

MEDIA RELEASE



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PERSONALISED LUXURY PET HOTEL LANDS AT ADELAIDE AIRPORT

South Australia will welcome its first inner-metro, five-star pet hotel following a landmark agreement between Guide Dogs SA/NT and Adelaide Airport Limited.

To be located on Adelaide Airport's western edge adjacent Tapleys Hill Road, the \$6 million pet hotel will provide both luxury and affordable mid-range personalised accommodation for dogs, cats and other pets while their owners are away on holidays or business.

The industry-leading facility will include 244 standard and luxury rooms, and extensive indoor and outdoor enclosures where pets can run, play and swim.

Standard dog boarding will comprise clean and spacious individual kennels with beds, climate-controlled temperate and plenty of natural light.

Luxury rooms will include personal televisions and even live-streaming web-cams, so clients can view their loved-ones from anywhere on the globe. Cats will have access to spacious condos with private sleeping areas and litter boxes.

Construction of the airport pet hotel – which will also offer personalised doggy day-care and training services – is due to commence in early 2016, with the facility expected to be open to the public by early 2017.

Guide Dogs SA/NT Chief Executive Kate Thiele, recently named Telstra SA Business Woman of the Year 2015, says the organisation will use its high-level expertise in animal care, dog training and kennelling to establish the pet hotel to the highest standard.

“This is a first for Guide Dogs SA/NT. Never before in South Australia have we seen a facility of this type, which will in itself be a holiday destination for pets thanks to the outstanding facilities and high standard of care and safety that the hotel will provide,” Ms Thiele says.

“This will be Adelaide's first inner-metropolitan, purpose-built personalised luxury pet hotel where owners will be able to leave their cats, dogs and other pets with absolute peace of mind while they're away.

“In many cases owners will be able to drop their pets off at the hotel and be checking-in for their flight just five minutes later.

“Importantly, all our pet hotel employees will undertake a similar training regime to Guide Dogs' highly skilled dog experts to ensure quality care, backed by Australia's most trusted charity.”

Ms Thiele says the new airport pet hotel is another example of Guide Dogs SA/NT leading the way in disability care, with all profits from the hotel to be directed to much-needed funding for Guide Dogs SA/NT services.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director, Mark Young, says the airport pet hotel will satisfy a need for travelling pet owners and further expand the airport's services.

"Adelaide Airport is continually looking at new ways to innovate and provide better services to customers, so we're delighted to partner with such an iconic organisation in Guide Dogs SA/NT to help deliver this pet hotel in the inner-metro area," Mr Young says.

"We also see a market for people holidaying at caravan parks and other accommodation along Adelaide's metropolitan coast that may not welcome animals. They can leave their pets at the airport pet hotel and still visit them during the day."

Recently voted Australia's most trusted charity for a third year in a row, Guide Dogs SA/NT aims to enhance the quality of life for individuals with a sensory disability and families of children living with autism. Its services meet the needs presented over the course of a lifetime, from life skills for children with a sensory disability, to study and employment, and the transition to independent living and ongoing support for older Australians.

"Since Guide Dogs SA/NT was founded almost 60 years ago, we have worked hard to ensure our clients have access to things we often take so much for granted; inclusion, mobility and independence," Ms Thiele says.

"Through ongoing innovations such as the Airport Pet Hotel we look forward to continuing to expand our services so that even more people can benefit in the future."

For more information about Guide Dogs SA/NT, visit www.guidedogs.org.au.

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