



REGULATIONS

PART XIV

GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF KEEPING AND BREEDING DOGS

**This Part incorporates Regulations of Dogs Australia
National Code of Practice of Responsible Dog Ownership**
https://dogsaustralia.org.au/media/9966/da_cop_jul-23.pdf

Reference to “Dogs Australia” herein is a reference to the Australian National Kennel Council Limited (ABN 77 151 544 679) trading as Dogs Australia

(Adopted 9/96)

Revised 10 July 2013

July 2018 – to amend Dogs NSW to DOGS NSW

Amended November 2020

Amended June 2023

Amended July 2023 – to include Dogs Australia rider

Amended May 2025

*This Regulation is based on the Code of Practice for all dog and cat breeders
by virtue of the Animal Trades Regulations under the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA) which came into force on 1.8.96*

DOGS NEW SOUTH WALES
PO BOX 632, ST MARYS NSW 1790
TEL: (02) 9834 3022 FAX: (02) 9834 3872

REGULATIONS

PART XIV - Guidelines for the Care and Management of Keeping and Breeding Dogs

INDEX		PAGE
SECTION 1	Introduction	3
SECTION 2	Basic Welfare Requirements	3
SECTION 3	Responsibilities of Owner	4
SECTION 4	Animal Housing	5
	4.1 Location	5
	4.2 Construction	5
	4.3 Size	6
	4.4 Temperature	6
	4.5 Noise	7
	4.6 Lighting	7
	4.7 Ventilation	7
	4.8 Bedding	7
	4.9 Security	8
SECTION 5	Hygiene	8
	5.1 Cleaning & Disinfection	8
	5.2 Pest Control	9
	5.3 Waste Disposal	9
SECTION 6	Management	9
	6.1 Care of Animals	9
	6.2 Staff	10
SECTION 7	Breeding and Rearing	10
	7.1 Breeding & Whelping	10
	7.2 Care of Puppies	11
	7.3 Older Breeding Animals	11
SECTION 8	Health Care	12
	8.1 Disease Prevention	12
	8.2 Health Checks	12
	8.3 Veterinary Attention	13
SECTION 9	Diet	13
	9.1 Food	13
	9.2 Food Preparation and Care	14
	9.3 Water	14
SECTION 10	Exercise	14
SECTION 11	Transport	15
SECTION 12	Sale of Animals	16
SECTION 13	Special Requirements	17

REGULATIONS

PART XIV - GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF KEEPING AND BREEDING DOGS

IN THESE GUIDELINES A REFERENCE TO:

“Dog Kennels” or “housing” includes any place, structure or thing in which a dog is usually kept.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 These guidelines set desirable standards for the care and management of keeping and breeding dogs.
- 1.2 They apply to the welfare of all dogs kept at premises each calendar year.
- 1.3 In considering the application of these guidelines to a particular situation, due regard must be given to individual circumstances, including the personal circumstances of those responsible for the premises, and whether the kennelling or housing is of a kind generally available to the public and intended for use as such.
- 1.4 A member will not be regarded as being in breach of these guidelines unless:
 - (a) The breach is of a serious nature and has had, or is likely to have, a significantly deleterious affect on a dog(s); **(07/13)**
 - (b) In all other cases, the member has been given written notice of apparent breach of the guidelines and has not within 30 days of receipt of such notice taken such action as the notice shall specify as is reasonably necessary in the circumstances to rectify the situation.

2. **BASIC WELFARE REQUIREMENTS (07/13)**

- 2.1 A Member, or their Agent, shall, at all times, ensure that all dogs under that Member's control are properly housed, fed, watered, exercised and receive proper veterinary attention, as and when required. *(Part XIII – COE, Clause 1)*
- 2.2 A Member commits to compliance with both the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Companion Animals Act 1998 and their related Regulations as well as to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats *(Part XIII – COE, Clause 4)*

2.3 A Member shall breed only with the intent of maintaining and/or improving the standard of the Breed and the health, welfare and soundness of their dogs having regard to the following:-

