
CONSULTATION DRAFT

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Guidelines 2017

under the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012

Explanatory note

The object of these Guidelines is to provide benchmarks for everyone involved in the activity of breeding dogs and cats.

These Guidelines deal with the following:

- (a) the responsibilities and competency of the staff who care for and manage breeding dogs and cats (**Part 2**),
- (b) the management systems that must be used in animal breeding establishments (**Part 3**),
- (c) the standards of housing required for dogs and cats in animal breeding establishments (**Part 4**),
- (d) the requirements for managing the care dogs and cats in animal breeding establishments including requirements for food and water, cleanliness and transport (**Part 5**),
- (e) the health care standards for dogs and cats in animal breeding establishments (**Part 6**),
- (f) matters relating to transfer of ownership of dogs and cats from animal breeding establishments (**Part 7**)
- (g) matters relating to breeding and rearing of dogs and cats in animal breeding establishments (**Part 8**)
- (h) matters relating to the human destruction of dogs and cats in breeding establishments (**Part 9**)
- (i) other miscellaneous matters (**Part 10**)

Clause 26 of the Regulation includes a requirement that any person who owns or works in a breeding facility must comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards 2017. These guidelines provide more detail as to how the Standards should be complied with.

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Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Guidelines

These Guidelines are the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Guidelines 2017*.

2 Commencement

Not applicable.

3 Application of these Guidelines

These Guidelines apply to the conduct of animal breeding establishments for dogs and cats.

4 Interpretation

In these Guidelines:

ad libitum means to feed without restriction.

animal means a dog, cat, puppy or kitten.

biosecure means a facility that utilises security measures to protect animals against the transmission of disease and pests.

bitch means an undesexed female dog.

brachycephalic means a dog or cat with a shortened skull and flattened muzzle.

breeder health declaration means a declaration signed by a breeder, and includes details of:

- (a) any known physical abnormality in a dog or cat at the time of sale, and
- (b) how the abnormality may affect the short and long term health and welfare of the animal.

breeding means the business of breeding of cats or dogs for fee or reward.

cat housing means any enclosure used to contain a cat and includes a cattery, cage, module, or colony pen within a facility,, premises or any room forming part of premises.

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dog housing means any enclosure used to contain a dog and includes a cage, run, or module within a facility,, premises oror any room forming part of premises.

disease means:

- (a) any infection of an organism having the potential to result in or resulting in an abnormal, pathological or unhealthy condition that is caused by a known or unknown disease agent, and
- (b) any other medical condition that has a negative impact on the physical or psychological health of an animal.

disease agent includes a prion, a microorganism, an infectious agent and a parasite.

emergency management plan means a document that details the response to an actual or imminent event or situation that endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of animals and that may destroy or damage, or threaten to destroy or damage, property.

environmental enrichment means the provision of appropriate activities or experiences within an animal's environment to meet that animal's physical and psychological needs.

exercise enclosure means a pen, run or yard in a facility in which an animal can exercise without escaping, that is not used for housing the animal.

facility means any place, premises or thing used for accommodation or shelter of animals for the purpose of breeding or rearing dogs or cats, or where puppies or kittens are housed as a result of breeding, and includes a vehicle used for the transportation of animals.

healthy means a dog or cat that is free from sickness, injury or disease affecting the overall physical and psychological well-being of the animal.

housing means cat housing and dog housing.

infectious disease means a disease caused by a transmissible agent that may cause illness or death in susceptible animals that become infected.

isolation facility means a secure area in which individual animals are kept separate from other animals and which can be made biosecure.

kitten means a cat which is less than 16 weeks of age.

kittening means to give birth to a kitten.

mating means to pair animals together for breeding purposes.

microchip means subcutaneous full duplex electronic radio transponder inserted under the skin of a dog or a cat for permanent identification purposes.

parvovirus means a virus which causes intestinal inflammation in infected dogs, for which symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, high fever, and dehydration.

person in charge of a facility, includes:

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- (a) the proprietor of the business that conducts the animal trade of breeding cats or dogs at the facility,
- (b) each person concerned with the management of the facility, and
- (c) any person performing the role of the manager of the facility.

post-partum means following the birth of a puppy or kitten.

proprietor means the owner.

puppy means a dog which is less than 16 weeks of age.

queen means an undesexed female cat.

