

**ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
CODE OF PRACTICE
for
BREEDING DOGS AND CATS**

Title: Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats
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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is a Code of Practice prescribed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006 (the Regulation). People involved in the business of breeding dogs and cats are reminded that compliance with the standards specified in this Code is a requirement under that Regulation. New versions of this Code may be issued from time to time. It is the responsibility of users to ensure the version of the Code on which they rely is current by checking the Industry & Investment NSW website, or the Regulation. INT09/19370 Job No 9473

Black type: Original 2009 Standards and Guidelines

Green type: Extracted from 2017 DPI DRAFT

Blue type: DOGS NSW PROPOSALS

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1 PREFACE

This Code is designed for everyone involved in the activity of breeding dogs and cats and has been developed to protect the welfare of the animals in their care. By adhering to this Code, people involved in animal breeding demonstrate to the general community their concern for the welfare of the animals in their care.

When humans manipulate or limit an animal's choices in relation to its physical or social environment, the welfare of that animal must be considered. Humans have a duty of care towards these animals and the greater the level of intervention or control of an animal or its environment, the greater those responsibilities become.

Animal welfare can be thought of as the way an animal's health, safety and wellbeing are affected by its physical and social environment. Health and behaviour indicators provide information about how an animal is responding to a situation, thus enabling us to make informed decisions relating to the animal's welfare.

Compliance with this Code does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1979* and any other laws and regulations, for example; the *Local Government Act, 1993*; or the *Companion Animals Act, 1998*.

This Code contains both standards and guidelines for the care of dogs or cats for breeding. The standards have legal effect in three ways:

- Failure to meet a standard may result in a Penalty Infringement Notice or a prosecution under Clause 20 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006*.
- In more serious cases, failure to meet a standard may support a prosecution for an offence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1979*.

Under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* the person in charge of an animal is responsible for meeting the legal obligations regarding an animal's welfare. The person in charge, who may be the owner of the animal or another person who has the care or control of the animal, for example the breeding manager or a member of staff, is legally responsible for the care of the animal, and therefore for meeting the standards of this Code.

This Code has been prepared in consultation with Dogs NSW, Waratah National Cat Alliance, the Australian Veterinary Association, RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW, NSW Farmers, and other people and organisations involved in the industry. It is also endorsed by the NSW Animal Welfare Advisory Council.

The Code is neither a complete manual on animal husbandry, nor a static document. It will be revised from time to time to take into account new knowledge of animal physiology and behaviour, technological advances, developments in standards of animal welfare and changing community attitudes and expectations about the humane treatment of animals.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. This Code sets the standards for the care and management of breeding dogs and cats.
- 2.2. It applies to the welfare of dogs and cats which are involved in the business of breeding and raising puppies and kittens.
- 2.3. This Code comprises both enforceable provisions and guidelines. Enforceable provisions are identified by the word “Standards”, and are located within boxes.
- 2.4. The incidental breeding of animals by pet shops, pounds or shelters are activities for which the standards are set by other Codes recognised by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2006*.

3 INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

3.1 INTERPRETATIONS

OBJECTIVES

The intended outcome(s) of this Code.

STANDARDS

Standards describe the mandatory specific actions needed to achieve acceptable animal welfare levels. These are the minimum standards that must be met under law.

They are identified in the text by the heading “Standards” and use the word “must”. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines describe the best practice agreed at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience. It also reflects society’s values and expectations regarding the care of animals. A guideline is usually a higher standard of care than minimum standards, except where the standard is best practice.

Guidelines will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided by a minimum standard. Guidelines are also appropriate where it is difficult to determine an assessable standard.

Guidelines are identified by a heading “Guidelines”.

Notes

Notes describe practical procedures where appropriate to achieve the minimum standards and guidelines.

3.2 DEFINITIONS/Interpretations

Animal means a dog, cat, puppy or kitten

ANKC means Australian National Kennel Council Ltd

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

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

Breeding means the act of causing a bitch or queen to produce a litter.

Breeding bitch means a fertile bitch over 1 year and under 8 years of age

Breeding Facility means any place, premises or thing used for accommodation or shelter of more than 10 breeding bitches or queens for the purpose of breeding or rearing dogs and cats.

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

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

Breeding Age means a fertile Bitch or over 12 months of age or a fertile queen over 9 months of age at the time of the first breeding.

Breeding queen means a fertile queen over the age of 9 months and under 8 years of age.

Cat means an animal of the species *Felis catus*.

Cat housing includes a cattery, cage, module, colony pen or other enclosure used to contain cats within a facility; or garages, carports, sheds, commercially sold dog kennels of any material, and any room forming part of a house, flat, apartment or town house used for human habitation.

Commercial Breeder means an owner and/or lessor of more than 10 fertile breeding bitches or queens.

Commercial Facility means a facility that holds more than 10 fertile breeding bitches or queens.

Dog means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris*.

Dog housing includes a kennel, cage, module, colony pen or other enclosure used to contain dogs within a facility; or garages, carports, sheds, commercially sold dog kennels of any material, and any room forming part of a house, flat, apartment or town house used for human habitation.

DOGS NSW means the Royal NSW Canine Council, which is the peak body for purebred registered dogs in NSW. Provides and requires membership training in all matters pertinent to dog breeding, welfare and approval of breeders prefixes for ANKC registration

DOGS NSW Code of Ethics means the strict breeding and welfare requirements that must be adhered to by all members of Dogs NSW.

Environmental enrichment means the provision of stimuli that promote appropriate physical and mental activities, resulting in healthier and more active animals.

Euthanasia technician means a person who has acquired through training, qualifications and experience, competency in humanely euthanising dogs and cats.

Exercise means free running in an exercise enclosure where the animal cannot escape. Exercise can also include exercise on a lead outside of the housing area.

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

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

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

Hobby Facility means any place, premises or thing used for the accommodation of no more than 10 breeding bitches or queens.

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

Isolation facility means a secure area in which individual animals are kept separate from other animals.

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

Kittening means to give birth to a kitten.

Mating means to pair animals together for breeding purposes.

Microchip means a subcutaneous full duplex electronic radio transponder that complies with the relevant ISO standard.

Night Facility- means any cage, portable crate, pen, kennel or suitable box to aid in minimizing nuisance to the neighborhood, community or wildlife overnight. The animal must be able to stand up and turn around easily.

Owner means:

- the owner of the animal (in the sense of being the owner of the animal as personal property),
- the person by whom the animal is ordinarily kept,
- the registered owner of the animal on the Companion Animals Register (CAR)

A reference in this Code to the owner of a companion animal is a reference to each and all owners of the animal.

Operating Procedures means procedures developed to maximise the health, wealth and care of animals within a fit for purpose facility. Facility procedures will vary according to the type of facility i.e. Commercial, Pet Shop, Rescue, Working Dog.

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

Person in charge of an animal means the person who has an animal/s in their possession or custody or under their care, control or supervision, and who is responsible for meeting the welfare needs of the animal/s, and may include the owner of an animal, a family member or friend of the owner, or in a facility; the manager or staff of a facility, or volunteers.

Person in charge of the facility includes the owner of the facility or the manager of the facility.

Pet Shop means any premises used for the conduct of animal trade for which an animal is kept for the purposes of sale and includes:

- (a) a shop
- (b) temporary holding facilities such as a booth or stall at a market.
- (c) **Removed**

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

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

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

Re-home means the process of providing an animal with a new owner and a new place to live.

Sale means the transfer of ownership of an animal or animals, including causing, permitting or suffering an animal to be sold by auction, barter, exchange or other supply, and also includes the attempt to sell or offer to sell, expose, supply, possess or receive animals.

Significant infectious disease means a disease caused by a transmissible agent that is likely to cause illness or death in susceptible animals that become infected. Common examples include: canine cough; feline respiratory disease; parvovirus; feline enteritis; canine infectious hepatitis; heartworm and distemper.

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

Staff includes the person in charge, manager, employees and volunteers that work in the facility, whether working full or part time and whether or not working for fee or reward.

Training Organisation – means an organisation providing specialised training in the breeding, housing and welfare of dogs and/or cats, including that provided by the relevant peak body (Dogs NSW) or a training provider recognised by the State Government.

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

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

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

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

Whelping means to give birth to a puppy.

Written procedures mean the procedures developed under these Standards that are in place for the PetShops

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

4. **COMMERCIAL AND LARGE- SCALE BREEDING FACILITIES RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPETENCY OF STAFF**

OBJECTIVES

All people who care for and manage breeding dogs and cats should be competent and aware of their responsibilities. Where **commercial** breeding facilities employ staff or volunteers, the person in charge of the facility should be aware of their extra responsibilities, and that all people employed to care for animals must comply with all enforceable provisions within this Code, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* and any other relevant legislation.

4.1 STANDARDS

- 4.1.1. The person in charge of the facility is responsible for the facility complying with all enforceable provisions within this Code.
- 4.1.2. The person in charge of the facility must be aware of their responsibilities towards dogs and cats. Each day, a person must be present to meet the requirements of this 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 from distress or injury caused by other animals or interference by people;
 - cleaning and proper hygiene in the facility;
 - identifying signs of common diseases of the species kept.
- 4.1.3. Where trainees and volunteers are employed by the **commercial** facility, they must work under the supervision of trained and experienced staff.

4.2 GUIDELINES

- 4.2.1 Where staff are employed to care for animals; they should have formal qualifications and experience in animal care and management, **commensurate to the type of facility involved i.e. pet shops, commercial breeding facilities and large scale rescue groups which should be recorded** in a register of staff training. Where appropriate, **formal training should be recorded in a register of staff training and** staff should be re-trained on a biennial basis.

Training should include

- current animal behaviour and social needs;
- the receipt and release of dogs and cats;
- housing of dogs and cats;
- animal husbandry;
- the handling and control of dogs and cats;
- moving, transporting and capture of dogs and cats;
- identifying signs of health and ill health in dogs and cats, including identifying symptoms of stress or when prompt veterinary care is required;

- procedures for the care of sick and injured dogs and cats;
- special requirements of old or young dogs and cats;
- disease and parasite control and prevention;
- emergency management and evacuation procedures;
- the keeping of records.

Note

For information on nationally recognised animal services qualifications, see: www.ntis.gov.au.

People caring for animals should be aware of the risk of transfer of infectious disease and microbial contamination which could occur when handling dogs and cats or when cleaning enclosures, and the practices that will reduce or eliminate these risks.

For information on NSW Work Health and Safety legislation, see: www.safework.nsw.gov.au

For information on emergency management response planning for animal holding facilities, see: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/asset/pdf_file/0005/209597/planning-for-emergencies-guide-for-animalholding-establishments.pdf

5 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

OBJECTIVES

Breeding establishments should operate in a transparent way so that standards of animal welfare are maintained.

5.1 STANDARDS

5.1.1. The following information must be recorded relating to each dog or cat housed at breeding **commercial** facility:

- a description of the dog or cat which includes: name, microchip number; sex (including whether desexed); breed; colour; distinguishing features; vaccination status; details of any special medical and dietary requirements; and
- the date of birth; and the date of acquisition/arrival, and registration number (for purebred animals) of owned and leased dogs and cats; and
- the name, address and telephone number of owner or lessee of the dog or cat; and
- details of preventative and veterinary treatment of dogs and cats, including routine husbandry procedures such as worming or parasite control; and
- for leased dogs or cats, the name and contact telephone number of the veterinary practitioner who normally attends the animal; and
- the disposal of owned and leased dogs and cats including the date and details of the disposal.

5.1.2. Information which details each litter bred must be recorded and must include: the name and microchip number of both the dam and the sire; the date of mating(s); the date of whelping/queening; identification details of each animal within the litter, including any abnormalities or deaths.

5.1.3. Records must be retained for no less than three years, at the facility, and all staff must be able to produce the records.

- 5.1.4. The **commercial** facility must have a documented program in place to control insects, ectoparasites and vertebrate pests. This document must be kept at the facility and all staff must be able to produce the document and must be familiar with its content.
- 5.1.5. Each **commercial** facility must have a documented procedure for the swift removal of animals from the facility, in the case of emergency. This document must be kept at the facility and all staff must be able to produce the document and must be familiar with its content.

5.2 GUIDELINES

- 5.2.1 Procedural documents should be periodically reviewed and approved by the person in charge. The period from the last review and approval of procedures should not exceed 2 years.
- 5.2.2 Records kept should have space for notes or observations regarding individual animals made during time at the facility, including any significant alteration in the animal's condition or behavior since arrival.

Note

For information on electronic and non electronic format of the information required to be held for each individual animal and a format covering routine internal and external parasite control as well as rodent control.

Note Government determined URL

6 ANIMAL HOUSING

OBJECTIVES

The accommodation, environment and security of animals should be of a standard which ensures their security, safety and wellbeing.

6.1 ACCOMMODATION

6.1.1 STANDARDS

- 6.1.1.1 Vehicles, caravans, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as permanent housing for dogs and cats.
- 6.1.1.2 Breeding facilities must have a continuous water supply, adequate to meet the daily requirements of the dog and cats held.
- 6.1.1.3 **Commercial** breeding facilities must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that provides for the good health and wellbeing 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.
- 6.1.1.4 Animals must be provided with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions and must be provided with a clean and dry dedicated sleeping area **that provides for the good health and wellbeing of the animals.**

- 6.1.1.5 Where a **commercial** facility houses both dogs and cats, cat housing must be a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.
- 6.1.1.6 **Commercial** breeding facilities must meet the minimum pen sizes shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. These limits do not apply to dogs and cats under veterinary care for a disease or injury.
- 6.1.1.7 Dogs and cats must not be in extended contact with wet floors.
- 6.1.1.8 Each cat must be provided with a suitable box in which to hide or sleep.
- 6.1.1.9 All sleeping areas for cats and dogs 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.
- 6.1.1.10 Night Kennels should be permitted where there are concerns regarding wildlife or community and sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, or move freely, as appropriate to the species should be available.**
- 6.1.1.11 Each confined cat must be provided with a litter tray which is at least 1.2 times the length of the cat, and which contains a sufficient depth of material such as commercial cat litter, sawdust, shavings, sand or shredded paper.

6.1.2 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL DOG AND CAT HOUSING AND PET SHOPS

- 6.1.2.1 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:
 - (a) housing is designed, constructed and maintained, so that:
 - (i) all solid surfaces are constructed of impervious, washable material and are free of cracks or crevices,
 - (ii) walls and doorways prevent the protrusion of limbs of dogs or cats through to the outside of, or between housing,
 - (iii) wall and floor junctions are impervious or curved to facilitate cleaning and disinfection,
 - (iv) flooring surfaces are solid, impervious and non-slip,
 - (v) dogs or cats can easily access food and water,
 - (vi) liquids or faeces can be rapidly removed from housing with minimal risk of contaminating the coat of a dog or a cat or other housing,
 - (vii) animals can be easily inspected by staff,
 - (viii) the risk of injury or transmission of disease to a dog or a cat is minimised,
 - (ix) dogs and cats are unable to escape or cause injury to other animals, and
 - (x) dogs and cats are protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people
 - (b) housing has a roof and is partially enclosed so as to protect the animal housed from rain, wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions
- 6.1.2.5 Minimum housing requirements for dogs in a facility**
- 6.1.2.5.1 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that dog housing:
 - (a) provides sufficient space to allow dogs:
 - (i) to walk around freely without obstruction, and
 - (ii) to sleep, and eat away from areas where they urinate and defecate,

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- (b) allows a dog to make normal postural adjustments and assume a comfortable position when lying down with limbs extended and when eating, drinking, sitting, urinating and defecating
- (c) allows a dog to hold its tail erect when in a normal standing position, and
- (d) complies with the minimum sizes set out in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: MINIMUM SIZES FOR DOG ENCLOSURES

Animal/s	Min floor area (m ²)*	Min Height (cm)	Min width (cm)
Puppies +/- Bitch	3.5	100	120
1 dog, < 30 cm height at shoulder	1.5	100	90
1 dog, < 40 cm height at shoulder	1.5	100	90
2 dogs, < 40 cm height at shoulder	2.5	100	90
Socially compatible group of dogs, < 40 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	1.5 per animal	–	–
1 dog, 40–60 cm height at shoulder	2.4	150	90
2 dogs, 40–60 cm height at shoulder	3.6	150	90
Socially compatible group of dogs, 40–60 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	2.4 per animal	–	–
1 dog, > 60 cm height at shoulder	3.5	180	120
2 dogs, > 60 cm height at shoulder	5.2	180	120
Socially compatible group of dogs, > 60 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	3.5 per animal	–	–

* Minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding.

6.1.2.5.2 In Table 2, minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding

- (a) The minimum requirements set out in Table 2 do not remove the requirement that dogs are provided with sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, or move freely, as appropriate to the species.
- (b) The person in charge of a facility must ensure dividing partitions between dog housing must be solid, impervious and be of a minimum height **in accordance with the Table 1 above.**
- (c) The minimum sizes set out in Table 1 do not apply to dogs under veterinary care

6.1.2.6 Minimum housing requirements for cats in a facility

6.1.2.6.1 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that all cat housing:

- (a) provides sufficient space to allow cats:
 - (i) to walk around freely without obstruction, and
 - (ii) to sleep and eat away from areas where they urinate and defecate,

- (b) allows a cat to make normal postural adjustments and assume a comfortable position when lying down with limbs extended and when eating, drinking, sitting, urinating and defecating,
- (c) allows a cat to hold its tail erect when in a normal standing position, and
- (d) complies with the minimum sizes set out in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2: MINIMUM SIZES FOR CAT ENCLOSURES

	Min floor area	Min Height	Min width
Animal/s	(sq.m)	(cm)	(cm)
Kitten/s* (+/- queen)	0.8	210	60
Single Cat	0.8	210	60
(Cats (max 2)	0.8	210	60
Socially compatible group housed back yard or house with provisions made for vertical space	0.8 per animal		

* The module must contain at least 2 levels incorporating raised sleeping quarters. Access to all levels must be available through the provision of ramps, poles, steps or the like.

6.1.2.6.2 If cat housing is required to have a minimum height of 210cm, the housing must contain at least 2 levels incorporating raised sleeping quarters and provide access to all levels by ramps, poles, steps or similar means.

6.1.2.6.3 The minimum requirements set out in Table 3 do not remove the requirement that animals are provided with sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, or move freely, as appropriate to the species.

6.1.2.6.4 The person in charge of the facility must ensure dividing partitions between cat housing must be solid, impervious and be of a minimum height of 120cm

6.1.2.6.5 The minimum sizes set out in Table 2 do not apply to cats under veterinary care for a disease or injury

6.1.2.7 Exercise enclosures for dogs at Commercial Breeding Facilities

The person in charge of a facility must ensure that free-running or off-lead exercise enclosures for dogs are:

- (a) a minimum size of 10 metres by 4 metres, and
- (b) fenced so as to:
 - (i) prevent a dog escaping,
 - (ii) prevent a dog being injured, and
 - (iii) prevent the protrusion of the head or limb of a dog through to the outside of the exercise enclosure or between exercise enclosures.

6.1.2.8 Dog and cat treatment room in a commercial breeding facility

6.1.2.8.1 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.

6.1.2.8.2 A treatment room may also be used for the humane destruction of dogs and cats, so long as the provisions of Clause 52 are met.

6.1.2.8.3 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a treatment room located at the facility:

- (a) is regularly cleaned and disinfected,
- (b) is temperature controlled,
- (c) has power and running water,
- (d) has covered floor and wall junctions, and
- (e) has appropriately sized cages.

6.1.2.8.4 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

6.1.2.9 Isolation Facilities for commercial breeding facilities and pet shops

6.1.2.9.1 An isolation facility must be available either at the facility or at a veterinary hospital, and must have documented and demonstrable biosecurity measures in place.

6.1.2.9.2 Animals known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease or severe injury must be taken directly to the isolation facility unless written assurances from a registered veterinary practitioner regarding the appropriateness of housing with other animals is received.

6.1.2.9.3 A cat isolation facility must be a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog enclosures to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.

6.1.2.9.4 Dogs and cats housed in an isolation facility must be inspected at a frequency that ensures adequate care.

6.1.3 GUIDELINES

6.1.3.1 Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

6.1.3.2 All facilities should have an adequate water supply and should be sewered or on a septic system, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities; or have some other adequate and acceptable method for disposal of faeces and other liquid wastes.

6.1.3.3 Where groups of cats are housed together, consideration should be given for each cat to be able to be free from interference by other cats.

Notes:

The cage sizes provided in Tables 1 and 2 provide the minimum enforceable standard. Breeders of dogs and cats are strongly encouraged to ensure that the physical and mental needs of individual animals do not become constrained by their spatial environment.

Dog breeders should refer to the Companion Animals Act 1998 for the appropriate minimum sizes for dangerous or restricted dog enclosures

6.2 ENVIRONMENT

6.2.1 STANDARDS

6.2.1.1 Lighting of dog and cat housing

- (a) Dog housing and cat housing must have a shaded area when exposed to sunlight.
- (b) housing is lit, either from artificial or natural sources, and that the lighting mimics the prevailing natural light cycles,
- (c) the light in housing enables a thorough inspection and observation of the dogs and cats housed, and
- (d) the dogs and cats housed are protected from excessive external light sources.

6.2.1.2 Ventilation of commercial dog and cat housing

6.2.1.2.1 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that ventilation in housing:

- (a) maintains the health of the dogs and cats, and
- (b) minimises the accumulation of noxious gases, odours, moisture condensation and draughts that may have an adverse impact on the animals.

6.2.1.2.2 Where a mechanical air ventilation device is used in housing, the person in charge of a facility must ensure that the air ventilation device has

- (a) an air exchange rate which is sufficient to distribute fresh air evenly throughout the housing, and
- (b) a back-up system in the event that the ventilation device ceases to operate.

6.2.1.3 Temperature of dog and cat housing

Dogs and cats must be protected from extremes of temperature.

6.2.1.3.1 The person in charge of a **commercial** facility or Pet Shop must ensure that the temperature and humidity of housing is managed:

- (a) so as to minimise stress and distress to dogs and cats;
- (b) to prevent death or morbidity of dogs and cats, and
- (c) so that housing provides an acceptable temperature gradient for the species being cared for.

6.2.1.3.2 Very old and very young animals which are more sensitive than others to changes in temperature, must be provided with additional heating or cooling if required.

6.2.2 GUIDELINES

- 6.2.2.1 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimize distress to dogs and cats including the provisions of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals if necessary. Particular attention should be given to protections for brachycephalic breeds, especially against heat.
- 6.2.2.2 Dog and cat breeding facilities should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure dogs or cats.
- 6.2.2.3 Measures should be in place to protect dogs and cats from loud or sudden noise.
- 6.2.2.4 Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with noise regulations and occupational health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials which reduce noise;
 - care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal, limiting external stimulation, e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens;
 - holding dogs in compatible pairs; or
 - taking care to exercise dogs away from the sight of kenneled animals.
 - **Night Holding pens to minimise nuisance to the neighborhood, community or wildlife overnight.**
- 6.2.2.5 Noise from stud cats or calling queens should be managed to comply with noise regulations and occupational health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- providing lockable soundproof quarters in which the stud is held at night in compliance with noise regulations;
 - locating the stud house inside another building, or by taking advantage of as much shielding by existing walls and buildings as possible;
 - providing the stud with companion cats, a more interesting run, or more companionship, such as relocation to where people, other cats and other animals can be regularly seen;
 - removing a calling queen from an outside pen and placing indoors in a pen, which can also be further covered over at night;
 - taking the queen promptly to the stud (the stud being either entire or vasectomised).

6.3 SECURITY

6.3.1 STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES AND PET SHOPS

- 6.3.1.1 The facility must be able to be reasonably secured to prevent access to the facility by unauthorised people.
- 6.3.1.2 Dog housing and cat housing must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the dogs and cats held.
- 6.3.1.3 An animal must not be able to escape except in circumstances that cannot reasonably be foreseen and guarded against.

- 6.3.1.4 Unauthorised people must not have access to dog and cat holding areas unless under the supervision of a staff member.
- 6.3.1.5 Functioning fire fighting equipment must be readily available and staff trained and practised in its use.
- 6.3.1.6 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of dogs and cats.

6.3.2 GUIDELINES

- 6.3.2.1 Double barriers are recommended to assist in preventing the escape of dogs and cats.
- 6.3.2.2 Any security methods used should allow for ready access to dogs and cats and ready exit for staff and animals from the facility in the event of an emergency.

Notes

Some fire retardants may be toxic to dogs and cats.

7. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

The safety, wellbeing, and psychological health when of breeding dogs and cats when housed and transported is paramount. Animals should be protected from distress, injury, illness and disease, and provided with appropriate food and water.

7.1 ANIMAL CARE

7.1.1 GENERAL STANDARDS

- 7.1.1.1 The person in charge of a **commercial** facility must ensure that all staff are able to identify individual dogs and cats.
- 7.1.1.2 The person in charge of the facility must ensure that staff exercise dogs for a least ~~20~~ **30 minutes twice daily**, whether on or off lead, except under the written advice of a veterinary practitioner.
- 7.1.1.3 If a dog is allowed to exercise off lead, the person in charge of the **commercial** facility must ensure staff place the dog in an exercise enclosure or yard.
- 7.1.1.4 The person in charge of the **commercial** facility must ensure that no more than 4 compatible dogs are given access to an exercise enclosure at the same time.
- 7.1.1.5 The person in charge of the **commercial** facility must ensure staff supervise any yard for group exercise, and care is taken to avoid mixing of incompatible dogs, fighting and the transmission of infectious disease.
- 7.1.1.6 Dogs must not be exercised in any way which may pose the risk of injury.
- 7.1.1.7 Staff must ensure the long-haired dogs and cats are properly groomed and that the dogs and cats coats are not left dirty, matted, tangled or unkempt.

- 7.1.1.8 The person in charge of the **commercial** facility must ensure that dogs and cats are provided with daily environmental enrichment.
- 7.1.1.9 Environmental enrichment:
- (a) must use stimuli that socialize the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species,
 - (b) must aim to facilitate good psychological health, and
 - (c) may include stimuli set out in Appendix 1.
- 7.1.1.10 Environmental enrichment activities:
- (a) must be rotated regularly,
 - (b) must not be limited to periods of exercise, and
 - (c) may use activities such as those listed in Appendix 2.
- 7.1.1.11 The person in charge of the facility must ensure that every dog and cat receives daily socialisation, including direct handling or group exercise as listed in Appendix 1
- 7.1.1.12 The person in charge of the facility must ensure that every dog or cat, puppy or kitten receives at least 5 minutes of direct handling daily from ~~one~~ **three weeks** of age.
- 7.1.1.13 The person in charge of the **commercial** facility must ensure socialisation of mixed litters or species is supervised and only undertaken with compatible animals of appropriate age, temperament and vaccination status.
- 7.1.1.14 Measures must be implemented to protect dogs and cats from distress or injury caused by other animals.
- 7.1.1.15 Dogs and cats must be protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people.
- 7.1.1.16 Dogs and cats which must be housed singly in a quiet, warm and dry area isolated from other animals, include:
- animals with dependent young; and
 - animals about to give birth; and
 - animals in season, where it is not the intention to breed; and
 - sick or injured animals.
- 7.1.1.17 Dogs and cats that may be distressed by the presence of other dogs and cats must be housed in a manner that prevents visual and socialize or reduces olfactory contact.
- 7.1.1.18 Dogs and cats that are unable to feed themselves must only be kept where adequate facilities and expertise is available for artificial care.

7.1.2 GUIDELINES

- 7.1.2.1 All equipment, which may affect the welfare of dogs and cats should be designed and maintained to socialize the risk of illness or injury.
- 7.1.2.2 Dogs and cats that may be distressed by the presence of other species of animals should be housed in a manner which prevents olfactory contact.
- 7.1.2.3 When grooming an animal, particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, claws, teeth and anal glands.
- 7.1.2.4 Animals which are excessively nervous, aggressive, or which cannot live in harmony with other animals should not be bred.

Notes

Positive efforts should be made to socialize animals to humans and other animals. Animals that have been well-socialised when young ~~may~~ make better pets.

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

7.2 FOOD AND WATER

7.2.1 STANDARDS

- 7.2.1.1 Clean water must be available at all times at a temperature, quantity and quality that meets the physiological needs of the dog and cat, and that the dog and cat will drink.
- 7.2.1.2 Dogs and cats must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain good health and growth, recognizing the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species.
- 7.2.1.3 Puppies and kittens under four months of age must be offered a sufficient quantity of a balanced and complete diet at least three times daily, from three weeks of age.
- 7.2.1.4 Dogs and cats which are co-housed with other animals must be monitored during feeding to ensure that all animals are eating their own share.
- 7.2.1.5 Uneaten, spoiled or stale food must be removed and disposed of promptly.
- 7.2.1.6 Food and water containers must be removed, cleaned and replaced immediately if noticed to be contaminated by urine, faeces, vomitus and the like.
- 7.2.1.7 Food must be stored to prevent its deterioration or contamination.

7.2.2 GUIDELINES

- 7.2.2.1 Food should be prepared hygienically and served in clean, non-spillable containers.

- 7.2.2.2 Food should be given to pups and kittens under four months of age with a maximum interval of 12 hours between feeds. (For example, a puppy that receives its third feed, and final feed, for the day at 5pm should receive its first feed for the next day no later than 5am the following morning.)
- 7.2.2.3 Food and water containers should be readily accessible to dogs and cats, and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- 7.2.2.4 Food and water containers should be stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned/disinfected.
- 7.2.2.5 Puppies from four to six months of age and kittens from four to eight months of age should be offered a sufficient amount of a balanced and complete diet at least twice daily.
- 7.2.2.6 For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual animal. For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult and one feeding bowl per three kittens.

7.3 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

7.3.1 STANDARDS

- 7.3.1.1 Areas housing animals within a facility must be cleaned at least once daily.
- 7.3.1.2 Animal **housing** enclosures must be disinfected at least once weekly.
- 7.3.1.3 Animal **housing** enclosures must be cleaned and disinfected before new animals are introduced or before whelping or kitting.
- 7.3.1.4 Bedding must be cleaned or changed at least once daily and disinfected at least once a week.
- 7.3.1.5 Exercise areas must be cleaned daily or before new dogs are introduced to the area.
- 7.3.1.6 Food preparation and storage areas, food and water containers, and utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food, must be maintained to a hygienic standard.
- 7.3.1.7 Collection drains must be cleaned daily.
- 7.3.1.8 Litter trays must be checked, scooped and replenished daily.
- 7.3.1.9 Litter trays must be changed, washed and disinfected at least once every 3 days.
- 7.3.1.10 Litter trays that are saturated with urine must be changed immediately.

7.3.2 Guidelines for **commercial facility**

- 7.3.2.1 All dead animals or waste products such as faeces, bedding, and food wastes should be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- 7.3.2.2 Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of the staff and the animals kept.

Notes

Some disinfectants are toxic to some species, for example some common disinfectants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxynols, are toxic to cats. Tea tree oil is toxic to both cats and dogs. Staff should be familiar with these matters and avoid the use of inappropriate products.

Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth) and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

7.4 TRANSPORT

Transport may cause distress to dogs and cats and should be kept to a minimum. All dogs and cats should be contained or suitably restrained so that they are secure and protected from injury when transported.

7.4.1 STANDARDS

- 7.4.1.1 All cats and dogs must be transported in such a manner which addresses their size and age. Cats and dogs, and incompatible animals of the same species, must be physically separated during transport to prevent injury, harm or distress.
- 7.4.1.2 Dogs and cats must not be transported in the boot of a car.
- 7.4.1.3 Vehicles must have adequate ventilation and shade, sufficient to maintain good health and to avoid distress.
- 7.4.1.4 All **commercial** vehicles used extensively for the purpose of transporting animals must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use to minimise the possibility of transmission of infectious disease agents between consignments of animals.
- 7.4.1.5 The minimum exercise requirement of this Standard applies to transported dogs.

7.4.2 GUIDELINES

- 7.4.2.1 All **commercial** consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current IATA Live Animals Regulations.
- 7.4.2.2 Containers used for dog and cat transport should provide adequate light and ventilation.
- 7.4.2.3 Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting dogs and cats should:
 - protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area;
 - have non-slip floors;
 - provide easy access and safe access for handlers;
 - be air conditioned to protect against extremes of temperature even when stationary;
 - protect against unauthorised release or escape of the animals;
 - be easy to clean and disinfect; and
 - be fitted with an operational air conditioning system to the section of the vehicle where the animals are held.

- 7.4.2.4 On road trips of more than 4 hours duration, adequate stops should be made to allow dogs and cats the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defecate where appropriate; and for the enclosures to be cleaned where necessary.

Notes

The driver of a transport vehicle is the person in charge, and therefore responsible for the welfare of animals in the vehicle during transportation.

For more information about the minimum standards for animal transport, refer to the publication in this series titled “The Care and Management of Animals by Companion Animal Transport Agencies”.

*For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see:
www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals.*

8. ANIMAL HEALTH

OBJECTIVES

The health of animals should be monitored regularly to detect signs of disease, injury and distress with treatment provided where necessary. Where the **euthanasia** of animals is necessitated, it should be conducted in an efficacious and humane manner.

8.1 HEALTH CHECKS

8.1.1 STANDARDS

- 8.1.1.1 All dogs and cats must be inspected at least twice daily to monitor their health and well-being. The person checking the animals must note all adverse observations where an animal is not:
- eating;
 - drinking (in the case of kittens/puppies drinking milk);
 - defecating;
 - urinating;
 - behaving normally;
 - showing any obvious signs of illness or distress;
 - able to move about freely;
 - displaying a normal coat.
- 8.1.1.2 Any changes in health status must be promptly reported to the person in charge of the facility for appropriate action.
- 8.1.1.3 Where there is evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced (eg., straining or contracting) and there is no progress within two hours, the bitch or queen must be examined by a veterinary practitioner and appropriate remedial action taken.

8.1.2 GUIDELINES

8.1.2.1 Signs of illness or injury of for which veterinary treatment should be sought include but are not limited to:

- runny nose;
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes;
- repeated sneezing;
- coughing;
- vomiting;
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained;
- lameness;
- bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat);
- inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate;
- loss of appetite;
- weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden;
- apparent pain;
- fits, staggering or convulsions;
- patchy hair loss.
- bloating of the abdomen;
- difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate;
- red or brown coloured urine;
- depression;
- fever;
- presence of external parasites;
- any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

8.1.2.2 Bitches or queens in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected by animal care staff at **frequent** intervals.

8.2 VETERINARY CARE IN COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES AND PET SHOPS

8.2.1 STANDARDS

8.2.1.1 The person in charge of the facility must establish liaison with a veterinary practitioner who is able to attend to dogs and cats, and is able to advise on disease prevention measures.

8.2.1.2 The contact details for the veterinary practitioner must be posted in a location which enables staff and visitors to the facility to see them.

8.2.1.3 Appropriate veterinary treatment must be provided for sick or injured dogs and cats.

8.2.1.4 Veterinary advice must be obtained in the event of unexplained illness or deaths.

8.2.1.5 Permission in writing must be obtained from a dog or cat's owner or nominee if leased at the time of accepting the animal for breeding authorising the provision of necessary veterinary treatment.

- 8.2.1.6 Dogs must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and canine cough in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- 8.2.1.7 Cats must be vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- 8.2.1.8 Kittens and puppies must be vaccinated against common infectious diseases in accordance with best practice clinical guidelines, in consultation with a veterinary practitioner.
- 8.2.1.9 Dogs and cats known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease must not be used for breeding or be accepted for breeding under lease unless under written approval from a veterinary practitioner.
- 8.2.1.10 A program for heartworm prevention for dogs must be in place and in accordance with veterinary advice.
- 8.2.1.11 Internal and external parasites must be controlled through routine and preventative treatments.
- 8.2.1.12. Newly acquired dogs or cats or dogs or cats visiting from another location should not be mixed with the permanent population for a minimum of 48 hours

Notes – *Parasites includes* fleas, lice, ticks, and gastrointestinal or heart worms.