- (i) by striving to eliminate hereditary diseases within their dogs and their breed.
- (ii) that the health, physical welfare and fitness for function of dogs is of prime importance, and
- (iii) that a Member shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that dogs bred by them do not suffer from any disorder that impedes their sight, breathing or ability to move freely or which is otherwise detrimental to their comfort and wellbeing. *(Part XIII – COE, clauses 7 - 13)*

3. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER**

3.1 The owner/Lessee or their agent of their dogs is responsible for: **(07/13)**

- 3.1.1 Provision of accommodation and equipment which suits the physical and behavioural requirements of the breed and number of dogs held. **(07/13)**
- 3.1.2 Provision of protection for dogs, as necessary, from adverse natural or artificial environmental conditions, other animals and unwarranted interference from humans.
- 3.1.3 Provision of sufficient space for dogs to at least stand, move around freely, stretch fully and rest. **(07/13)**
- 3.1.4 Provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate food and water to maintain good health and to support optimal growth and reproduction.
- 3.1.5 Protection of dogs as far as possible from disease, distress and injury.
- 3.1.6 Provision of prompt and appropriate veterinary treatment in case of disease or injury.
- 3.1.7 Maintenance of hygiene of the premises and health of the dogs held.
- 3.1.8 Supervision of regular exercise, daily feeding, watering and inspection of dogs adequate to ensure their welfare.

- 3.1.9 Supervision of staff, whether working full or part-time and whether or not working for fee or reward.
- 3.1.10 Collation and maintenance of relevant records.

4. **ANIMAL HOUSING**

4.1 **Location**

- 4.1.1 Buildings which house dogs should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to animals.
- 4.1.2 All kennels and/or types of housing, must have an adequate water supply available at all times. **(07/13)**
- 4.1.3 Dogs which live partially or predominantly indoors should have adequate areas for sleeping and bedding suitable to that breed and the stage of life for the dog concerned.

Access to external exercise areas must be available for at least 2 hours daily, in increments of not less than 30 minutes, except under the written advice of a veterinary practitioner for health and/or age reasons. Exercise is to be breed appropriate, dogs are not to be tethered. (06/23)

4.2 **Construction**

- 4.2.1 Where kennel, buildings/housing are constructed outdoors, they must:
 - 4.2.1.1 protect from rain and wind, and
 - 4.2.1.2 provide adequate shade and water; **(07/13)**
 - 4.2.1.3 be partially enclosed to provide a sheltered sleeping area.
- 4.2.2 Where dog housing is constructed indoors, temperature, humidity and ventilation must be considered.
- 4.2.3 Kennel housing may be separated by either solid partitions, which help reduce noise, or by galvanised chain wire dividers. Advice should be sought on suitable construction materials for reducing noise. Night kennelling for noisy breeds or individuals should be considered. **(07/13)**

- 4.2.4 The internal surfaces of any kennel housing should be constructed of suitable, washable materials. **(07/13)**
- 4.2.5 Floors of kennels should be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage. Sealed concrete or brick is ideal. Grassed or landscaped sections may form part of large outdoor runs but must be adequately maintained and not allowed to deteriorate into bare earth, which is unacceptable.
- 4.2.6 Whelping and lactating bitches, as well as sick and injured animals must be housed singly in a quiet, warm and dry area away from interference by other animals. Bitches in season should be kept away from males unless being bred. **(07/13)**

4.3 **Size**

- 4.3.1 Dog housing, whether for a single dog or group of dogs must provide enough space for each dog to at least feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about, and sufficient space for bedding as required by Clause 4.8. Portable crates are not acceptable as permanent housing. **(07/13)**
- 4.3.2 Dog kennels and housing should be of sufficient height relative to the size of the breed concerned and so as to permit easy cleaning. **(07/13)**

External fencing/runs should be of sufficient height for the breed concerned, such that it ensures the dogs are safely and securely held. **(07/13)**
- 4.3.3 External buildings and fencing must comply with community amenity. **(07/13)**

