# Policy Objective:

To increase the amenity of the club by allowing the members to bring their dogs to the club without inconveniencing other club members and the public.

# Policy Details:

* Members may bring their dogs to the club on the understanding the Altona Yacht Club is not located in or adjacent to one of the 13 ‘dog off-leash’ areas designated by the City of Hobsons Bay.
* A copy of the City of Hobson Bay designated ‘dog off-leash’ areas is attached.
* The City of Hobsons Bay policy is; dogs being walked or exercised in public areas must be on a leash unless they are being exercised in a council designated ‘dog off leash area’ in which case the dog must be directly supervised and under effective voice or hand signal control, if not the dog must be restrained by a leash.
* The State Government Legislation and Council By-laws are; ‘any dog which is not being directly supervised and any dog which is not under effective control must be on a leash’. This is as much to protect the dog from itself as to protect the public from the dog. If a dog which is not on a leash rushes at people or other animals or intimidates/frightens people or other animals the owner will found to be liable for a breach of the law.

# Responsibilities:

* The members who bring their dog to the Altona Yacht Club are responsible for ensuring their dog is always under control and they comply with Victorian State Government Legislation and City of Hobsons Bay Animal Control By-laws.
* Under no circumstances are dogs permitted to enter food preparation or serving areas within the club.
* As the Altona Yacht Club is not located in a designated ‘dog off-leash’ area, it is preferable for dogs to be leashed. If a dog is not being directly supervised by the member who brings the dog to the club it is preferable for the dog to tied up with its leash in the shade in the boat shed away from doors with the dog having access to clean drinking water.
* Members who bring their dog to the club must not allow their dog to rush at, jump on, bite, or otherwise worry other club members, the public or other dogs whilst at the club.
* The Altona Yacht Club is not responsible for dogs brought to the club by members. The member who brings the dog is solely responsible for the dog’s behaviour and the dog’s welfare.