Register of Companion Animals has the same meaning as in the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

registered training organisation means a training provider registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority of the Commonwealth

sale means the transfer of ownership of an animal or animals, and includes:

- (a) selling by wholesale, retail, auction or tender, or
- (b) barter or exchange, or
- (c) supplying for profit, or
- (d) offering for sale, receiving for sale or exposing for sale, or
- (e) consigning or delivering for sale, or
- (f) having in possession for sale, or
- (g) causing or allowing any of the above to be done.

socialisation means exposing an animal to different age-appropriate positive experiences in order to prepare the animal for coping throughout life.

staff or staff member means a person who works in a facility including the person in charge of a facility, employees or volunteers, whether working full-time or part-time and whether working or not working for fee or reward.

the Act means the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

the Regulation means the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012*.

vaccinated means inoculated according to current veterinary advice and the vaccine manufacturer's instructions for a vaccine registered for the species.

volunteer means a member of the public who is not paid, but works in a voluntary capacity under the supervision of the person in charge of the facility.

whelping means to give birth to a puppy.

written procedures mean the procedures developed under these Standards that are in place for the pet shop.

zoonoses means any disease that is communicable between humans and another animal species.

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Note: Pursuant to section 11 of the Interpretation Act 1987, words and expressions in this Standard such as **animal trade, cage, cat, dog, inspector, owner, person in charge** in relation to an animal, **veterinary practitioner** and **veterinary treatment** have the same meaning as they have in the Act.

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Part 2 Responsibilities and competency of staff

5 Responsibilities and competency of staff

- (1) Managers, senior staff and those responsible for staff training and education should be encouraged to gain a Certificate III or IV in Animal Studies, and all staff involved in breeding dogs and cats should be encouraged to obtain a Certificate II in Animal Studies (includes working dogs).

6 Required numbers of staff

There are no guidelines for this area.

7 Staff training register

- (1) The Training Register should be kept wholly by means of a computer with data backup mechanisms in place.

Part 3 Quality management systems

8 Directory of information about dogs and cats

- (1) Records kept should have space for notes or observations regarding individual animals made during time at the facility, including any significant alteration in the animal's condition or behaviour since arrival.

9 Register of Companion Animals

There are no guidelines for this area.

10 Time period for keeping information

There are no guidelines for this area.

11 Production of information

There are no guidelines for this area.

12 Written operating procedures

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- (1) Procedural documents should be periodically reviewed and approved by the person in charge. The period from the last review and approval of procedures should not exceed two years.
- (2) Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of the animals kept.

Part 4 Dog and cat housing standards

Division 1 Construction and maintenance standards for dog and cat housing

13 Construction standards for dog and cat housing

- (1) Tethering should not be used as a form of confinement.
- (2) Dog and cat breeding facilities should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure dogs and cats.
- (3) Measures should be in place to protect dogs and cats from loud or sudden noise.
- (4) Noise from barking dogs should be managed in consultation with a veterinary practitioner to determine the underlying cause of the barking and to implement a humane treatment plan. Excessive barking may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials which reduce noise;
 - (b) care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal;
 - (c) limiting external stimulation, e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens;
 - (d) holding dogs in compatible pairs or;
 - (e) taking care to exercise dogs away from the sight of kennelled animals.
- (5) Noise from stud cats or calling queens should be managed in consultation with a veterinary practitioner to implement a humane treatment plan and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:

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- (a) providing lockable soundproof quarters in which the stud is held at night;
 - (b) locating the stud house inside another building, or by taking advantage of as much shielding by existing walls and buildings as possible;
 - (c) providing the stud with companion cats, a more interesting run, or more companionship, such as relocation to where people, other cats and other animals can be regularly seen;
 - (d) removing a calling queen from an outside pen and placing indoors in a pen, which can also be further covered over at night;
 - (e) taking the queen promptly to the stud (the stud being either entire or vasectomised).
- (6) All facilities should be sewered or on a septic system, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities; or have some other adequate and acceptable method for disposal of faeces and other liquid wastes.

14 Lighting of dog and cat housing

- (1) Lighting should not generate excessive heat.

15 Ventilation of dog and cat housing

- (1) In enclosed rooms, ventilation should be adequate to keep animal housing areas free of dampness and draughts and minimise noxious odours. Cage or pen areas should have an ample supply of fresh air. Room ventilation rates of about six to twelve air changes per hour may be needed.

16 Temperature of dog and cat housing

- (1) Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to animals. Particular attention should be given to protections for brachycephalic breeds, especially against heat.

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17 Minimum housing requirements for dogs

- (1) The cage sizes provided in Table 2 of the Standards provide the minimum enforceable standard. Breeders of dogs are strongly encouraged to ensure that the physical and mental needs of individual animals do not become constrained by their spatial environment.
- (2) Dog housing should be as large as possible to meet the physiological, behavioural and social needs of a dog.