4.4 **Temperature**

- 4.4.1 Dogs must be protected from extremes of temperature.
- 4.4.2 Very old, very young puppies and pregnant bitches which are more sensitive than others to changes in temperature, may require provision of heating or cooling. **(07/13)**
- 4.4.3 Particular attention should be given to protection for brachycephalic (short faced) breeds, especially against heat. **(07/13)**

4.5 **Noise**

4.5.1 Noise from barking dogs must be managed to comply with noise regulations and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:

4.5.1.1 Situating kennels so that they do not face each other;

4.5.1.2 Limiting external stimulation, eg. by partitioning between kennels or use of blinds;

4.5.1.3 Holding dogs singly or in compatible pairs.

4.5.1.4 Providing provision for night kennelling (ie enclosed at night).

4.6 **Lighting**

4.6.1 Lighting should be as close as possible, in duration and intensity, to natural conditions.

4.6.2 Sunlight is the preferred means of lighting, provided shaded areas are available.

4.6.3 Artificial light should be provided, where needed, to allow animal housing areas to be thoroughly cleaned and dogs checked.

4.7 **Ventilation (07/13)**

4.7.1 Ventilation of dog housing/kennelling areas should be sufficient to maintain the health of the animals. **(07/13)**

4.7.2 Ventilation should be sufficient to distribute fresh air evenly to all areas holding animals and to keep dog kennel/housing free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts. **(07/13)**

4.7.3 Ventilation should also assist in temperature control. **(07/13)**

4.8 **Bedding**

4.8.1 All kennels should be provided with a sleeping area and appropriate bedding for the breed and age of the dog concerned. **(07/13)**

4.8.2 Bedding provided for dogs must be changed frequently and be kept clean and dry.

- 4.8.3 Whelping and lactating bitches must be provided with a suitable whelping box/area that is lined with clean bedding that is cleaned as required, at least once daily. **(07/13)**

4.9 **Security**

- 4.9.1 Kennel buildings must be securely lockable.
- 4.9.2 Each individual kennel must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the dogs held.
- 4.9.3 Any security methods used must allow for ready access by owners/staff to dogs and ready exit of owners/staff and dogs from the premises in the event of an emergency. **(07/13)**
- 4.9.4 Dogs held in backyards should not be allowed to roam outside of their owners/agents/lessees premises unattended. Gates and fencing must be secure enough and of sufficient height to ensure the dogs safety. **(07/13)**

5. **HYGIENE**

5.1 **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 5.1.1 Dog kennels, housing and exercise areas must be kept clean so that the comfort, health and welfare of animals can be maintained and diseases controlled. **(07/13)**
- 5.1.2 Faeces should be removed at least once daily.
- 5.1.3 Kennels and associated housing or exercise areas should be cleaned daily. Kennels should be disinfected at least once each week, before new dogs or puppies are introduced and after an outbreak of infectious disease. **(07/13)**
- 5.1.4 Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Care should be exercised when using phenol based agents in conjunction with other disinfectants.

Manufacturer's instructions for the use of these agents should be followed, since too dilute a solution may be ineffective and too concentrated a solution may be toxic to dogs.

All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or use, must be kept out of reach from dogs. **(07/13)**

- 5.1.5 After cleaning, any housing or kennels should not be allowed to remain wet.

5.2 **Pest Control**

- 5.2.1 Efforts must be made to effectively control external pests including fleas, ticks, flies, lice, mosquitoes and wild rodents. **(07/13)**
- 5.2.2 Chemicals used for pest control should be registered under the Pesticides Act 1978 (as amended) and used only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.2.3 Because some dogs and some breeds may be adversely affected by pest control agents, expert advice should be sought before pest control operations are carried out. **(07/13)**

5.3 **Waste Disposal**

- 5.3.1 Droppings, bedding, food wastes and animal bodies must be disposed of promptly and hygienically and in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Authority.

6. **MANAGEMENT**

6.1 **Care of Animals**

- 6.1.1 Dogs are to be protected from stress or injury caused by other animals, and from excessive handling or interference by prospective purchasers.
- 6.1.2 Appropriate records relating to the owner's/Lessee's dogs must be kept of:
 - 6.1.2.1 Acquisition and disposal of dogs or puppies
 - 6.1.2.2 Vaccination and worming treatments,
 - 6.1.2.3 Any relevant health issues or ongoing treatments. **(07/13)**
 - 6.1.2.4 Breeding history. **(07/13)**

- 6.1.3 In relation to each dog held short-term for breeding purposes but owned/leased by a person other than the owner or staff, the following information must be ascertained: **(07/13)**
- the dogs name
 - name, address and telephone number of its owner or Lessee
 - contact telephone number and address of owner (if different to the above) or the owner's nominee
 - expected date of collection by owner
 - details of medical and dietary requirements
 - vaccination status
 - heartworm treatment status **(07/13)**
 - name and contact telephone number of a veterinarian who normally attends the animal.
- 6.1.4 Grooming should be kept to at least a minimum standard of care as required for that breed and coat type. Coats should not be left dirty, tangled or unkempt. **(07/13)**

6.2 **Staff**

- 6.2.1 Staff should respect the dogs and have experience in handling them. Formal training, such as a technical college qualification in animal care, is an advantage.
- 6.2.2 Staff should be aware of their responsibilities and competent to carry them out.

7. **BREEDING and REARING (07/13)**

7.1 **Breeding and Whelping**

- 7.1.1 Bitches/litters must be bred in accordance with the Code of Ethics (6), and with ANKC accepted minimums (Code of Ethics 7-13). See also Basic Welfare – section 2 above.
- 7.1.2 Breeding practices should ensure that the puppies produced are as sound and healthy as possible.
- 7.1.3 Pregnant bitches in the later stages of pregnancy and lactating bitches need to be fed more frequently and in larger amounts, up to 2-3 times normal. Water consumption may be higher and must be available at all times.

- 7.1.4 Bitches should be isolated from the rest of the dogs while whelping and should be monitored to ensure that whelping proceeds in a normal manner. If whelping does not proceed after 2 hours, veterinary advice should be sought and the appropriate remedial action taken.
- 7.1.5 Whelping and lactating bitches must be provided with a suitable whelping box or area, lined with clean bedding and changes daily.
- 7.1.6 Lactating bitches should be kept isolated from other dogs, however the puppies require ongoing human socialization particularly after 2 weeks of age. Lactating mothers should be housed in such a manner that they are able to escape their young to eat, drink and exercise.

7.2 **Care of Puppies**

- 7.2.1 As the puppies emerge from the whelping box/area there should be an exercise area and area to get away from the nest to urinate and defecate and learn good toileting practices.
- 7.2.2 Puppies should not be totally separated from their litters or lactating mother under the age of 6 weeks in order to facilitate socialisation, except where in the best interest of the puppy or the mother.
- 7.2.3 Puppies should be offered solid, soaked food from 3 weeks of age (larger breeds and litters may require an earlier start). Puppies should be monitored and regularly wormed to ensure they achieve a steady weight gain per week.

Puppies that fail to thrive should be referred for veterinary attention.

- 7.2.4 Puppies should be well socialised, health checked, vaccinated and microchipped prior to sale. Puppies should not leave the care of the breeder under 8 weeks of age. (*Code of Ethics 17*) **(11/20)**

7.3 **Older Breeding Animals**

- 7.3.1 Older dogs or bitches that have reached the end of their useful breeding life should ideally be desexed, particularly if being rehomed.

8. **HEALTH CARE**

8.1 **Disease Prevention**

- 8.1.1 For both resident dogs and dogs held short-term for breeding, vaccination against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus (C3) is required as per the current international vaccination protocols (C3 vaccinations at 6-8 weeks, 12-14 weeks and 16-18 weeks of age. Revaccinate at 12-15 months and then every 3-4 years thereafter.) **(07/13)**

Vaccination against kennel cough is recommended, particularly for kennel or multiple dog situations. **(07/13)**

- 8.1.2 Programs for the regular treatment of gastrointestinal worms must be in place and in accordance with veterinary advice. **(07/13)**
- 8.1.3 Programs for heartworm prevention in dogs should be in place, where appropriate, and in accordance with veterinary advice.
- 8.1.4 A program for the control of fleas and other local external parasites, both on the dogs and in the environment must be in place. **(07/13)**

8.2 **Health Checks**

- 8.2.1 Each dog shall be checked at least once daily to monitor its health and comfort.
- 8.2.2 The person checking the dogs and puppies should note whether each dog or puppy:
- is eating
 - is drinking
 - is defecating
 - is urinating
 - is behaving normally
 - is of normal appearance
 - is able to move about freely
 - has a normal coat
 - is not showing any obvious signs of illness or disease **(07/13)**
- 8.2.3 Any changes in health status should be reported promptly to the person in charge.

8.3 Veterinary Attention

8.3.1 The person in charge should establish liaison with a veterinary surgeon who is able to attend to any dog or puppy in his or her care. This response should be rapid particularly during a whelping or perceived emergency situation. **(07/13)**

8.3.2 Veterinary attention must be sought for any dog/puppy showing one or more of the following conditions:

- runny nose;
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- repeated sneezing
- coughing
- vomiting
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- lameness
- inability to stand or walk
- bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of bitches on heat)
- weight loss (particularly if severe or sudden)
- inappetence (lack of appetite);
- apparent pain
- fits or staggering
- bloating of abdomen
- inability to urinate or defecate
- dystocia (difficulty during whelping)

8.3.3 Humane Euthanasia (07/13)

If despite medical treatment and care, a sick dog fails to improve in health and is deemed to be suffering by a veterinary surgeon, the dog should be humanely euthanased by a veterinarian.

9. DIET

9.1 Food

9.1.1 Dogs and puppies must receive an appropriate, uncontaminated and nutritionally balanced diet according to the accepted requirements for the breed and age. The food should be in sufficient quantity and of appropriate composition and amount in order to maintain: **(07/13)**

- normal growth and weight of puppies **(07/13)**
- normal weight of adult dogs at different ages **(07/13)**
- the requirements for pregnancy and lactation.
- the requirements for heavy work or extreme conditions **(07/13)**

- 9.1.2 A variety of foods - including dry food, canned food, fresh meat and fish, should be supplied.
- 9.1.3 Pregnant and lactating bitches require approximately twice the amount of food required normally. Bitches feeding larger litters may require up to 3 x normal amounts. **(07/13)**
- 9.1.4 Pregnant and lactating bitches should be fed 2- 3 times daily.
- 9.1.5 Puppies from 3-6 weeks of age should be fed 3-4 times daily.
- 9.1.6 Puppies between 6-12 weeks of age should be feed 2-3 times daily.
- 9.1.7 Puppies between 12 weeks and 8 months of age should be fed 1-2 times daily.
- 9.1.8 Older dogs should be fed daily with due consideration of their desired end body weight, unless required to be fed more frequently due to medical conditions. **(07/13)**

9.2 **Food Preparation and Care**

- 9.2.1 Food should be prepared hygienically and stored appropriately, ie, dry food kept in a rodent-free place and fresh meat kept refrigerated.
- 9.2.2 Food dishes should be preferably non-chewable and non-spillable. They must be readily accessible and cleaned at least daily.
- 9.2.3 Uneaten, stale food should be removed and disposed of promptly so that it does not spoil or attract vermin.

9.3 **Water**

Adequate amounts of clean fresh water must be available at all times.
(07/13)

10. **EXERCISE**

- 10.1 All dogs regardless of where or how they are housed, must have the opportunity for exercise to: **(07/13)**
 - 10.1.1 allow them to urinate and defecate.
 - 10.1.2 give them contact with humans and, if appropriate, with other dogs.
 - 10.1.3 allow them to be checked over.

10.1.4 let them stretch their limbs.

Dogs should be exercised sufficiently to maintain their health and fitness.

