

ANIMAL WELFARE | COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES

Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines

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Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines

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More information

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Acknowledgments

Animal Welfare Advisory Council

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

Contents

Contents	i
Introduction	1
Background	1
Animal Welfare	1
Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats	1
Companion Animals Taskforce & Parliamentary Inquiry	2
Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines	2
Scope of the draft Breeding S&G	2
The consultation process	3
Providing feedback	4
Key focus areas	4
Part 1 Preliminary	4
4 Interpretation	4
Part 2 Responsibilities and competency of staff	5
5 Responsibilities and competency of staff	5
6 Required numbers of staff	6
7 Staff training register	6
Part 3 Quality management systems.	7
8 Directory of information about dogs and cats	7
9 Register of Companion Animals	8
12 Written operating procedures	8
Part 4 Dog and cat housing standards	9
13 Construction standards for dog and cat housing	9
14 Lighting of dog and cat housing	10
16 Temperature of dog and cat housing	10
19 Exercise enclosures for dogs	11
20 Dog and cat treatment room	11
22 Group housing	12
25 Special cat housing requirements	12
Part 5 Management of dog and cat care	13
29 General standards for the care of dogs and cats	13
Part 6 Health standards for dogs and cats	13
30 Food and water requirements	13
31 Cleanliness and hygiene requirements	14
32 Requirements when transporting dogs or cats	15
Part 6 Health standards for dogs and cats	16

33 Monitoring health status of dogs and cats	16
34 Arrangements with a veterinary practitioner	16
35 Veterinary treatment of dogs and cats	16
37 Control of parasites	17
Part 7 Transfer of ownership	17
39 Requirements for dogs and cats to be sold	17
41 Consideration of conditions at proposed new home	18
42 Information and advice to new owners	18
Part 8 Breeding and rearing	19
43 Special requirements for mating dogs and cats	19
44 Frequency of breeding	19
46 Special requirements for birthing	20
49 Weaning puppies and kittens	21
Part 9 Humane destruction	21
52 Who may perform humane destruction	21
Appendix A	23
Feedback form	24

Introduction

This Discussion Paper launches the targeted consultation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines (draft Breeding S&G). The purpose of this consultation is to obtain feedback on the draft Breeding S&G.

The Government understands the importance of pets to families and communities. This consultation will allow key stakeholders to have their say about whether the draft Breeding S&G supports the welfare of dogs and cats bred for fee or reward. It will also take into account the experiences of animal welfare organisations, industry groups and other organisations that are involved in animal welfare, such as veterinarians and local councils.

We would like to thank the Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC) for its input into the preparation of the draft Breeding S&G. AWAC provides expert advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on matters affecting the welfare of animals.

Background

Animal Welfare

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that companion animals breeding practices are safe, ethical and meet community expectations. In NSW animal welfare is supported by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) and underpinning Codes and Standards.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is responsible for administering POCTA but officers of the NSW Department of Primary Industries do not have powers of enforcement. POCTA is enforced by the independent approved charitable organisations RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League (AWL) NSW, as well as the NSW Police.

NSW already has an enforceable Code of Practice for breeding companion animals: the Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding dogs and cats (Breeding Code). Any person involved in a business in the course of which dogs or cats are bred for fee or reward is required to comply with POCTA and the Breeding code.

Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats

The Breeding Code was published by the Department of Primary Industries in 2009 and was aimed at placing animal welfare controls on the companion animal breeding industry. The Code is listed in Schedule 1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2012, and there is a penalty for non-compliance under Clause 26 of the same Regulation.

The Breeding Code sets the requirements that everyone involved in the breeding of dogs and cats must follow to protect the welfare of the dogs and cats in their care.

The Breeding Code was prepared in consultation with Dogs NSW, Australian National Cats Inc., RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League (AWL) NSW, and other people and organisations involved in the industry. It was also endorsed by AWAC.

Compliance with the Breeding Code does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of the POCTA and any other laws, such as the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and all associated regulations. The Breeding Code contains both standards and guidelines for the humane keeping, breeding and selling of animals in breeding facilities.

The standards have legal effect in three ways:

- Failure to meet a standard may result in the issue of a Penalty Infringement Notice under Clause 32 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012.

- Evidence of failure to meet a standard may be used in proceedings under Clause 26 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012.
- In more serious cases, failure to meet a standard may support a prosecution for an offence under POCTA.

Dog and cat breeders in NSW must conduct themselves in accordance with the Breeding Code to demonstrate their commitment and concern for the welfare of the animals in their care. Compliance with the Breeding Code ensures that no offence is committed in relation to Clause 26 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012.

A breach of this provision of the Regulation may lead to a maximum court-imposed fine of 50 penalty units (currently \$5,500). Under POCTA, the person in charge of an animal, which includes the owner, is responsible for meeting the legal obligations regarding an animal's welfare. The person in charge may wish to place the animal in the care of others (e.g. the breeding facility's business manager or a member of staff), in which case the others also become legally responsible for the care of the animal.

Companion Animals Taskforce & Parliamentary Inquiry

In 2011, the NSW Government established a Companion Animals Taskforce to provide advice on key companion animal issues. These issues included puppy factories, euthanasia rates, rehoming options for surrendered or abandoned companion animals, and microchipping and desexing initiatives to promote responsible pet ownership.

A Parliamentary Inquiry was conducted in 2015 into companion animal breeding practices across NSW. In February 2016, the NSW Government released its response to the recommendations made by the Companion Animals Breeding Practices (CABP) Inquiry that includes significant changes to companion animal breeding practices in NSW.

In line with recommendations of the Companion Animals Breeding Practices Joint Select Committee, AWAC has reviewed the Breeding code and provided advice on improvements.

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

The attached document, the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines (draft Breeding S&G), updates the current Breeding Code.

The draft Breeding S&G have been developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in consultation with AWAC.

The S&G take into account for the findings and recommendations of the CABP Inquiry.

As per the current Breeding Code, the draft Breeding S&G clarify the requirements for breeding facility operators through the use of "Standard" sections. It also provides benchmarks for operators to aspire to through the use of "Guidelines". The draft Breeding S&G improves welfare outcomes for the animals that are held in breeding facilities, and demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to animal welfare for companion animals.

