

International travel

This takes serious planning and booking the tickets is the easiest part.

Getting your mindDog out of the country is reasonably straightforward but getting back in can be difficult. So, this means that if you are going to the USA for more than 12 months, your dog will not be certified to return. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for biosecurity and they will not recognize as an assistance dog one which doesn't meet their eligibility criteria.

Organisations which the Department recognizes are members of the International Guide Dog Federation (UK) or Assistance Dogs International (USA). mindDog is not a member of either organization.

By setting such eligibility criteria, DAFF is breaking the law by not recognizing the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act.

While you will be able to bring your uncertified dog back into the country, it will be as a pet. This means he will not be able to fly in the cabin with you and will have to go through quarantine in Australia. The length of quarantine depends on the country you have been to.

Of course, New Zealand is the easiest country to visit and return from with your mindDog.

This is the link to DAFF

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/assistance-dogs#eligibility-criteria>