18 Minimum housing requirements for cats

- (1) The cage sizes provided in Table 3 of the Standards provide the minimum enforceable standard. Breeders of cats are strongly encouraged to ensure that the physical and mental needs of individual animals do not become constrained by their spatial environment.
- (2) Cat housing should be as large as possible to meet the physiological, behavioural and social needs of a cat.
- (3) Where groups of cats are housed together, consideration should be given for each cat to be able to be free from interference by other cats.

19 Exercise enclosures for dogs

- (1) Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

Note: The person in charge of a dog during exercise are reminded of the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* which specify the minimum responsibilities when a dog is in a public place.

20 Dog and cat treatment room

There are no guidelines for this area.

21 Isolation facilities

There are no guidelines for this area.

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Division 2 Management of dog and cat housing

22 Group housing

There are no guidelines for this area.

23 Special dog and cat housing requirements

There are no guidelines for this area.

24 Sleeping area requirements

There are no guidelines for this area.

25 Special cat housing requirements

There are no guidelines for this area.

Division 3 Security of animal housing

26 Design of dog and cat housing for security purposes

- (1) Facilities should take all reasonable measures to prevent animal theft from enclosures.
- (2) Every effort should be made to recover escaped animals.

27 Barriers between dog or cat and exterior of facility

There are no guidelines for this area.

28 Emergency management

There are no guidelines for this area.

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Part 5 Management of dog and cat care

29 General standards for the care of dogs and cats

- (1) All equipment that may affect the welfare of animals should be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of illness or injury.
- (2) When grooming an animal, particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, claws, teeth and anal glands.
- (3) Dogs and cats which are well socialised to human adults, children and other animals are more likely to become well-adjusted companions.

30 Food and water requirements

- (1) Food should be served in non-spillable containers.
- (2) Food should be given to pups and kittens under four months of age with a maximum interval of 12 hours between feeds. (For example, a puppy that receives its third feed, and final feed, for the day at 5pm should receive its first feed for the next day no later than 5am the following morning).
- (3) For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual dog or puppy. For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult cat and one feeding bowl per three kittens.

31 Cleanliness and hygiene requirements

- (1) Some disinfectants are toxic to some species, for example some common disinfectants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxylenols, are toxic to cats. Tea tree oil is toxic to both cats and dogs. Staff should be familiar with these matters and avoid the use of inappropriate products.
- (2) Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Code Act 1994* (Commonwealth) and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- (3) Staff should be aware of the risks of transfer of infectious diseases and microbial contamination when handling animals or cleaning enclosures, as well as the practices that will reduce these risks.

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- (4) Provision of personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves, is recommended.

32 Requirements when transporting dogs or cats

- (1) Transport may cause distress to some dogs and cats and should be kept to a minimum.
- (2) The transport of unaccompanied animals should be avoided where possible.
- (3) All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current IATA Live Animal Regulations. For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see:
www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/Pages/index.aspx
- (4) For more information about the standards for animal transport, refer to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 1 - Companion Animal Transport Agencies.
- (5) Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting animals should:
 - (a) provide easy access and safe access for handlers;
 - (b) be air conditioned to protect against extremes of temperature even when stationary;
 - (c) protect against unauthorised release or escape of the animals; and
 - (d) be easy to clean and disinfect.
- (6) The driver of a transport vehicle is the person in charge, and therefore responsible for the welfare of animals in the vehicle during transportation.

Part 6 Health standards for animals

33 Monitoring health status of dogs and cats

There are no guidelines for this area.

34 Arrangements with veterinary practitioner

There are no guidelines for this area.

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35 Veterinary treatment of dogs and cats

- (1) A program for maintaining a feline leukaemia free population is recommended. This should include a program of testing and vaccination of resident cats in accordance with veterinary advice, and a requirement for a current negative test prior to breeding (which applies to cats from the permanent population or visiting cats).
- (2) Where possible, newly introduced animals should not be mixed with existing stock until they have been health-checked by a veterinarian.

36 Vaccination

There are no guidelines for this area.

37 Control of parasites

- (1) Parasites include fleas, lice, mites, ticks and gastrointestinal or heart worms.

38 Isolation of infectious dogs and cats

There are no guidelines for this area.