Once finalised, the draft Breeding S&G will be included within the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012.

Feedback is now sought on the draft Breeding S&G.

Scope of the draft Breeding S&G

The draft Breeding S&G will apply to a business in the course of which dogs or cats are bred for fee or reward.

They should be read in conjunction with other legislation pertaining to animal welfare, including:

- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA)

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012

This Discussion Paper does not specifically address companion animal management issues, greyhounds, or feral cats and dogs. While these matters are important, they are either addressed under other legislation (such as the *Companion Animals Act 1998*) or are the subject of other government reviews.

Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animals in Pet Shops) Standards and Guidelines (draft Pet Shop S&G), have also been prepared and are under review. A separate discussion paper has been prepared for these draft proposed standards.

This Discussion Paper seeks feedback on targeted questions relating to the draft Breeding S&G. These matters include staff responsibilities, quality management systems, animal housing, animal health, transfer of ownership, breeding and rearing and humane destruction.

The Discussion Paper is structured around the parts of the draft Breeding S&G:

Part 1 Preliminary

Part 2 Responsibilities and competency of staff

Part 3 Quality management systems

Part 4 Dog and cat housing standards

Part 5 Management of dog and cat care

Part 6 Health standards for dogs and cats

Part 7 Transfer of ownership of dogs and cats

Part 8 Breeding and rearing

Part 9 Humane destruction

Each part includes key focus areas, where there is a proposed significant addition or deviation from the current Breeding Code. Where a minor change is proposed, such as grammatical edits or where a change has been made that does not change the intent of the clause, these have not been identified.

Questions are asked within each key focus area. Where relevant the background, context and information regarding legislation are included.

The consultation process

Completing targeted consultation on the draft Breeding S&G will help the Government to build a stronger regulatory framework for managing the breeding of dogs and cats and contribute to ensuring that the welfare of animals meets community expectations.

Stakeholder feedback will assist the Government to thoroughly understand impacts.

Through this Discussion Paper, the Department of Primary Industries asks industry groups, veterinarians, councils and other stakeholders to consider the effectiveness of the proposed Breeding S&G.

Feedback received in response to this Discussion Paper will be taken into account in preparing revised draft Breeding S&G.

The new Breeding standard will come into effect after it has been approved by the Minister for Primary Industries, and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2010* is amended to include details of the new Standard in Schedule 1.

Providing feedback

To ensure comments are understood, please make them under the relevant question. If comments do not relate to a listed focus area, a general comments section is also provided at the end of the feedback form. This discussion paper does not cover all clauses in the draft S&G, however covers areas where there are significant changes from the current Breeding Code.

There are 64 questions in nine sections. You do not need to answer every question and can skip to the section you are interested in.

Responses are to be received by **5pm, Friday 22 December 2017** via mail or email.

Feedback can be provided by completing the feedback form at **Appendix A** and:

- Mailing it to:

**Animal Welfare
Biosecurity and Welfare
Department of Primary Industries
Breeding S&G consultation
161 Kite St
Orange NSW 2800**

- Emailing it to:
animal.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au with subject 'Breeding S&G' consultation.

Key focus areas

Part 1 Preliminary

4 Interpretation

A number of new definitions have been added to provide the meaning of additional terms used throughout the draft Breeding S&G. These additional terms are ad libitum, biosecure, bitch, brachycephalic, breeder health declaration, disease, disease agent, emergency management plan, exercise enclosure, healthy, infectious disease, kitten, kitting, mating, post-partum, proprietor, puppy, queen, Register of Companion Animals, registered training organisation, socialisation, the Act, the Regulation, vaccinated, veterinary practitioner, veterinary treatment, volunteer, and whelping.

Some existing terms have been amended to clarify their meaning, and some terms have been deleted as they are redundant.

Where available, the definitions are consistent with section 4 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA).

Consultation questions

1. Are the definitions provided clear and easily understood?
2. Should there be any additional definitions included?
3. What improvements could be made?

Part 2 Responsibilities and competency of staff

5 Responsibilities and competency of staff

The current Breeding Code requires that each day, a person must be present to meet the requirements of the code, and must be knowledgeable and competent to provide for:

- The care and welfare of dogs and cats.
- The feeding and watering of dogs and cats.
- The protection of dogs and cats.
- Cleaning and proper hygiene
- Identifying signs of common diseases in the species kept (see S4.1.2).

Despite this, the current Breeding Code only encourages the person in charge to employ staff with formal qualifications in animal care and management (see G4.2.1).

As part of the CABP Inquiry the Joint Select Committee recommended that the NSW Government review the need for breeders to be trained and qualified.

AWAC reviewed this recommendation and supported the introduction of training requirements for breeding staff. The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must keep a copy of the Standards and the written procedures at the facility, and make a copy of the Standards and the written procedures available to all staff.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that each staff member is provided with proper and adequate on-the-job training and experience in animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs.
- Standards: During all hours of operation of a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure that at least one staff member is present who has had proper and adequate on-the-job training and experience in each of the animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs, and from the date that is 2 years after the commencement of these Standards, holds as a minimum qualification, a current Certificate II in Animal Studies or higher formal qualification, or equivalent competencies that have been formally assessed by a registered training organisation.
- Standards: A staff member must not carry out an activity in any of the animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs unless the staff member has received proper and adequate on-the-job training in, and has experience of, that area, or the staff member is supervised by another staff member who has received proper and adequate on-the-job training in, and has experience of, that area.
- Guidelines: Managers, senior staff and those responsible for staff training and education should be encouraged to gain a Certificate III or IV in Animal Studies. All staff working in dog and cat breeding facilities should be encouraged to gain a Certificate II in Animal Studies.

Improving animal handling skills, knowledge and experience of staff has been shown to significantly improve animal welfare and also deliver business improvements for animal businesses. Adequately trained staff can better provide the standards of care stipulated in the draft Breeding S&G, leading to better welfare outcomes.

To ease the financial burden and give staff adequate time to complete the necessary qualifications, it is proposed that training requirements will apply two years after the commencement of the Breeding S&G.

Consultation questions

4. Are the qualifications or competencies required for breeding staff adequate?
5. Does the phased in period of two years provide sufficient time for breeding staff to meet the minimum staff training requirements?
6. What improvements could be made?

