



Care & Management



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I have written on this subject previously and the importance of managing our dogs, or any companion animal we have. This topic is worthy of revisiting, to emphasise the necessity of caring for them appropriately.

DOGS NSW Code of Ethics covers essential aspects of management of keeping and

breeding our beautiful purebred dogs. The Code of Ethics document provides guidelines and standards we must observe in achieving being responsible owners and breeders of purebred dogs and of particular importance is Clause 4 which states:

“A Member commits to compliance with both the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) and the Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA) and their related Regulations as well as to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats. (AWCOP)”

A very important part of care of our animals is providing suitable housing or kennelling and pens for them to sleep in. The AWCOP gives an overview of responsibilities required to meet minimum level of care for our dogs as set by the NSW Government in consultation with DOGS NSW and other stakeholders. The areas covered are:

- Responsibilities and Competency
- Management systems
- Animal Housing
- Environment
- Security
- Animal Management
- Food and Water
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Transport
- Animal Health
- Veterinary Care
- Humane Destruction
- Transfer of Ownership
- Breeding and Rearing

Each of the above points lists “Standards” which are essential requirements that must be met under law and “Guidelines” describe best practice where assessable “Standards” are difficult to determine.

DOGS NSW Regulations Part 14, Guidelines for the Care and Management of Keeping and Breeding Dogs, should also be observed and read in conjunction with the AWCOP document. If doing a comparison on similar topics, you will observe many DOGS NSW requirements exceed that quoted in the AWCOP document. We feel our dogs deserve to be cared for at a higher level than the “Standards” stipulated under the AWCOP, as we should be setting the standard for care and management of our dogs.

To most members, the care and management protocols outlined are in fact your own minimum standards, already achieved and maintained. Reviewing these documents may highlight an area where you could improve your current practices. We should never be complacent about the care and welfare of our dogs, as it is important to keep up to date with current community expectations, DOGS NSW regulations and government regulatory requirements.

Please take note, that your dogs cannot be allowed to have dirt floor pens, nor can the floor be wet or have water pooling for prolonged periods of time. If your outside dog pens have run to dirt because of water restrictions/drought, then I recommend you pave or concrete the area OR put down 8-10 cms of fine blue metal (14mm-20mm) as a floor base. The blue metal will prevent your dogs from running in dirt, or the dog pens becoming mud pools in wet weather. The blue metal does need to be contained, therefore a border must be installed that will retain the blue metal and also allow adequate drainage.

We all love our dogs and managed well they can be happy family companions too.