Part 7 Transfer of ownership of dogs and cats

39 Requirements for dogs and cats to be sold

- (1) All efforts should be made to home physically healthy and behaviourally sound dogs and cats.
- (2) Aggressive, pregnant, unweaned or poorly socialised dogs and cats or animals with known vices such as excessive barking, fence jumping (dogs) should not be made available for sale without obtaining veterinary advice first.
- (3) Where possible, breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the rehoming of surrendered dogs and cats.
- (4) All facilities which sell dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.
- (5) All advertisements for dogs and cats for sale should include the vaccination status of the animal.

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40 Guarantee and returns

- (1) If within seven days a dog or cat is not acceptable to the purchaser due to health reasons, excluding injury, and the complaint is supported by a veterinary practitioner, the breeder and the owner should negotiate in good faith to achieve an equitable outcome.

41 Consideration of conditions at proposed new home

- (1) Matching of buyers to suitable dogs and cats should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the buyer, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal including exercise requirements, and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children and other animals.
- (2) Dogs or cats should not be sold to inappropriate purchasers.
- (3) The person in charge of a facility is reminded of the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* concerning menacing dogs, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds and concerning notification of change in registration information

42 Information and advice to new owners

- (1) Before any dog or pup, cat or kitten is sold the prospective owner should be advised that the breeder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is physically and behaviourally healthy.
- (2) New owners should be encouraged to seek advice about care, management and training issues from veterinary practitioners or other people with appropriate expertise.

Part 8 Breeding and rearing

43 Special requirements for mating dogs and cats

- (1) Breeding practices should ensure that both breeding dogs and cats and the offspring they produce are as physically and psychologically

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healthy as possible. Dog and cat breeders have a responsibility to ensure that their breeding dogs and cats maintain the best quality of life as possible, and litters should only be produced with a reasonable expectation of finding homes where they are both wanted and appreciated, and are offered a similarly good quality of life.

- (2) Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there is screening procedures or a test for that disease in charge in the case of a stud cat or dog or bitch or queen should:
 - (a) have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog or cat for such hereditary disease;
 - (b) provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the dog or cat is to be mated to an animal not owned by the breeding facility;
 - (c) provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and dam to the new owners of any puppy or kitten;
 - (d) endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- (3) Breeding practices should avoid breeding exaggerated features that compromise welfare, for example marked brachycephaly that causes breathing distress.
- (4) Breeding dogs and cats should be selected to eliminate negative behavioural traits, for example poor mothering ability, aggression towards humans and other animals, avoidance of physical contact from humans or other animals, persistent vocalisation or other signs of deteriorated psychological health.
- (5) Animals which are excessively nervous, aggressive, or which cannot live in harmony with other animals should not be bred.
- (6) When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating, staff should endeavour to ensure that:
 - (a) the queen and stud are both eating and using their litter tray;
 - (b) the animals have separate beds and are able to get some rest;
 - (c) the animals have actually mated; and
 - (d) the stud has an easily accessible shelf on which to jump after mating the queen, to prevent injury arising from the queen attempting to scratch the stud.

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44 Frequency of breeding

- (1) Desexing of dogs and cats not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.
- (2) Breeders should consider the welfare of their breeding sires and dams when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding their animals.
- (3) When dogs or cats reach the end of their breeding life, or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes, it is the responsibility of the owner to:
 - (a) have such dogs or cats spayed or castrated;
 - (b) settle the dogs or cats into their new condition (ex stud cats require considerable patience and care, but can become excellent candidates for pet homes);
 - (c) either provide a pet home for the desexed dogs or cats themselves, or to canvass for and carefully select a new pet home for the dogs or cats;
 - (d) exercise patience and retain responsibility for the dog or cat until such time as a satisfactory new home is established.
- (4) The correct paperwork, including mating dates, sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms should be supplied to the owner/leesee of the bitch or queen when she is collected after the mating, or on payment of an agreed fee.

45 Special requirements for pregnant dogs and cats

- (1) Bitches and queens in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected by animal care staff at regular intervals.

46 Special requirements for birthing

There are no guidelines for this area.

47 Special requirements for lactating bitches and queens

There are no guidelines for this area.

48 Artificial rearing

There are no guidelines for this area.

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49 Weaning puppies and kittens

- (1) Any puppy or kitten which does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinary practitioner for examination.
- (2) It is desirable to encourage puppies and kittens to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area. It is easier for dogs and cats to learn this behaviour at a young age, and animals with good toileting practices make better pets.

Part 9 Humane destruction

50 Separate area required for humane destruction

There are no guidelines for this area.

51 Method of humane destruction

There are no guidelines for this area.

52 Who may perform humane destruction

There are no guidelines for this area.

53 Humane destruction recommended by a veterinary practitioner

There are no guidelines for this area.