6 Required numbers of staff

The current Breeding Code does not require a minimum required number of staff to be present.

As part of the CABP Inquiry the Joint Select Committee recommended that the NSW Government reviews whether introducing a staff to animal ratio for breeding facilities would improve animal welfare outcomes.

AWAC recommended that a minimum standard of one staff member to 20 animals be introduced in the draft Breeding S&G. The ratio of 1:20 is based on 20 minutes per animal to feed, clean and provide socialisation and enrichment. This ratio would equate to a standard working day with mandatory breaks. The proposed ratio addresses basic needs and socialisation time.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following requirements:

- Standards: During all hours of operation of a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure that the following staff are present:
 - a minimum of one staff member per 20 animals (litters with mothers to be counted as two animals) to feed and clean the dogs or cats and their housing, and provide socialisation and enrichment to the dogs and cats, and sufficient staff to attend to all of the following duties:
 - exercise dogs,
 - provide preventative and veterinary treatments as per veterinary advice to the dogs or cats,
 - receive dogs or cats into the facility, and
 - transfer ownership of animals being sold by the facility.
- Standards: Staff members present at the facility must be trained to provide for the care of all species at the facility.

Although the standards already set requirements for care, implementing a staff-to-animal ratio provides a clear minimum standard that is not ambiguous, and is easy to understand and enforce. Furthermore socialisation and enrichment have significant impacts on animal welfare outcomes and are especially important for the development of young animals to develop into appropriate pets.

Consultation questions

7. Are the required numbers of breeding staff fit for purpose?
8. What improvements could be made?

7 Staff training register

Although the current Breeding Code encourages the person in charge to record staff qualifications and experience in a register of staff training (see G4.2.1), the draft Breeding S&G proposes that this becomes compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must maintain an electronic record of all training undertaken by staff.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Training Register:
 - the qualifications in animal care held by each staff member, and
 - details of training undertaken by each staff member, including the date of training and a description of the topics covered by the training.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure that each staff member is provided with regular opportunities to up-date their qualifications and experience.
- Guidelines: The training register should be kept wholly by means of a computer with data backup mechanisms in place.

In line with the proposed training requirements, the training register would enable the person in charge to ensure that staff hold appropriate qualifications and allow enforcement agencies to determine whether a facility complies with the Breeding S&G.

Consultation questions

9. Are the requirements of the training register adequate?
10. Should there be additional information required to be kept in the training register?
11. What improvements could be made?

Part 3 Quality management systems.

8 Directory of information about dogs and cats

The current Breeding Code requires that appropriate information must be kept relating to each dog and cat housed at the facility (see S5.1.1). The draft Breeding S&G introduces new recordkeeping requirements:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must maintain an electronic register (*Animal Directory*) in which the following current information about all dogs and cats within the facility is recorded:
 - microchip number and other permanent identification details of the dog or cat, such as tattoo information,
 - any other unique identification details allocated by the facility to a dog or cat,
 - the name, address and telephone number of the lessee of a dog or cat,
 - for leased dogs or cats, the name and contact telephone number of the veterinary practitioner who normally attends the animal,
 - type (species) and breed of the dog or cat,
 - gender of the dog or cat and whether neutered (if known),
 - colour and identifying features of, or marks on, the dog or cat,
 - vaccination status (if known) of the dog or cat,
 - date of arrival of the dog or cat at the facility,
 - details of any special medical and dietary requirements of the dog or cat,
 - details of any adverse observations referred to in clause 33,
 - details of any preventative and veterinary treatment provided to the dog or cat while in the facility, including worming, parasite control and desexing,
 - the date of birth of dogs and cats,
 - date of mating of the dog or cat at the facility including the name and microchip number of the dam and the sire,
 - date of whelping or kitting of a dog or cat at the facility,

- details of each litter including identification details of each animal within the litter, including any abnormalities or deaths,
 - name, address and contact details of the person to whom the dog or cat was sold,
 - the date and method of transfer of owned and leased dogs and cats, including whether the dog or cat was placed in foster care,
 - the date of death or humane destruction of dogs and cats, (including the reason for, and the method of, humane destruction), and
 - the date of cleaning and disinfection of all dog and cat housing.
- Guidelines: Records kept should have space for notes or observations regarding individual animals made during time spent at the facility.

The Animal Directory enables the person in charge to better capture information about animals at the facility and allow enforcement agencies to determine whether a facility is compliant with the Breeding S&G.

Consultation questions

12. Are the requirements of the Animal Directory adequate?
13. Should there be additional information required to be kept in the Animal Directory?
14. What improvements could be made?

9 Register of Companion Animals

To align with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (CAA) the draft Breeding S&G introduces new standards:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must comply with the *Companion Animals Act 1998* in relation to notification and identification information and registration information.

12 Written operating procedures

The current Breeding Code requires a facility to have a documented program in place to control pests (see S5.1.4) and procedure for the swift removal of animals in the event of an emergency (see S5.1.5). The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must have in place written procedures for the general management, health and wellbeing and breeding of cats and dogs. There must also be procedures relating to the administration and maintenance of the facility, including how an isolation facility is managed.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must regularly review the written procedures to ensure that the written procedures continue to adequately address the subjects outlined.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must obtain advice from a veterinary practitioner when developing the written procedures, and when amending the written procedures.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure:
 - staff are provided with the written procedures,
 - staff acknowledge, in writing, that they have been provided with the written procedures.

- Standards: A staff member must read the written procedures, and sign a document stating they have read and understood the written procedures, and follow the written procedures.
- Guidelines: Procedural documents should be periodically reviewed at least once every two years.
- Guidelines: Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted.

Written procedures provide unambiguous evidence that a person in charge has carefully considered the operation and management of the breeding facility and animals housed, directly contributing to improved animal welfare. They will also allow enforcement agencies to determine whether a facility complies with the Breeding S&G.

Consultation questions

15. Are the procedural documents required to be kept fit for purpose?
16. Should there be any additional procedural documents required to be kept?
17. What improvements could be made?

Part 4 Dog and cat housing standards

13 Construction standards for dog and cat housing

The current Breeding Code requires that breeding facilities must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that provides for the good health and well-being of the animals, which prevents the transmission of infectious disease agents, the escape of animals and does not cause injury to either animals or humans (see S6.1.1.3).

