

**Paul and Kathryn Archer**

**Date: 20 February 2009**

**To: Senate Inquiry – public transport**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have 2 dogs and usually want to have them with us when we go out and about. The current public transport regime in Sydney is discriminatory and prevents us doing many of the things we would like to do – if you can't take your pets on public transport – then you are very limited. It forces us to take a car, when we needn't, adding to pollution and car pressure on the roads, and we can't use ferries.

We are far behind other countries, and this is very disappointing. In Britain, you can take your dog on buses, trains etc and no one bats an eyelid. In Venice, many dogs use the extensive ferry system – why can't we.

The issue needs to be – the behaviour of the animal – not the animal. It's the same with people; if a person misbehaves, they are thrown off or prosecuted. If they are a decent traveller, they get to stay. It should be the same with animals – not a blanket ban.

Yours Sincerely

**PAUL ARCHER**