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# Breeding and Rearing Establishments

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# 1 Introduction

This Code is made under the provisions of Section 59 of Division 4 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 (The Act).

The purpose of the Code is to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care which are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in breeding and rearing establishments.

The Code and its provisions are to be observed by owners and operators ("the proprietor") and by the people who work in kennels and catteries that are required to be registered as Domestic Animal Businesses under the Act. All breeding and rearing establishments must comply with State and Local Government legislation and permits.

Breeding and rearing establishments are required to display the guarantee defined in Section 3.3 of this code in a prominent position on the wall of the reception area where animals are sold.

## 2 Staff

### 2.1 Manager

The proprietor of a breeding and rearing establishment is responsible for the overall management and conduct of the facility and for the welfare of the animals. In particular, the proprietor is responsible for:

- the well-being of all animals in the establishment;
- ensuring that each animal is able to be accurately identified;
- the supervision of staff;
- the maintenance and collation of records and statistics;
- supervision of daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals;

- the overall level of hygiene in the establishment, including the disposal of waste materials;
- provision of prompt veterinary attention for animals when required.

### 2.2 Veterinarian

Each establishment must have a written agreement with sufficient veterinarians to be on call for the treatment of animals other than first aid and for humane euthanasia where an overdose of barbiturate is used.

### 2.3 Animal Attendants

The proprietor of a breeding and rearing establishment must train or employ experienced personnel for the handling and management of animals.

Animal attendants are responsible to the proprietor for:

- daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals;
- daily cleaning of facilities, ie. hose out, replace bedding, litter trays, feeding and watering utensils;
- reporting of sick or injured animals to the Manager.

### 2.4 Staff Health

The proprietor must ensure that staff health is protected by the provision of appropriate work clothing, adequate hand washing facilities and tetanus immunisation. Information must be supplied on disease-causing organisms which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses) and personal hygiene procedures must be such that transmission should not occur.

All personnel working with cats, especially women of child-bearing age, must be made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.

## 3 Husbandry

### 3.1 Nutrition

All adult dogs and cats must be fed a minimum of once a day.

Puppies and kittens less than four months of age must be fed a minimum of three times daily, provided animals are not left without food for a maximum of twelve hours, and between four and six months of age must be fed twice daily with a nutritionally balanced diet.

The food provided must contain acceptable nutritive values in sufficient quantity to meet appropriate daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal. All animals must have a permanent supply of fresh, clean water.

Food and water containers must be non spillable and of a design that can be easily cleaned and does not cause injury to the animals.

### 3.2 Vaccination and health care of breeding animals

The proprietor must ensure that in the twelve months prior to breeding, all dogs must be fully vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus. Vaccination against canine cough and checking for heartworm infection is recommended prior to mating.

All cats must be fully vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in the twelve months prior to breeding. All breeding queens and stud toms must be tested negative for Feline Leukaemia Virus (Fe-LV) in two blood tests at least three months apart before being used for breeding. Fe-LV free breeding stock must not share accommodation with untested, partially tested or Fe-LV positive cats.

Dogs and cats must be placed on an effective worming program for gastrointestinal worms particularly before breeding, during gestation and until weaning.

Facilities must be available either at the breeding and rearing establishment or at veterinary premises for isolation of animals that are suspected of, or have been diagnosed as having an infectious condition. Bitches must be at least twelve months of age before being mated and a bitch must not have more than two litters in any eighteen month period. Queens must be at least nine months of age before being mated and must not have more than two litters in any twelve month period.

### 3.3 Sale of Puppies and Kittens

The proprietor must ensure that all dogs and cats sold must have a current vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian stating that the animal has been vaccinated in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturers of the vaccine administered. Puppies and kittens must be vaccinated at least fourteen days prior to sale to cover the following:

- Puppies**
- canine distemper
  - infectious canine hepatitis
  - canine parvovirus
- Kittens**
- infectious feline enteritis
  - feline respiratory disease (Cat flu)

The vaccination certificate must indicate the next date for further vaccination and any obvious physical defects. No animal with a potentially life threatening defect that is apparent at the time should be sold.