In addition to the current requirements, the following is proposed to be included in the draft Breeding S&G:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that housing is well constructed and maintained so that:
 - solid surfaces are constructed of washable material and free of cracks and crevices,
 - wall and doorways prevent protrusion of limbs of dogs or cats,
 - wall and floor junctions are impervious or curved,
 - flooring surfaces are solid and non-slip,
 - the risk of transmission of disease is minimised, and
 - dogs and cats are protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people.
- Standards: Where a facility houses both dogs and cats, the person in charge of the facility must ensure the cat housing is a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.

Improvements in the design and construction of animal housing can lead to improved animal welfare and business improvements, by enabling improved maintenance and cleaning.

The minimum required space allowances provided to animals is a highly complex area. The minimum enclosure sizes set out in Table 1 and 2 of the current Breeding Code are currently under review, however no specific amendments to the current sizes are proposed at this time.

The CABP Inquiry did not recommend a review of companion animal enclosure sizes.

Consultation questions

18. Are the design and construction standards fit for purpose?
19. What improvements could be made?

14 Lighting of dog and cat housing

The current Breeding Code requires that the duration and intensity of artificial lighting, where used, must be as close as possible to natural conditions, sufficient to allow thorough inspection and observation of animals, and which mimic the prevailing natural light cycles (see S6.2.1.3).

The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following requirements:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:
 - animal housing is lit, either from artificial or natural sources, and that the lighting mimics the prevailing natural light cycles;
 - the light in animal housing enables a thorough inspection and observation of the animals housed; and
 - the animals housed are protected from excessive external light, whether natural or artificial.

Appropriate lighting is necessary to ensure the welfare of animals. It enables natural sleep patterns in animals and allows staff to clearly inspect animals and observe any abnormalities.

Consultation questions

20. Are the lighting standards fit for purpose?
21. What improvements could be made?

16 Temperature of dog and cat housing

The current Breeding Code requires that dog and cat housing must have a shaded area when exposed to sunlight (see S6.2.1.1) and dogs and cats must be protected from extremes of temperature (see S6.2.1.2).

In addition to the current requirements the draft Breeding S&G proposes to include the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the temperature and humidity of housing is managed:
 - so as to minimise stress and distress to dogs and cats;
 - to prevent death or morbidity of dogs and cats, and
 - so that housing provides an acceptable temperature gradient for the species being cared for.
- Guidelines: Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to dogs and cats. Particular attention should be given to protections for brachycephalic breeds, especially against heat.

The environment in which animals are maintained must be appropriate to the species.

Endothermic (warm-blooded) animals (including dogs and cats) need to maintain a relatively constant body temperature. It doesn't matter what the outside temperature is—they must maintain the same internal temperature.

It is important that animal housing accounts for this to ensure that the welfare of animals is not compromised.

Consultation questions

22. Are the temperature standards fit for purpose?
23. What improvements could be made?

19 Exercise enclosures for dogs

The current Breeding Code requires that dogs must have the opportunity to exercise for at least 20 minutes daily, except under written advice of a veterinary practitioner (see S7.1.1.7) and that exercise areas must be supervised to ensure that dogs contained within it are compatible (see S7.1.1.8). In addition to the current requirements, the draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that free-running or off-lead exercise enclosures for dogs are: a minimum size of 10 metres by four metres; and fenced so as to: prevent a dog escaping, prevent a dog being injured, and prevent the protrusion of the head or limb of a dog through to the outside of the exercise enclosure or between exercise enclosures.
- Guidelines: Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

The inclusion of size requirements for an exercise enclosure ensures that a large enough area is provided to facilitate exercise for dogs, and allow to run unimpeded. It is also important that these areas are escape proof and safe to dogs.

Consultation questions

24. Are the requirements for exercise enclosures for dogs fit for purpose?
25. What improvements could be made?

20 Dog and cat treatment room

Although the current Breeding Code requires that animals known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease or severe injury must be taken directly to an isolation facility (see S6.1.1.12), there is no requirement for an animal treatment room.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes to include the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a treatment room is available at the facility, away from public view, for the provision of first aid and the treatment of sick or injured dogs and cats.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a treatment room is regularly cleaned and disinfected, temperature controlled, has power and running water, has covered floor and wall junctions and has appropriately sized cages.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that dogs and cats undergoing treatment and housed in the treatment room are inspected at a frequency that ensures adequate care.

It is accepted that animals become ill. Moving animals especially if sick or injured, between sites will not improve welfare outcomes. Additional travel and changes may place greater stress on animals. It is important that there are mechanisms in place to remove sick or injured animals away from the rest of the animal population and from public display, and allow them to be treated in an environment with minimal stress.

It is also proposed to amend the current standard for an isolation facility, to require that there is sufficient space for animals to be comfortable and that dogs and cats housed in the treatment room are inspected more frequently. Having an adequate isolation facility available either at the breeding facility or at a veterinary hospital is paramount to reduce the spread of infectious diseases and allow dogs and cats to be treated in an environment with minimal stress.

Consultation questions

26. Are the requirements for an animal treatment room and isolation facility fit for purpose?
27. What improvements could be made?

22 Group housing

The draft Breeding S&G introduces a new standard requiring that no more than four compatible dogs or six compatible cats are housed together unless they are a litter of puppies or kittens, with or without a lactating mother, and where the minimum cage size conforms to the minimum requirements.

It is recognised that most dogs and cats are social animals and may benefit from group housing. However it is also important that the number of animals kept in a single enclosure does not exceed the capacity of a staff member to be able to manage tasks such as feeding, medicating, and cleaning.

By setting a limit on the number of animals per enclosure also prevents the potential for overcrowding, and from adverse observations in individual animals being missed or even masked because of the influence of multiple animals are housed together. It also prevents potential welfare problems associated with housing too many animals together, including behavioural and social issues such as aggression and anxiety.

Consultation questions

28. Are the requirements for group housing fit for purpose?
29. What improvements could be made?

25 Special cat housing requirements

The current Breeding Code requires that all sleeping areas for dogs and cats must have clean, hygienic, dry and soft bedding, appropriate to the species and breed, sufficient for the number of animals held, and sufficient to insulate them from the floor (see S6.1.1.9).