9 BREEDING AND REARING

OBJECTIVES

The mating, breeding, birthing and rearing processes should be managed in a way that assures good animal welfare outcomes.

9.1 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MATING DOGS AND CATS

- 9.1.1 Bitches and queens should not be mated during their first oestrus cycle.
 - (a) **Bitches, especially in the larger breeds, should not be mated under 12 months of age.**
 - (b) **First degree inbreeding – father/daughter, mother/son, full brother and sister should not occur.**
 - (c) **All breeders are required to maintain generational data to cover this concern**
- 9.1.2 A dog or cat must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of being mated.
 - (a) **Where an animal is known or suspected of having an inherited disease or defect, every effort is made to minimise the disease or defect in the progeny/offspring.**
 - (b) **Severely affected individuals should not be bred from.**

9.2 STANDARDS

- 9.2.1 Breeding practices should ensure that both breeding animals and the offspring they produce are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible. Dog and cat breeders have a responsibility to ensure that their breeding animals maintain the best quality of life possible, and litters should only be produced with a reasonable expectation of finding homes where they are both wanted and appreciated, and are offered a similarly good quality of life.
- 9.2.2 Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there is screening procedures or a test for that disease the person in charge in the case of a stud cat or dog or bitch or queen should:
- have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog or cat for such hereditary disease;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the dog or cat is to be mated to an animal not owned by the breeding facility;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and the dam to the new owners of any puppy or kitten;
 - endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- 9.2.3 Breeding dogs and cats should be selected to eliminate negative behavioural traits, for example poor mothering ability or aggressiveness.
- 9.2.4 During mating, breeding pairs must be isolated from the remaining breeding population, and monitored by the person in charge.

9.3 GUIDELINES:

- 9.3.1 The correct paper work, including mating dates, sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms should be supplied to the owner/lessee of the bitch or queen when she is collected after the mating, or on payment of an agreed fee.
- 9.3.2 When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating, the animal care personnel should endeavour to ensure that:
- the queen and stud are both eating and using their litter tray;
 - the animals have separate beds and are able to get some rest;
 - the animals have actually mated; and
 - the stud has an easily accessible shelf on which to jump after mating the queen, to enable him to escape her claws.

9.4 FREQUENCY OF BREEDING

- 9.4.1 Bitches must not have more than two litters in any two year period, and not have more than six litters in her lifetime, unless with the written approval of a veterinarian.
- 9.4.2 Queens must not have more than three litters in any two year period, and not have more than 6 litters in her lifetime, unless with the written approval of a veterinarian.

9.4.3 If a bitch or queen is **over 6 years** of age and has not has six litters, the person in charge must ensure that the bitch or queen is examined by a veterinarian to ensure the animal's suitability for continued breeding.

9.4.4 The person in charge must arrange for a bitch or queen to be desexed **as soon as breeding has ceased, or after a maximum of 6 litters.**

9.5 GUIDELINES

9.5.1 Breeders should consider the welfare of their breeding sires and dams when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding their animals.

9.5.2 When dogs or cats reach the end of their useful breeding life, or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes, it is the responsibility of the owner to:

- have such dogs or cats spayed or castrated;
- settle the dogs or cats into their new condition (ex stud cats require considerable patience and care, but can become excellent candidates for pet homes);
- either provide a pet home for the desexed dogs or cats themselves, or to canvass for and carefully select a new pet home for the animals;
- exercise patience and retain responsibility for the dog or cat until such time as a satisfactory new home is established.

9.6 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PREGNANT BITCHES AND QUEENS

Mothers in the latter stages of pregnancy must be provided with additional access to water and a balanced complete diet, provided at frequent intervals.

9.7 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BIRTHING

9.7.1 The person in charge of a commercial facility must ensure that within seven days of the expected whelping or kitting date, a pregnant bitch or queen is separated m the remaining breeding population and moved to a specific whelping or kitting housing area and is provided with a suitable whelping or kitting box that is lined with clean bedding that is changed daily.

9.7.2 The person in charge of the **commercial** 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.

9.7.3 During birthing, the person in charge of the facility must ensure bitches and queens are monitored by staff on a regular basis ~~every 6 hours~~ **(every 2 hours)** to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.

9.7.4 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:

- (a) there is evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced and there is no progress within two hours, or
- (b) abnormalities are observed in the whelping or kitting, or
- (c) there are concerns for the welfare of a bitch or queen in the birthing process.

- 9.7.5 The person in charge of a facility must ensure that after birth is complete, **a bitch or queen and her litter are monitored 2 hourly until the puppies or kittens are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.**
- 9.7.6 Within 24 hours of delivery of a litter, the person in charge of a commercial 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.
- 9.7.7 Dogs and cats that are isolated from the remaining breeding population must be provided with **additional care and socialisation.**

9.8 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LACTATING BITCHES AND QUEENS

- 9.8.1 The person in charge of the facility must ensure:
- (a) lactating mothers are provided with additional access to water and a balanced and complete diet on an ad libitum basis.
 - (b) Lactating mothers must be housed in such a manner that they are able to escape their young.
 - (c) Kittens or puppies must not be separated from their litter or their lactating mother until they are six weeks of age to facilitate socialisation, except in the best interests of the puppies or kittens, or their mother.
 - (d) **Any lactating bitch or queen that is failing to cope with her litter should receive immediate veterinary attention.**

9.9 ARTIFICIAL REARING

- 9.9.1 A person in charge of a facility must ensure that adequate resources are available for the artificial rearing of puppies and kittens. Orphaned or pre-weaned puppies and kittens must be fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

9.10 Weaning Puppies and Kittens

- 9.10.1 The person in charge must ensure:
- (a) Solid food must be offered to puppies and kittens from three weeks of age.
 - (b) Puppies and kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable. Solid food will require moistening or softening to increase edibility and palatability.
 - (c) Puppies and kittens are weighed weekly and individual weights recorded in order to monitor that puppies and kittens are achieving a steady weight gain every week
 - (d) **Any puppy or kitten which does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred for veterinary consultation.**

- (e) **Parasite Control – puppies and kittens should be wormed from 2-3 weeks of age with the appropriate wormer for round and hookworm, given at the correct weight dosage according to the manufactures recommendations. They should be wormed at least every 2 weeks until 6-8 weeks of age**
- (f) **Puppies and kittens should be vaccinated and microchipped prior to sale and examined by a veterinarian to determine any health issues**

9.11 GUIDELINES

- 9.11.1 It is desirable to encourage puppies and kittens to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area. It is easier for dogs and cats to learn this behaviour at a young age, and animals with good toileting practices may make better pets.
- 9.11.2 Dogs and cats which are well socialised to human adults and children and with other animals will become well- adjusted companions. The best opportunity to socialise puppies to humans and other animals is before twelve weeks of age. For kittens, socialisation to humans and other animals is best achieved before seven weeks of age.
- 9.11.3 Before any dog or pup, cat or kitten is sold the prospective owner should be advised that the breeder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is physically and behaviourally healthy.

10 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

OBJECTIVES

The transfer of ownership of animals should be used to promote socially responsible pet ownership, and to reduce the destruction of companion animals.

10.1.1 STANDARDS

- 10.1.1.1 Puppies and kittens must not be re-homed before they are 8 weeks of age.
- 10.1.1.2 Dogs and cats must not be re-homed to people less than 18 years of age.
- 10.1.1.3 The person in charge of a facility must not allow a dog or a cat to be sold unless:
 - (a) the dog or cat has been microchipped and breeder details entered on the Register of Companion Animals,
 - (b) the dog or cat has received at least one veterinary practitioner examination,
 - (c) the dog or cat has been vaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner, and
 - (d) the dog or cat has been treated to remove internal and external parasites in accordance with the relevant written procedure.
- 10.1.1.4 No dog or cat suspected of being sick, injured or diseased may be sold under any circumstances.

10.1.1.5 At the time of purchase, clients must be offered accurate written information at no charge which includes the following information relevant to the care of animals purchased.

10.1.1.5.1 Basic care information relating to feeding, water, shelter, security and accommodation suitable to the breed and species. Socialisation requirements with both humans and other members of the species should be included.

10.1.1.5.2 Breed information specific to that breed (or combination of breeds) that includes life span, common health issues or inherited diseases, expected behaviours of the species or breed, minimum exercise requirements. Specialised need for care of Brachycephalic breeds in hotter weather.

10.1.1.5.3 Routine veterinary care including vaccinations, parasite control and the desirability of desexing.

10.1.1.6 If within 7 days a dog or cat is not acceptable to the purchaser due to health reasons, excluding injury, and the complaint is supported by a veterinary practitioner, the breeder and the owner should negotiate in good faith to achieve an equitable outcome

10.1.1.7 If, within 6 months of the date of sale, an animal is showing a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale and which is verified by a veterinary practitioner and supported by documentary evidence, the seller should be informed and given the right to a second opinion by a veterinary practitioner of their choice prior to euthanasia. The seller and the owner should negotiate an equitable outcome. (Pet Shop 2017)

10.1.2 GUIDELINES

10.1.2.1 Information required by Clause 10.1.1.5 should include information about:

- general care requirements of the species, including appropriate diet and feeding regimes;
- minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation;
- minimum requirements for security of the dog or cat;
- maximum time a dog or cat can be left unattended;
- information about the legal requirements for pet ownership, and the penalties for non-compliance;
- other information which is reasonable that the purchaser must be made aware of.

10.1.2.2 All advertisements for dogs and cats for sale should include the microchip number, and the vaccination status of the animal.

10.1.2.3 Desexing of dogs and cats not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.

10.1.2.4 All facilities which re-home dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.

10.1.2.5 Policies, procedures and staff training should be implemented which ensure that prospective buyers are matched to suitable dogs and cats. Such matching should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the buyer, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal including exercise requirements, and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children.

- 10.1.2.6 Sick, aggressive, pregnant, unweaned, poorly socialised or deformed dogs and cats or animals with known vices such as excessive barking, fence jumping (dogs) should not be made available for rehoming.
- 10.1.2.7 Important information about the individual dog or cat, such as health care history, should be provided to the new owner of any animal sold.
- 10.1.2.8 New owners should be encouraged to seek advice about care, management and training issues from veterinary practitioners or other people with appropriate expertise.
- 10.1.2.9 Where possible, breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the rehoming of surrendered dogs and cats.
- 10.1.2.10 Dogs or cats should not be sold to inappropriate purchasers.

Notes *The person in charge of the facility is reminded of the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1998 concerning dangerous dogs and restricted breeds and concerning notification of change in registration information.*

11 HUMANE DESTRUCTION- EUTHANASIA

11.1 STANDARDS

11.1.1 Humane euthanasia recommended by veterinary practitioner

The person in charge of a facility must ensure that an animal is humanely euthanised if:

- (a) treatment to restore the physical and psychological health of an animal while in the facility is impractical or has been unsuccessful, and
- (b) a veterinary practitioner has recommended that the animal be euthanised

11.1.2 Who may perform humane euthanasia

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the humane euthanasia of a dog or a cat is only carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations.
- (2) In emergency situations, if the veterinary practitioner cannot attend the facility, the animal may be humanely euthanised under the direction of the veterinary practitioner.
- (3) The person in charge of a facility that humanely euthanised an animal must make a record of the date, animal, method used to humanely euthanise the animal, and reasons for emergency humane euthanasia, in the Animal Directory.

11.1.3 Method of humane euthanasia

The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the humane euthanasia of a dog or a cat is carried out by the intravenous administration of an overdose of pentobarbitone sodium, unless there are compelling reasons to use another method to humanely euthanise the animal.

11.1.4 Separate area required for humane euthanasia

Staff must ensure that the humane euthanasia of a dog or a cat is carried out in an area that is separated from dog and cat housing and is not carried out in view of any other dogs and cats

11.2 GUIDELINES

11.2.1 All efforts ~~should~~ **must** be made to home physically healthy and behaviourally sound dogs and cats.