All animals offered for sale must be weaned and fully self sufficient.

Minimum age of animals for sale must be:

Puppies            8 weeks

Kittens            8 weeks

No animal suspected of being sick injured or diseased may be sold. All animals must be free of external parasites and puppies and kittens must have been treated for internal worms in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the anthelmintic used for the treatment.

New owners must be given literature about feeding, desexing, parasite control, health - including procedures for emergency treatment during the guarantee period, housing and responsible pet ownership including current legislation covering the registration of pet animals. They must also be encouraged to seek advice about problems with the pets from veterinarians and other people with experience in animal care and management.

### **Guarantee**

If an animal is unacceptable to a new owner because of health, or other reasons that are supported by a statement from a veterinarian, within seven days of purchase, the establishment must take the animal back and refund all monies or offer a replacement animal of the same breed and comparable quality with the same guarantee. If an animal is returned within three days for any other reason, the establishment will refund 75% of the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee. If the animal dies or is euthanased from a disease that is traceable to the point of sale, the establishment must refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

### **3.4 Hygiene**

The proprietor must ensure that the establishment is to be clear and hygienic at

all times. All pens must be cleaned out at least once per day (twice daily if inspection shows it is required) by hosing or other appropriate means after removing all used, contaminated bedding and litter and all uneaten food by hand before hosing, to ensure the pen is fresh and clean. Used litter and uneaten food must be placed in sealed plastic bags for disposal.

Animal breeding and rearing establishment sites must have an adequate water supply and must be sewerred or on a septic system, or have some other adequate method of disposing of faeces.

Waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority. Use of a trade waste service for collection and disposal of wastes is preferable. Wastes must not be incinerated.

After cleaning, sleeping areas must not be allowed to remain wet.

Cats must be provided with clean litter trays daily and litter trays must be disinfected regularly. Sufficient suitable litter material, such as commercial cat litter, sawdust or shredded paper must be provided. Disinfection of pens and cages must be done prior to whelping or queening with hospital grade disinfectants and again after the young have been removed. Utensils must be rinsed after disinfecting to avoid poisoning. Phenol must not be used for cats. Manufacturer's instructions for the use of these agents must be followed, since too dilute a solution maybe ineffective and too concentrated a solution may be toxic to animals.

All watering and feeding utensils must be cleaned daily.

Pests including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes and rodents must be effectively controlled. Chemicals used for pest control must be either prescribed by a registered veterinarian and/or registered by the National Registration Authority (NRA) under the Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Code (Commonwealth).

### 3.5 Exercise

Dogs housed in pens of the minimum recommended size must be exercised. Dogs in enclosures larger than twenty square metres do not normally require additional exercise however it is important that animals are socialised and provided with an environmental enrichment program. Care must be taken to ensure that dogs being exercised are not in danger of attack or other injury.

Exercise can be provided by:

- allowing dogs access to an exercise area for at least 10 minutes twice daily; and/or
- walking dogs on a lead for at least 10 minutes twice daily.

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

### 3.6 Security

Kennel and cattery buildings must be able to be securely locked.

Each individual kennel, module or colony pen must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals.

Any security methods used must allow for ready access to animals and ready exit for staff and animals from the premises in the event of an emergency.

All breeding and rearing establishments must have an external perimeter fence at least 1.8 metres high surrounding the establishment to prevent the escape of animals. The external walls of the facility may serve as the perimeter fence if an animal escaping from its pen or cage is restrained by these walls.

Design and materials used must ensure the security of the facility.

Dogs and cats in breeding and rearing establishments must be safe from attack, stress or injury and their behavioural needs should be met.

### 3.7 Housing

Catteries and kennels must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that ensures the good health and well being of the animals, whilst preventing escape or injury to humans. Housing must provide protection from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment from other animals.

Materials should be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity. Floors of animal housing areas of catteries and kennels must be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage. Wood, brick, dirt or grass floors are not acceptable except in exercise areas.