The draft Breeding S&G proposes to also include the following for cats:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that each cat is provided with an area in which they can fully withdraw or a suitable box in which to sleep or hide.

All animals require periods of rest. It is important to ensure that appropriate sleeping areas and bedding are provided where to facilitate these periods of rest. Cats in particular sleep an average of about 15 to 20 hours a day, and hence the importance of providing a suitable box in which they can hide or sleep.

Consultation Questions

30. Are the special cat housing requirements fit for purpose?
31. What improvements could be made?

Part 5 Management of dog and cat care

29 General standards for the care of dogs and cats

As part of the CABP Inquiry the Joint Select Committee recommended that the NSW Government reviews the Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Animals in Pet Shops to determine what needs to be strengthened, with a particular focus on appropriate objectives for socialisation.

AWAC reviewed this recommendation and provided advice, supporting the development of objectives for socialisation which could also apply to the draft Breeding S&G.

In addition to the current requirements of the Breeding Code, the draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure that dogs and cats are provided with daily environmental enrichment.
- Standards: Environmental enrichment must use stimuli that recognise the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, must aim to facilitate good psychological health, and may include stimuli set out in Appendix 1.
- Standards: Environmental enrichment activities must be rotated regularly, must not be limited to periods of exercise, and may use activities such as those listed in Appendix 3.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure that every animal receives daily socialisation, including direct handling or group exercise as listed in Appendix 2.
- Standards: Staff must ensure that every animal receives daily socialisation. This may include but not be limited to direct handling or group exercise.
- Standards: Staff must ensure that every dog or cat, puppy or kitten receives at least five minutes of direct handling daily from one week of age.
- Standards: Socialisation of mixed litters or species must be supervised and only undertaken with compatible animals of appropriate age, temperament and vaccination status.

In addition, the draft Breeding S&G provides visual charts and table of suggested activities for socialisation and enrichment for dogs and cats.

Socialisation and enrichment have significant impacts on animal welfare outcomes and are especially important for the development of young animals to develop into appropriate pets.

Consultation questions

32. Are the requirements for the general standards for dog and cat care fit for purpose?
33. Are the Appendices meaningful and easily understood?
34. What improvements could be made?

Part 6 Health standards for dogs and cats

30 Food and water requirements

The current Breeding Code requires that puppies and kittens under four months of age must be offered a sufficient quantity of balanced and complete diet at least three times daily, from three weeks of age (see S7.2.1.3). The draft Breeding S&G proposes to also include the following:

- Standards: Staff must offer food to dogs and cats that are more than four months of age a minimum of two times a day.
- Guidelines: 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.

The provision of a balanced and complete diet is directly related to the welfare of animals. Puppies and kittens must be fed an adequate number of times during growth to ensure optimal metabolic functioning and physical development.

Consultation questions

35. Are the food and water requirements fit for purpose?

36. What improvements could be made?

31 Cleanliness and hygiene requirements

The current Breeding Code requires that areas housing animals within a facility must be cleaned at least once daily (see S7.3.1.1) and animal enclosures must be disinfected at least once weekly (see S7.3.1.2). The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff must clean and disinfect dog and cat housing at least once daily, with hospital-grade disinfectant, to minimise the risk of transmission of infectious disease.
- Standards: During cleaning, staff must remove, otherwise separate, all dogs and cats from the area being cleaned to protect the animals from becoming wet, and ensure the safe and humane handling of animals that pose a risk to the safety of other animals.
- Standards: Staff must clean and disinfect housing, bedding, food and water containers and litter trays before a new dog or cat is introduced to them or before whelping or kitting.
- Standards: Staff must minimise the risk of transferring disease from one animal to another by thoroughly washing and sanitising their hands between handling animals.
- Standards: Staff must clean exercise enclosures daily, and if the exercise enclosure has a concrete floor, it must be disinfected at least once weekly.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff clean collection drains in a facility daily.
- Standards: Staff must inspect litter trays on a daily basis and remove any solid waste immediately.
- Standards: Staff must change, wash and disinfect litter trays immediately, if the litter trays become saturated with urine or covered in faeces, and otherwise, at least once daily.
- Standards: Where members of the public are allowed to touch any animals, prior to handling animals customers must be asked if they have handled any animals that day and if they have any other animals at home and whether the animals vaccinations are current.
- Standards: Hand-cleaning facilities (e.g. hand-washing or antibacterial gel) must be readily available on the premises and the members of the public must be encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands before and after touching any animals due to the potential for transmission of zoonotic diseases.

Adequate cleaning and hygiene measures are paramount to appropriate animal welfare. Setting minimum requirements for cleaning animal housing and facilities contributes to parasite and disease prevention and control, reducing the likelihood and incidence of disease. These requirements also contribute to improved business standards, increasing the likelihood of consumer satisfaction.

Consultation questions

37. Are the cleanliness and hygiene requirements fit for purpose?

38. What improvements could be made?

32 Requirements when transporting dogs or cats

In addition to the current transport requirements of the Breeding Code (see S7.4) the draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure dogs and cats are in good health and assessed as fit for any intended journey.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility may transport an animal assessed to be not fit for an intended journey under veterinary advice, or to a veterinary practitioner for treatment.
- Standards: During the transportation of dogs or cats to or from a facility, the person in charge in relation to the dogs or cats must:
 - prevent injury, harm or distress by ensuring all cats are visually and physically separated from dogs, and incompatible dogs and cats of the same species are separated, so as to prevent injury, harm or distress,
 - monitor the condition of the dogs and cats and take any necessary action to protect them from injury, harm or distress,
 - every two hours, provide all dogs and cats with an opportunity to drink water, eat, stretch, urinate and defecate.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that containers used for transporting dogs and cats are of a size that enables a dog or cat to lie down flat, turn around, stand erect and stretch with adequate clearance; and are made of robust material, are escape-proof and sufficiently able to be secured.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that containers and vehicles used regularly for the purpose of transporting dogs or cats to or from the facility:
 - have adequate ventilation, shade and temperature control sufficient to avoid harm and distress,
 - are designed to protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp areas in the carrying area,
 - are designed to protect animals from injury by having non-stick floors,
 - provide sufficient light to enable a dog or cat to be inspected during the journey, and
 - are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use to minimise the risk of the transmission of infectious disease between consignments of dogs or cats.
- Standards: The person in charge in relation to the animals must ensure dogs and cats are not be transported in the boot of a car or left unattended inside a vehicle.