10.2 Exercise can be provided by:

10.2.1 allowing dogs access to an exercise area for a minimum of 2 hours daily in increments of not less than 30 minutes; and/or **(05/25)**

10.2.2 can also include walking dogs on a lead for a minimum of 15 minutes daily; and **(05/25)**

10.2.3 exercise must be breed appropriate; and **(05/25)**

10.2.4 dogs must not be tethered. **(05/25)**

A veterinary practitioner is to provide written advice if a dog, due to health and/or age reasons, is to be limited in daily exercise. (05/25)

10.3 Amount of exercise **(07/13)**

10.3.1 Dogs should be exercised with due concern to their age, health, physical condition and the ambient temperature at the time.

10.3.2 Dogs should only have limited exercise in very hot conditions.

Avoid exercising dogs in the hottest part of the day.

10.3.3 Brachycephalic dogs breeds require more care and attention in hot weather.

10.3.4 Very active or old dogs may require more or less exercise than specified.

11. TRANSPORT

11.1 Dogs should be transported in the shortest practicable time. They should not be left in parked vehicles in the sun or in hot weather unless adequate ventilation and shade is provided.

11.2 Any vehicle (including trailers) especially designed or regularly used for transporting animals should:

- protect dogs or puppies from injury
- have non-slip floors. Direct contact with metal flooring is to be avoided.
- provide easy access and operator safety
- protect against extremes of temperature

- protect against unauthorised release of animals
- be easy to clean and disinfect
- must provide adequate light and natural ventilation

11.3 All dogs or puppies sold should be boxed, crated or otherwise suitably restrained to ensure their security and protection if sent to the new owner. **(07/13)**

11.4 Food and water should be provided as required during long periods of transport. On long road trips, adequate stops should be made to allow dogs the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defecate where appropriate and for the enclosures to be cleaned where necessary. **(07/13)**

11.5 Containers should be strong enough to withstand stacking and general handling and constructed to provide adequate ventilation and light, with consideration to the climatic conditions prevailing at the time (heat, cold etc) and the size and breed of the dog being transported. Brachycephalic breeds need proportionally larger areas than other breeds for free flow of air. **(07/13)**

11.6 The consignor and consignee should confirm departure and arrival time of dogs/puppies with the carrier. In the event of delays or cancellations it is the responsibility of the carrier to ensure the welfare of animals in transit.

11.7 Containers in which dogs/puppies are transported must be clearly labelled with the time and date of departure, name and address of the consignor and consignee and phone numbers for contacting them.

11.8 Transport by air should be in accordance with IATA guidelines.

12. **SALE OF ANIMALS**

12.1 Members must comply with the Code of Ethics requirements 15-22. This includes no puppy should leave the care of the breeder before it is 8 weeks of age. **(07/13)**

12.2 No dog may be sold unless it has been microchipped and vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus, and is accompanied by a current vaccination certificate and the relevant CAR microchipping paperwork. **(07/13)**

12.3 The purchaser of any puppy or dog should be handed at the time of sale printed advice about the animal, including information on:

12.3.1 general care, housing, welfare and management requirements;

12.3.2 appropriate diet for the age and breed; **(07/13)**

12.3.3 responsibilities of dog ownership;

12.3.4 vaccination, desexing and registration requirements, where appropriate.

12.3.5 breed specific information. **(07/13)**

13. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

13.1 Breeders will take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases *(also covered by Code of Ethics 6 and mentioned under Welfare section 2 above)*.

13.2 Where an hereditary disease(s) is/are recognised in a breed and where there is/are suitable and reliable screening procedures or tests for that disease(s). **(07/13)**

The Stud Dog

13.2.1 The owner of a stud dog should, before making the dog available for stud duty:

- Have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog for such hereditary disease(s);
- Provide a copy of the official evaluation or test result to owners of bitches to be mated.

The Bitch

13.2.2 The owner of a bitch should, before mating her to a dog:-

- Have a current official evaluation or test result for the bitch for such hereditary disease(s);
- Provide a copy of the official evaluation or test result to the owner of the stud dog;

13.2.3 Ensure that the proposed mating fits with the parameters of responsible action to reduce hereditary diseases within the breed.

13.3 Before any puppy or adult dog is sold, the prospective owner should be advised that the breeder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is healthy.