The internal surfaces of the external walls of catteries and kennels must be constructed of impervious solid, washable materials optimally curved at the wall/floor junctions to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

Kennel and cattery floors must be sloped to enable wastes and water to run off. A collection drain must be provided to take away water after cleaning. Pens maybe separated by either solid partitions, galvanised chain wire or weld mesh wire dividers. All kennels must be provided with a weatherproof sleeping area containing raised beds constructed of a material other than concrete, such as wood or plastic.

Where dog kennels are constructed indoors, temperature, humidity and ventilation must be considered. Ventilation must be adequate to keep animal housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts. Cage or pen areas must have an ample supply of fresh air.

**Note:** In totally enclosed buildings where **forced ventilation is the only form of air**, the following is required:

- an air change rate of 8-12 changes per hour to prevent the build up of foul odours;
- ventilation devices must avoid draughts and distribute fresh air evenly to all of the boarding areas;
- temperature must be maintained in the range of 18-21°C;
- air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals;
- a back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms.

Cats need as much fresh air as possible while providing protection from the elements and wire mesh should be the major feature of a cattery.

Cats must be provided with bedding and any bedding provided for animals must be changed frequently and kept clean and dry.

Facilities for cats must be physically separated from dog facilities.

### **3.8 Minimum Pen Sizes**

#### **(a) Dogs (Table 1)**

Under no circumstances can more than two dogs be housed in the one pen.

**Note:** The minimum pen sizes are for one adult dog (older than 16 weeks) or one bitch and a litter up to eight weeks of age.

One third of the area of each pen must be weatherproof and include raised sleeping quarters. Individual sleeping quarters must be provided when two adult dogs are housed in the one pen. The identification number of each dog housed in each pen must be clearly displayed on the pen.

#### **(b) Cats (Table 2)**

Cats may be housed in walk-in modules, that include a sleeping compartment and an exercise area, or in colony pens.

Walk-in modules must have a minimum floor area of 1.5 square metres and contain at least two levels including raised sleeping quarters. This size is for **one** cat only and an additional one square metre floor space is required for a second cat. No more than two cats may be housed together in this type of accommodation.

Cats may be multiple housed in colony pens. Each cat must have a floor area of two square metres and an individual raised sleeping area. A maximum of four cats may be housed in each pen. Community cat pens should incorporate a scratching pole and be designed to provide cats with at least two levels joined by a climbing plank.

**Note:** The minimum area is for one animal except in the case of a queen and her unweaned kittens.

The identification number of each cat contained in each pen must be clearly displayed on the pen.

**Table 1**

<b>Height of Dog at Shoulder</b>	<b>Minimum Area</b>	<b>Minimum Width</b>	<b>Minimum Height</b>	<b>Increased floor area for each pup between 8 and 16 weeks of age (Sq.m)</b>
<b>(Cms)</b>	<b>(Sq.m)</b>	<b>(Cms)</b>	<b>(Cms)</b>	
70 and above	15	240	180	1.5
40 to 70	10	180	180	1
Below 40	7	120	180	0.5

**Table 2**

<b>Cat</b>	<b>Minimum Area (Sq.m)</b>	<b>Minimum Width (Cms)</b>	<b>Minimum Height (Cms)</b>
Tom	1.5	90	180
Queen	1.5	90	180
Queen and Kittens	1.5	90	180
Kitten 8 to 16 Weeks	1.5	90	180

## 4 Records

The proprietor of the establishment shall ensure that the following details are recorded and retained for five years:

- **the name and identification number of each animal over six months of age;**
- **a description of each animal over six months including;**
  - sex and whether the animal is entire or desexed
  - breed type
  - colour
  - birth date
  - distinguishing features
  - dates of vaccination and matching Vaccination Certificates
  - heartworm treatment (dogs)

- **details of each litter bred including;**

- name of dam, breed, Council registration details, date of birth and any other relevant details such as registered number (if applicable)
- name of sire, breed, Council registration details, date of birth and any other relevant details such as registered number (if applicable)
- date of mating(s)
- date of whelping/queening
- sex and identification number of each of the litter
- dates of worming, worm treatment used and dose rate administered
- dates of vaccination and matching Vaccination Certificates
- name and address of purchaser and date of disposal
- dates of disposal/death of all animals including puppies and kittens.



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