Setting minimum requirements for transport ensures that a person in charge must consider the suitability of transporting an animal and the way in which it will be transported. By requiring these standards, the potential stress and distress imposed on an animal is reduced, as well as the likelihood of disease transmission.

Consultation questions

39. Are the transport requirements fit for purpose?

40. What improvements could be made?

Part 6 Health standards for dogs and cats

33 Monitoring health status of dogs and cats

The current Breeding Code requires that all animals must be inspected at least once daily (see S8.1.1.1). The draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: When a dog or a cat arrives at a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure staff physically examine the animal to assess the physical and psychological health status of the animal.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff:
 - physically inspect all dogs and cats at least twice daily to monitor the health and well-being of the dogs and cats in accordance with the written procedure on health assessment.

A pre-examination and health assessment provides a benchmark for the health status of any new animals arriving at a facility. This examination also provides forewarning of any health issues that may be apparent. By increasing inspections to twice daily allows any adverse observations to be identified more frequently, enabling more prompt actions to be undertaken as appropriate.

Consultation questions

41. Are the requirements for monitoring the health status of dogs and cats fit for purpose?
42. What improvements could be made?

34 Arrangements with a veterinary practitioner

The current Breeding Code requires that the person in charge of the facility must establish a liaison with a veterinary surgeon who is able to attend to dogs and cats (see S8.2.1.1), and the contact details for the veterinary practitioner must be posted in a location which enables staff and visitors to the facility to see them (see S8.2.1.2). In addition to the current requirements the draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure veterinary services must be available at all times.

Breeding dogs and cats may experience distress or difficulty during birthing, which may occur outside of normal business hours. It is important that the person in charge has procedures in place to source and provide 24 hour emergency veterinary services for emergency situations.

Consultation questions

43. Are the requirements for arrangements with a veterinary practitioner fit for purpose?
44. What improvements could be made?

35 Veterinary treatment of dogs and cats

The current Breeding Code requires that appropriate veterinary treatment must be provided for sick or injured dogs and cats (see S8.2.1.3).

The draft Breeding S&G also proposes to include a list of signs and symptoms for which first aid and veterinary treatment must be sought.

The proposed signs and symptoms for which first aid and veterinary treatment must be provided are not exhaustive, however all are considered to signs of abnormal physiological or psychological functioning of an animal. Any issue that inhibits the health of an animal could compromise welfare and therefore veterinary advice or treatment is necessary.

Consultation questions

- 45. Are the requirements for veterinary treatment of animals fit for purpose?
- 46. What improvements could be made?

37 Control of parasites

The current Breeding Code requires that the facility must have a documented program in place to control insects, ectoparasites and vertebrate pests (see S5.1.4). The draft Breeding S&G proposes a new written procedure for the humane control of pests such as flies, mosquitoes and wild rodents. It also proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff provide routine and preventative treatments to dogs and cats to control internal and external parasites in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and the relevant written procedure.
- Guidelines: Parasites include fleas, lice, ticks and gastrointestinal or heart worms.

Pest control programs for a facility must be managed separately to programs that prevent and control internal and external parasites in animals.

Consultation questions

- 47. Are the requirements for pest and parasite control fit for purpose?
- 48. What improvements could be made?

Part 7 Transfer of ownership

39 Requirements for dogs and cats to be sold

The current Breeding Code requires that no dog or cat suspected of being sick, injured or diseased may be sold under any circumstances (see S9.1.1.5).

In addition to all other current requirements the draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must not allow a dog or a cat to be sold unless:
 - the dog or cat has been microchipped and breeder details entered on the Register of Companion Animals,
 - the dog or cat has received at least one veterinary practitioner examination,
 - the dog or cat has been vaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner, and
 - the dog or cat has been treated to remove internal and external parasites in accordance with the relevant written procedure.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that no dog or cat suspected of being sick, injured or physically or psychologically diseased is sold, unless a veterinary practitioner gives their written consent to the sale.

It is accepted that some animals may be born with a congenital defect that results in a physical deformity, or some animals may have minor treatable behavioural conditions. It is not intended to exclude these animals from sale if they have been examined by a veterinarian and deemed suitable to sell, and the new owner is fully informed of the issues with the animal.

It is also important to give puppies and kittens the best start to their health, by requiring that they have had at least one health check and have been vaccinated and treated for parasites prior to sale.

Consultation questions

- 49. Are the requirements for dogs and cats to be sold fit for purpose?
- 50. What improvements could be made?

41 Consideration of conditions at proposed new home

The current Breeding Code does not require the person in charge of the facility to consider the conditions at the proposed new home.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes to include the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must implement policies to ensure that prospective buyers are matched to suitable dogs and cats, in accordance with the relevant written procedure.
- Standards: The policies must require staff to:
 - consider the number of animals already owned by the prospective owner so as to avoid hoarding of animals,
 - be satisfied that the animal is physically and psychologically well, and
 - be satisfied that it is within the capacity of the prospective owner to care for the animal.

There are clear welfare problems associated with purchase of animals by inappropriate buyers. By having procedures in place, staff will be able to educate potential buyers about the types of care an animal may require and if the buyer can meet these commitments. It will also reduce the incidence of impulse purchases and the risk of animals being abandoned.

Consultation questions

- 51. Are the considerations of conditions at a proposed new home fit for purpose?
- 52. What improvements could be made?

42 Information and advice to new owners

The current Breeding Code requires that at time of purchase, clients must be offered accurate written information at no charge which concerns the care of the animals purchased (see S9.1.1.6). Despite this, the current Breeding Code only encourages the person in charge to include specific information.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes to require specific information to be included in the written information provided to new owners.

It also proposes that the person in charge of a facility must ensure all dogs and cats being sold are accompanied with *Breeder Health Declaration*, including details of any known physical

abnormality at the time of sale and how that abnormality may affect the short- and long-term health and welfare of the dog or cat, and a vaccination certificate detailing the dog's or cat's vaccination history, and any other preventative and veterinary treatments provided.

