

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**25 September 2009**

**Promoting  
Responsible  
Dog  
Ownership**



## **Dogs NSW Supports New Code of Practice for Dog Breeders**

**Dogs NSW** supports the *Animal Welfare Code of Practice - Breeding Dogs and Cats* announced on 23 September 2009 by the *NSW Minister for Primary Industries*, Mr Ian McDonald. **Dogs NSW** is pleased to have worked on this strategy with the Department and hopes to see the health and welfare of dogs and cats improve as a result.

The Code, which comes into effect today, sets minimum guidelines for treatment of animals under the care of commercial breeders in regards to their environment and health. It also urges breeders to socialise dogs with humans, which will make them better pets, and better members of the community.

Under the new rules, animals are required be completely free of disease before they are mated and their health monitored on a daily basis. Written information must be provided to each purchaser to ensure that they are aware of their own pet ownership responsibilities, eg food, care, and shelter requirements.

“This Code of Practice will be of enormous benefit to society. It will also be a benefit to pet owners, and of course the dog and cat population of Australia. Responsible breeders will be able to demonstrate their commitment to animal welfare by following these rules.”, said veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesman **Dr Peter Higgins**.

“We expect this move to further deter unethical and fly by night operators from cutting corners when it comes to the health and wellbeing of their animals. The overall health of Australia’s dog population will continue to improve, and we’re very pleased about that. It will also put owners’ minds at ease when purchasing a puppy or kitten.”, explained **Dr Higgins**.

“I am glad to see a positive outcome as a result of the consultation between the NSW Government and peak animal welfare groups including Dogs NSW, and we look forward to further collaboration with the Department and the Minister in the future.”, declared **Dr Higgins**.

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***

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