Educating owners about responsible pet ownership and the minimum care requirements of an animal directly contributes to improved animal welfare. The provision of detailed information ensures that the care and welfare of an animal is maintained once an animal leaves the facility.

Consultation questions

53. Are the requirements for information and advice to new owners fit for purpose?
54. What improvements could be made?

Part 8 Breeding and rearing

43 Special requirements for mating dogs and cats

The current Breeding Code requires that bitches and queens must not be intentionally mated during their first oestrus cycle (see S10.1.1.1.).

The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following additional requirements for mating dogs and cats:

- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure:
 - a dog or cat is physically and psychologically healthy, free of disease at the time of being mated,
 - during mating, breeding pairs re isolated from the remaining breeding population, and monitored by the person in charge of the facility,
 - a female dog or cat that is being unduly harassed during mating must be removed from the male,
 - breeding mates are not be closely related to one another,
 - an animal known or suspected of having a heritable disease or defect is not used for breeding, and
 - dogs and cats known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease are not used for breeding or accepted for breeding under lease unless a veterinary practitioner provides their written approval for the animal to be used for breeding.

It is intended that these standards will lead to improvements in the physical and psychological health of mating dogs and cats and their offspring. Ensuring appropriate pairing of animals will lead to an increase in likelihood that progeny will be of sound physical and psychological health, and subsequently reduce euthanasia rates.

Consultation questions

55. Are the special requirements for mating dogs and cats fit for purpose?
56. What improvements could be made?

44 Frequency of breeding

The current Breeding Code requires that bitches must not have any more than two litters in any two year period (see 10.1.1.9) and queens must not have any more than three litters in any two year period (see 10.1.1.10).

As part of the CABP Inquiry the Joint Select Committee recommended that the NSW Government review the Breeding Code to determine whether current lifetime and periodic litter

restrictions and introducing mandatory desexing of animals which have reached the end of their breeding lives would achieve acceptable animal welfare outcomes.

AWAC reviewed this recommendation and supported the introduction of setting a lifetime litter restrictions for dogs and cats and requiring mandatory desexing once this is reached. The Council also considered the appropriateness of setting a mandatory maximum breeding age. However, due to the variation in breed types, sizes and rates of growth, it was determined this would be inappropriate.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:
 - bitches do not have more than two litters in any two year period, and do not have any more than six litters in her lifetime,
 - queens do not have more than three litters in any two year period, and do have any more than six litters in her lifetime.
- Standards: If a bitch or queen is five years of age and has not reached six litters, the person in charge of a facility must ensure that the bitch or queen is examined by a veterinarian to ensure the animal's suitability for continued breeding.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must arrange for a bitch or queen to be desexed when the bitch or queen has had six litters.

Setting a maximum number of litters per lifetime prevents welfare issues associated with overbreeding from individual animals. High numbers of litters during the lifetime of a bitch or queen negatively affects the quality of their life, rehoming prospects and lowers life expectancy. Furthermore, requiring mandatory desexing means that bitches and queens will not accidentally be able to fall pregnant after having six litters, thereby reducing unexpected or unwanted litters. By also requiring that a dog or cat must be examined by a veterinary practitioner at five years of age, if they have not reached six litters and the owner wishes to breed another litter from the animal, ensures that animals that are starting to age are deemed physically sound and suitable to be used for breeding by a veterinary practitioner.

Consultation questions

57. Are the requirements for frequency of breeding fit for purpose?

58. What improvements could be made?

46 Special requirements for birthing

In addition to the current Breeding Code requiring bitches and queens to be isolated and monitored while birthing (see S10.1.1.5), the draft Breeding S&G proposes the following:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that within seven days of the expected whelping or kitting date, a pregnant bitch or queen is separated from the remaining breeding population and moved to a specific whelping or kitting housing area and provided with a suitable whelping or kitting box that is lined with clean bedding that is changed daily.
- Standards: The person in charge of the facility must ensure that a sufficiently trained staff member is available to attend and care for whelping bitches and kitting queens during all hours, and to undertake emergency actions as necessary.
- Standards: During birthing, the person in charge of the facility must ensure bitches and queens are monitored by staff on a regular basis to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a bitch or queen must be immediately examined by a veterinary practitioner and appropriate action taken if:
 - there is evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced and there is no progress within two hours, or
 - abnormalities are observed in the whelping or kitting, or
 - there are concerns for the welfare of a bitch or queen in the birthing process.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that after birth is complete, a bitch or queen and her litter are monitored six hourly until the puppies or kittens are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.
- Standards: Within 24 hours of delivery of a litter, the person in charge of a facility must ensure the mother and young are examined by a sufficiently trained staff member and health checked by a veterinary practitioner if there are concerns for the welfare of the bitch or queen or the offspring, and the birthing area cleaned and disinfected.

Breeding dogs and cats may experience distress or difficulty during birthing, which may occur outside of normal business hours. It is important that the person in charge has staff available to seek 24 hour emergency veterinary services for emergency situations.

Setting standards for monitoring births ensures that any adverse observations are immediately identified, and appropriate actions can be taken. This reduces the likelihood of an animal suffering, and thereby promotes the welfare of animals.

Consultation questions

59. Are the special requirements for birthing fit for purpose?
60. What improvements could be made?

49 Weaning puppies and kittens

In addition to the current Breeding Code requiring that puppies and kittens are observed to ensure weekly weight gain (see S10.1.1.15), the new standard proposes that puppies and kittens are weighed weekly and individual weights recorded in the Animal Directory. It is also proposed to require that breeding females have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner within eight weeks post-partum.

Requiring a record of puppy and kitten weights to be kept provides clear unambiguous evidence that the animals are growing and developing appropriately. It also allows enforcement agencies to determine whether a facility is compliant with POCTA and the Breeding S&G.

Consultation Questions

61. Are the requirements for weaning puppies and kittens fit for purpose?
62. What improvements could be made?

Part 9 Humane destruction

52 Who may perform humane destruction

The current Breeding Code requires that euthanasia of dogs and cats may be performed only by a veterinary surgeon or a person who is a euthanasia technician (see S8.3.1.3). It is proposed to update the requirements for humane destruction so that it may only be performed by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations.

The draft Breeding S&G proposes to make the following compulsory:

- Standards: The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the humane destruction of an animal is only carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations.
- Standards: In emergency situations, the person in charge of a facility must contact a veterinary practitioner for advice. If the veterinary practitioner cannot attend the facility, the animal may be humanely destroyed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner only.
- Standards: The person in charge of a facility that humanely destroys an animal in an emergency situation must make a record of the date, animal, method used to humanely destroy the animal, and reasons for emergency humane destruction, in the Animal Directory.

Veterinary practitioners are considered experts in their field. It is important that dogs and cats are euthanased by a competent qualified person. AWAC has provided advice that euthanasia must only be carried out by a veterinary practitioner for breeding facilities. Requiring a veterinary practitioner to euthanase dogs and cats ensures that a considered decision is made in the interests of the animal's welfare, and that the euthanasia is carried out by an experienced professional.

It is accepted however that on occasion emergencies arise, where transporting a dog or cat in an emergency situation may cause undue stress and have a negative impact on the animal's welfare. The proposed standards allow euthanasia in emergency circumstances e.g. where a veterinary practitioner may not be close by, or where transporting an animal may cause greater harm. In these situations a person in charge will be required to make contact initially with a veterinary practitioner to seek advice and agree on appropriate method of euthanasia.

Consultation questions

63. Are the requirements for who may perform humane destruction fit for purpose?

64. What improvements could be made?

Appendix A

Feedback form for printing and mailing to:

**Animal Welfare
Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
Department of Primary Industries
Breeding Dogs and Cats S&G consultation
161 Kite St
Orange NSW 2800**

Privacy Notice – draft Breeding S&G consultation

When you give us your feedback, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be collecting some personal information about you, in particular:

- your name
- your email address
- the name of your organisation (if provided)
- any personal information you decide to put in the additional comments fields.

All feedback received through this consultation process may be made publicly available. Please do not include any personal information in your feedback that you do not want published.

This information is being collected by DPI as part of the draft Breeding S&G consultation process. As part of that process, we may need to share your information with people outside DPI, including other public authorities and other government agencies. We may also use your email contact details to send you notifications about further feedback opportunities or the outcome of consultation.

You should also be aware there may be circumstances when DPI is required by law to release information (for example, in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*).

Responses are to be received by **5pm, Friday 22 December 2017** via mail or email to animal.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au with subject 'Breeding S&G' consultation.

Please complete the following information:

Mr / Mrs / Ms

First name

Surname

Position & Organisation

Email

Address

Contact telephone

Street no./Mailbox no.:

Business:

Street name:

Mobile:

Suburb & Post Code:

Feedback form

Focus area and questions

4 Interpretation

Question 1. Are the definitions provided clear and easily understood?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 2. Should there be any additional definitions included?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 3. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

5 Responsibilities and competency of staff

Question 4. Are the qualifications or competencies required for breeding staff adequate?

Yes / No

Question 5. Does the phased in period of 2 years provide sufficient time for breeding staff to meet the minimum staff training requirements?

Yes / No

Question 6. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

6 Required numbers of staff

Question 7. Are the required numbers of breeding staff fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 8. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

7 Staff training register

Question 9. Are the requirements of the training register adequate?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 10. Should there be additional information required to be kept in the training register?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 11. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

8 Directory of information about dogs and cats

Question 12. Are the requirements of the Animal Directory adequate?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 13. Should there be additional information required to be kept in the Animal Directory?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 14. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

12 Written operating procedures

Question 15. Are the procedural documents required to be kept fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 16. Should there be any additional procedural documents required to be kept?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 17. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

13 Construction standards

Question 18. Are the design and construction standards fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 19. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

14 Lighting of dog and cat housing

Question 20. Are the lighting standards fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 21. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

16 Temperature of dog and cat housing

Question 22. Are the temperature standards fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 23. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

19 Exercise enclosures for dogs

Question 24. Are the requirements for exercise enclosures for dogs fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 25. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

20 Dog and cat treatment room

Question 26. Are the requirements for a dog and cat treatment room and isolation facility fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 27. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

22 Group housing

Question 28. Are the requirements for group housing fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 29. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

25 Special cat housing requirements

Question 30. Are the special cat housing requirements fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 31. What improvements could be made?

Comment :

29 General standards for the care of dogs and cats

Question 32. Are the requirements for the general standards for dog and cat care fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 33. Are the Appendices meaningful and easily understood?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 34. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

30 Food and water requirements

Question 35. Are the food and water requirements fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 36. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

31 Cleanliness and hygiene requirements

Question 37. Are the cleanliness and hygiene requirements fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 38. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

32 Requirements when transporting dogs and cats

Question 39. Are the transport requirements fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 40. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

33 Monitoring health status of dogs and cats

Question 41. Are the requirements for monitoring the health status of dogs and cats fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 42. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

34 Arrangements with a veterinary practitioner

Question 43. Are the requirements for arrangements with a veterinary practitioner fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 44. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

35 Veterinary treatment of animals

Question 45. Are the requirements for veterinary treatment of animals fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 46. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

37 Control of parasites

Question 47. Are the requirements for pest and parasite control fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 48. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

39 Requirements for dogs and cats to be sold

Question 49. Are the requirements for dogs and cats to be sold fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 50. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

41 Consideration of conditions at proposed new home

Question 51. Are the considerations of conditions at a proposed new home fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 52. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

42 Information and advice to new owners

Question 53. Are the requirements for information and advice to new owners fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 54. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

43 Special requirements for mating dogs and cats

Question 55. Are the special requirements for mating dogs and cats fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 56. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

44 Frequency of breeding

Question 57. Are the requirements for frequency of breeding fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 58. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

46 Special requirements for birthing

Question 59. Are the special requirements for birthing fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 60. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

49 Weaning puppies and kittens

Question 61. Are the requirements for weaning puppies and kittens fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 62. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

52 Who may perform humane destruction

Question 63. Are the requirements for who may perform humane destruction fit for purpose?

Yes / No

Comment:

Question 64. What improvements could be made?

Comment:

General

Comments: