

South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals

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Structure of this document

Each section of this document contains an objective, standards and guidelines.

Objective

The objective is the intended outcome(s) for each section of the standards.

Standards

Standards are the minimum requirements that must be met under animal welfare law. Standards use the word 'must' and:

- are necessary for the welfare of companion animals
- are practical for owners, clients and government to implement
- are important for the animal welfare regulatory framework
- achieve the intended outcome for the welfare of companion animals supplied to the public.

The standards have legal effect in two ways:

- failure to meet a standard may result in an expiation notice or a prosecution under the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*
- in more serious cases, failure to meet a standard may support a prosecution for an offence under the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

Relationship of the standards to other legislation

A person who breeds and/or trades in companion animals must abide by the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and its regulations and abide by all South Australian and Commonwealth legislation, notably:

- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (South Australia);
- *Environment Protection Act 1993* (South Australia);
- *Work, Health and Safety Act 2012* (South Australia);
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Commonwealth); and
- *Local Government Act 1999* (South Australia).

Consequently, some of the standards in this document are derived from legislation additional to the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and its regulations. Failure to abide by a Standard reflecting other legislation is not a breach of the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012* but may constitute a breach of another Act or Regulation.

Guidelines

Guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. A guideline is usually a higher standard of care than a minimum standard, or may provide recommendations on how to comply with a standard. Guidelines are also used to promote or encourage better care for animals than is required by a minimum standard and in circumstances for which an assessable standard is difficult to establish. Guidelines use the word 'should' and are designed to complement the standards. Non-compliance with one or more guidelines does not constitute an offence under law.

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1 Introduction

The South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals are made under the provisions of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*. The purpose of this document is to:

- ensure the promotion and protection of the welfare of companion animals
- improve animal welfare standards in the supply of companion animals
- set standards of conduct for those who trade in companion animals
- specify standards and guidelines for the care of companion animals to ensure their health, safety and well-being needs are being met.

These standards and guidelines complement the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* by clarifying terms such as 'reasonable', 'appropriate' and 'adequate'. The standards are the minimum requirements that must be met under animal welfare law. They must be observed by:

- the owner(s) of any dog or cat that is bred or traded irrespective of: (i) whether the activity is in private or in public; or (ii) whether the dog or cat is being held short or long term.
- the owner(s) of a companion animal of any other species that is kept in a public place for the purposes of wholesale or retail trade including (but not limited to) rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, birds, amphibians and reptiles. This document has been developed to cater for the welfare of these species held for a short term prior to sale.

By adhering to the standards, people involved in breeding and trading companion animals demonstrate to the general community their commitment for the welfare of the animals in their care.

Compliance with the standards and guidelines in this document does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* or other laws and regulations, for example the *Local Government Act 1999*, the *Environment Protection Act 1993* or the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

These standards and guidelines were initially based on the *New South Wales Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats* and the *South Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Management of Animals in the Pet Trade* (second edition). The South Australian Government acknowledges the generosity of the New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment for allowing the use of their Code in this manner. Aspects of the *Victorian Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014* were also incorporated. Through the consultation process numerous amendments and refinements have been made, so the resultant standards and guidelines now reflect the needs of the South Australian community.

These standards and guidelines are neither a complete manual on animal management, nor a static document. They 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 Interpretation and definitions

2.1 Interpretation

2.1.1 Application

These standards and guidelines apply to:

- the owner(s) of any dog or cat that is bred or traded irrespective of: (i) whether the activity is in private or in public; or (ii) whether the dog or cat is being held short or long term.
- the owner(s) of a companion animal of any other species that is kept in a public place for the purposes of wholesale or retail trade including (but not limited to) rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, birds, amphibians and reptiles. This document has been developed to cater for the welfare of these species held for a short term prior to sale.

The owner is the person who has the custody and control of the animal.

2.1.2 Limits to application

These standards and guidelines do not apply in any way to:

- fish
- animals normally kept for draft or riding purposes or for the production of food or fibre
- animals that are given away.

And in relation to dogs and cat the standards and guidelines do not apply in any way to:

- a person who finds a stray dog, cat or litter of puppies or kittens on their property and, abiding by lawful processes:
 - takes ownership of the animal and does not subsequently breed it, or
 - euthanizes it, or
 - transfers it to a council or other person(s) or entity, or
 - takes it to a pound or shelter.
- a person who rehomes their dog or cat as a once-off event because they can no longer keep it.
- a council which gives a dog or cat to a shelter or person as an unfettered gift.

2.1.3 General defence

A general defence applies to the standards contained in this document.

To be applicable, the defendant must establish that his or her failure to comply:

- was the result of acting on advice from a veterinarian, or

the owner or an assistant reasonably considers that the non-compliance:

- was in the welfare interests of the animal, or
- was in the interests of other animals or
- was necessary for workplace health and safety or public safety reasons.

2.2 Definitions

For the purposes of these standards and guidelines:

Adult dog/cat	means a dog or cat six months of age or older.
Animal / Companion animal	means any animal that is normally traded through wholesale or retail trade including (but not limited to) dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, birds, amphibians and reptiles.
Assistant	means any person who assists the owner in managing or trading animals. It includes family members, employees and volunteers that participate in the management or handling of the animals, whether working full or part time and whether or not for fee or reward.
Breeding	means breeding an animal for trade.
Cat	means an animal of the species <i>Felis catus</i> .
Cattery	means a structure with one or more open, meshed sides dedicated for the purpose of housing cats.
Cattery cat	means a cat predominantly housed in a cattery.
Client	means the potential, intended or actual recipient of an animal.
Dam	means the bitch or queen that gave birth to the puppies or kittens, or one that is pregnant.
Dog	means an animal of the species <i>Canis familiaris</i> .
Enclosure	means a cage, pen, transport crate, kennel, cattery or similar used to confine an animal.
Environmental enrichment	means the provision of stimuli such as toys, sights, smells, sounds and human contact, which promote appropriate physical and mental activity.
Euthanasia	means the act of inducing death using a method appropriate to the species which results in a rapid loss of consciousness without recovery and minimum pain and/or distress to the animal.
Exercise	means encouraging the animal to undertake physical movement.
Facility	means any property, premises or part thereof used for the accommodation or shelter of animals for the purpose of breeding, rearing or trading them. A facility can include a shop, an animal shelter, a breeding establishment or a private home. It does not include a temporary public venue and, for species other than dogs and cats, it does not include private places.
Guardian dog	means a dog which is kept primarily for the purpose of protecting livestock from predation and lives with the livestock.
House dog / House cat	means a dog or cat which has unfettered access to one or more rooms of the breeder's bona-fide residence for at least fourteen hours per day.
Isolation	means kept in a secure area in which an individual animal or group of animals are separated from other animals.

Kennel	means a structure with one or more open, meshed sides dedicated for the purpose of housing dogs.
Kennel dog	means a dog which is predominantly kept in a kennel.
Kitten	means an animal of the species <i>Felis catus</i> up to six months of age.
Large facility	means a facility with six or more pregnant or lactating dogs and/or cats at any one time or a facility which holds 30 or more dogs and/or cats at any one time.
Livestock working dog	means a dog which is kept primarily for the purpose of herding, droving, tending or working stock, or training for herding, droving, tending or working stock which is housed in an elevated kennel.
Owner	means the person(s) who has custody and control of the animal as defined in the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1985</i> . A reference in these standards and guidelines to the owner of an animal is a reference to each and all owners of the animal. An assistant may act on behalf of the owner.
Private facility	means a facility that is only accessible to the public by invitation or appointment.
Prescribed breed	means (as per the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) American Pit Bull Terrier; (b) Dogo Argentina; (c) Fila Brasileiro; (d) Japanese Tosa; or (e) Presa Canario.
Public facility	means a facility that is accessible to the public at certain regular times without invitation or appointment.
Puppy	means an animal of the species <i>Canis familiaris</i> up to six months of age.
Run	means that part of a kennel or cattery which is not the sleeping compartment.
Shop	means a building inside which animals are housed for the purpose of trade and transactions are conducted from that building. It includes pet shops, veterinary practices, fodder stores, department stores and similar commercial retail outlets that trade in companion animals.
Sleeping compartment	means a dedicated area in which it is intended that an animal will sleep. This may be part of a kennel or cattery.
Small facility	means a facility with five or less pregnant or lactating dogs and/or cats at any one time or one which holds 29 or less dogs and/or cats at any one time.
Supervision	means being available to provide advice or instruction either by being physically present or being contactable at all times.
Temporary public venue	means a public place in which animals are temporarily held for up to 15 hours for the purpose of trade, for example a market, show, field day, working livestock dog trial or other public place. For the purposes of these standards and guidelines, a temporary public venue does not constitute a facility.
Tether	means any physical device, other than an enclosure, used to control or contain an animal.

Trade	<p>means the act or process of transferring, or offering to transfer, the ownership of an animal. This includes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) sell, auction, barter or exchange; or (b) offer for sale, auction, barter or exchange; or (c) cause to permit to be offered for sale, auction, barter or exchange; or (d) possess for the purpose of sale, auction, barter or exchange. <p>For the purposes of clarity, in this document, 'trade' includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) giving the animal away subject to the purchase of other goods or services (f) seeking a donation for an animal; <p>but does not include the unfettered gift of an animal (including the gifting of an animal by a council to an organisation or person).</p>
Transfer of ownership	<p>means to move an animal from its owner and usual place of residence to a new owner and place of residence with the intention of this being a long term or permanent arrangement. The transfer may be the result of a sale, auction, barter or exchange. Transfer of ownership includes consigning, delivering and receiving the animal in pursuance of the transfer. It does not, however, include a transfer of ownership to a pound, shelter or rescue organisation. (This is to ensure that if a person finds a stray animal on their property, they are not prevented from giving the animal to a shelter and are not bound by the provisions of these standards and guidelines.)</p>
Transport crate	<p>means an enclosure which may be smaller than sleeping quarters that is generally used for the transport of dogs and cats.</p>
Unauthorised people	<p>means people who are on the premises without lawful authority or the permission of the owner or occupier of the premises.</p>
Veterinarian	<p>means a person who is registered as a veterinary surgeon in any Australian jurisdiction.</p>
Yard	<p>means an enclosed area (for example a suburban backyard, a dedicated holding yard or a home paddock) that has a minimum area of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 35 square metres or 3.5 square metres per dog whichever is the greater • at least 15 square metres or 1.5 square metres per cat whichever is the greater.
Yard dog / cat	<p>means a dog or cat which has unfettered access to a yard in which they can run freely for at least eight hours per day but does not have regular access to the owner's residence.</p>

3 Responsibilities and competencies of owners and assistants

Objective

All people involved in the trading of companion animals are competent and aware of their responsibilities, and comply with the standards in this document, the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and all other applicable legislation. If the owner is assisted by other persons, the owner is aware of their extra responsibilities.

3.1 General requirements

3.1.1 Standards

- 3.1.1.1 The owner must be responsible for the animals in their care. The owner must ensure that the standards in this document are met and that assistants are aware of their obligations in accordance with these standards.
- 3.1.1.2 Assistants must work under the supervision of the owner. The owner must have sufficient assistants to meet these standards and ensure the welfare of the animals being kept.
- 3.1.1.3 Each day, a person must be in attendance with sufficient frequency to meet the requirements of these standards, and must be knowledgeable and competent to provide for the animals' care and welfare.
- 3.1.1.4 Owners who operate from shops or large facilities must ensure that:
 - (a) at least one person with sufficient demonstrable knowledge and experience in the care of animals kept or who has completed successfully an appropriate course of training, is on site whilst the facility is open to the public.
 - (b) all assistants must be fully instructed and competent in appropriate methods of safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of animals including but not limited to:
 - the feeding and watering of animals
 - the protection of animals from distress or injury caused by other animals or interference by people
 - cleaning and ensuring proper hygiene in the facility where the animals are kept.

3.1.2 Guidelines

- 3.1.2.1 If assistants are employed to care for animals they should have formal qualifications received through a course accredited by the National Training Board and experience in animal care and management. This should be recorded in a training register. Ideally, employees should be re-trained on a biennial basis. Training should be relevant to species held and include:
 - behaviour and social needs
 - receipt and release of animals
 - housing
 - husbandry
 - handling and control
 - moving, transporting and capturing

- identifying signs of health and ill health, including identifying signs of stress or when prompt veterinary care is required
- procedures for the care of sick and injured animals
- special requirements of old or young animals
- disease and parasite control and prevention
- emergency management and evacuation procedures
- the keeping of records.

3.1.2.2 Owners operating from large facilities should engage one assistant per six pregnant or lactating dogs and/or cats or per 30 other dogs and/or cats (in addition to the owner themselves).

3.1.2.3 Owners and assistants caring for animals should be aware of the risk of transfer of infectious disease and microbial contamination (including diseases that are transmissible to people) which could occur when handling animals or cleaning enclosures, and the practices that will reduce or eliminate these risks¹.

3.2 Emergency management

3.2.1 Standards

3.2.1.1 Appropriate working fire-fighting equipment must be available commensurate with the size and nature of the facility and at least one person must be contactable who is trained and practiced in its use (AS 2444).

3.2.1.2 If operating a large facility or shop the owner must ensure that:

- (a) an effective emergency management plan is in place, including provision for the swift removal of animals from the site (if necessary and if practical) in the event of emergencies such as fire, flood, power blackouts etc.
- (b) at least one person with sufficient demonstrable knowledge and experience in the care of animals kept, or who has completed successfully an appropriate course of training, is available after hours in case of emergency.

3.2.1.3 If operating a small facility, other than a shop, the owner must have a procedure for the swift removal of animals from the facility, in the case of emergency (if necessary and if practical).

3.2.1.4 If operating from a shop, the owner must ensure that smoke alarms are fitted in accordance with AS 3786 *Smoke Alarms Using Scattered Light, Transmitted Light or Ionisation*.

3.2.2 Guidelines

3.2.2.1 Small facilities other than shops should have functioning firefighting equipment that is readily available and the owner and assistants should know how to use the equipment.

3.2.2.2 Facilities other than shops should be fitted with smoke alarms in accordance with AS 3786 *Smoke Alarms Using Scattered Light, Transmitted Light or Ionisation*.

¹ Refer to *The Animal Contact Guidelines - Reducing The Risk Of Illness Associated With Animal Contact* (Second Edition 2015), South Australian Department of Health and Ageing: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

4 Record keeping

Objective

Sellers operate in a transparent, professional and systematic manner, utilising record keeping and other documentation to ensure that standards of animal welfare are maintained that meet community expectations. The detail and content of the documentation required is commensurate with the size of the enterprise.

4.1 General requirements

4.1.1 Standards

For the purpose of these standards, records (including programs, plans and procedures) may be either paper-based or in electronic form or both.

4.1.1.1 Records required by standard 4.1.1.2 must be retained for no less than two years after the death or disposal of the animal. The seller must be able to produce the records at the request of an inspector under the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*. Records relevant to the health and welfare of animals being held must be accessible by assistants.

This standard comes into effect on the date this document is regulated. Records commence from that date (not retrospectively).

4.1.1.2 Sellers must be able to produce a record of the following:

(a) for each dog and/or cat in their possession, to the best of their knowledge and in a manner that is commensurate with the size of the enterprise:

- sex (including whether desexed)
- species and breed
- colour
- microchip number
- distinguishing features
- any special medical and dietary requirements
- the name of the animal (if named)
- the history of the animal (as far as possible) which includes:
 - date of birth
 - the date of acquisition/transfer to the current owner
 - vaccination status
 - details of preventative and veterinary treatment, for example routine husbandry procedures such as worming or parasite control
 - details of medical history
 - any genetic or other health testing undertaken
 - the date of disposal/transfer to the client
- if the animal is leased or on consignment:

- the name, address and telephone number of the person from whom the animal is leased or consigned
- the name and telephone number of the veterinarian who normally attends the animal (if requested by the person from whom the animal is being leased or consigned).

(b) for each dog or cat litter bred:

- the name and microchip number of both the dam and sire (if known)
- the date of mating (if known)
- the date of birth
- the number of puppies or kittens in the litter
- identification details for each surviving animal within the litter.

(c) records of the information required to be given to buyers under Section 71 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*².

4.1.2 Guidelines

- 4.1.2.1 Programs, plans and procedures should be documented and periodically reviewed and approved by the owner. The period from the last review should not exceed two years.
- 4.1.2.2 Records kept should include notes and observations on individual animals, including any significant change in the animal's condition or behaviour.
- 4.1.2.3 To assist in determining if there is a genetic or environmental issue resulting in losses, records should be retained in relation to:
- if an animal is euthanized the date, reason and method for euthanasia
 - if an animal dies, the date of death, whether or not a necropsy was performed and the cause of death (if known).
- 4.1.2.4 The seller should record the name and contact details of the new owner of each animal traded.

² The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* is being amended to require that certain information is provided to buyers. This requirement will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

5 Animal facilities and accommodation

Objective

The accommodation, environment and security of animals are of a standard that ensures their welfare, security, safety, health and behavioural needs are met.

5.1 General requirements

5.1.1 Standards

Facility design and structure

5.1.1.1 All facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that:

- provides for the good health and well-being of the animals
- minimises the risk of the transmission of infectious diseases
- minimises the risk of escape or theft of animals
- minimises the risk of injury to animals and people.

5.1.1.2 Sufficient lighting must be available in the facility to enable the proper inspection of animals.

5.1.1.3 All facilities must have a clean and adequate water supply, sufficient to meet the daily requirements of the animals.

5.1.1.4 Incompatible animals must be sufficiently separated or otherwise isolated to minimise stress.

Enclosures

5.1.1.5 Enclosures must be designed and maintained to meet the health, physical and behavioural requirements of the species held.

5.1.1.6 Enclosures must provide protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse or extreme weather conditions.

5.1.1.7 Aggressive, sick and injured animals must be housed in a manner that minimises risks to themselves, other animals or the public; and protects them from other animals and people.

5.1.1.8 Outdoor enclosures must have solid sides and a roof constructed to provide protection from sun, wind and rain over a sufficient proportion of the enclosure to allow the animal to avoid inclement weather (guardian dogs do not require a purpose built enclosure).

5.1.1.9 Purpose built enclosures must be constructed of materials that are durable, non-toxic and easily cleaned.

5.1.1.10 Animals kept either in groups or individually must have space to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about and undertake a range of natural behaviours.

5.1.1.11 Animals must be provided with hygienic sleeping areas appropriate to their species.

5.1.1.12 An electronic shock collar must not be placed on an animal to confine it.

Tethers

- 5.1.1.13 Tethers must not cause distress, injury or discomfort to any animal; must only be used when reasonably required and must be appropriate for the species and age of the animal.

Isolation facilities

- 5.1.1.14 There must be an area provided at the facility or at another location, which could include at a veterinary hospital, where animals can be kept in isolation.
- 5.1.1.15 Owners who operate from large facilities housing dogs or cats, other than shops, must have documented and demonstrable biosecurity measures in place prior to use.
- 5.1.1.16 A cat isolation facility must be a sufficient distance, or otherwise isolated, from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sight or sound of dogs.

Harmful substances

- 5.1.1.17 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of animals.

5.1.2 Guidelines

- 5.1.2.1 Accommodation should have clean bedding appropriate to the species and the individual being accommodated, and provide sufficient space for the animal to withdraw.
- 5.1.2.2 Tethers should not be used unless they are the best available option to restrain the animal whilst ensuring its health and welfare.

5.2 Accommodation of dogs and cats

5.2.1 Standards

- 5.2.1.1 Dogs and cats must be able to shelter from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse or extreme weather conditions.
- 5.2.1.2 Dogs and cats must be provided with clean, dry, sleeping areas. The sleeping areas must provide sufficient protection from sun, wind and rain to allow the animal to avoid inclement weather. For guardian dogs, this may be a natural shelter.

Newly acquired dogs and cats not bred by the seller

- 5.2.1.3 Enclosures must be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated after the removal of dogs and cats and before placing newly acquired animals in them.
- 5.2.1.4 Newly acquired dogs and cats must not be mixed with existing animals until they have been health checked by a person such as a veterinarian, veterinary nurse or experienced animal attendant.
- 5.2.1.5 If newly acquired dogs or cats are housed with existing animals they must be monitored. If bullying or attacking occurs, the newly acquired animals must be housed separately.
- 5.2.1.6 Puppies and kittens must not be kept in isolation where any practical alternative is available.

Housing of dogs and cats

5.2.1.7 Dogs and cats must:

- be provided with sleeping areas that have clean, hygienic, dry bedding, appropriate to the species and breed, sufficient for the number of animals held, and sufficient to insulate them from the floor unless there is a compelling reason not to do so (for example, it may be impractical to provide bedding for a guardian dog. Some dogs will either not tolerate or not use bedding if it is provided.).
- not be in extended contact with wet floors.
- not be kept exclusively on wire flooring or bare concrete.
- be provided with a floor area of at least 0.75 square metres if held in an enclosure other than a transport crate.

5.2.1.8 An electronic shock barking collar must not be placed on a dog to reduce or eliminate barking.

5.2.1.9 Noise from tom cats or calling queens and/or barking dogs must be managed to comply with noise regulations and workplace health and safety requirements.

Dog housing

5.2.1.10 Dogs, other than guardian dogs, must be sufficiently contained to ensure that they do not wander at large.

5.2.1.11 Kennels, other than those for working livestock dogs housed in elevated kennels, must meet the minimum sizes shown in Table 1. Also see Figure 1 and Table 3.

5.2.1.12 Elevated working livestock dog kennels must have a minimum width floor space of 2 square metres and must have an internal height of at least 95 cms over at least two thirds of the length and must minimise the risk of escape.

5.2.1.13 The sleeping compartment provided for kennel dogs, yard dogs and livestock working dogs must be of sufficient size for each dog to simultaneously lie down, turn around and fully stretch.

5.2.1.14 Unless being transported, dogs must not be confined to a transport crate for more than eight hours in any twenty four hour period.

5.2.1.15 Yard dogs must be provided with a sleeping compartment. They are not required to have a run attached to the sleeping compartment. However, the yard must have an area of at least 35 square metres or 3.5 square metres per dog whichever is the greater.

5.2.1.16 House dogs must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions but are not required to have kennels or sleeping compartments.

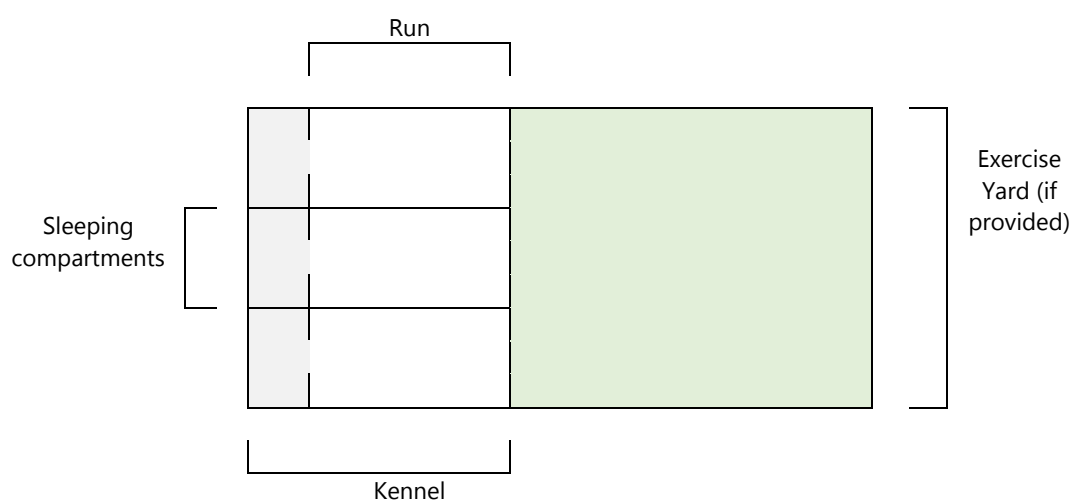
5.2.1.17 Guardian dogs must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions. This may be natural (e.g. shrubbery, trees etc.) or purpose built. They are not required to have kennels or sleeping compartments.

Table 1: Minimum sizes for dog kennels (not including external exercise areas)

Dogs	Min height (m)*	Min width (m)	Min length (m)	Min floor area (sq m)**
Puppy/ies (+/- bitch)	1.7	1.2	2.90	3.5
1 dog < 40 cm height at shoulder	1.7	0.9	1.67	1.5
2 dogs < 40 cm height at shoulder	1.7	0.9	2.80	2.5
1 dog 40–60 cm height at shoulder	1.7	0.9	2.67	2.4
2 dogs 40–60 cm height at shoulder	1.7	0.9	4.00	3.6
1 dog > 60 cm height at shoulder	1.7	1.2	2.90	3.5
2 dogs > 60 cm height at shoulder	1.7	1.2	4.30	5.2

* This height is to ensure that there is sufficient space to allow the owner and assistants to easily access the kennel
 ** Minimum floor area includes the sleeping compartment.

Figure 1: Housing and exercise requirements for dogs



Cat housing

- 5.2.1.18 Catteries must meet the specifications in Table 2. Also see Figure 2 and Table 3.
- 5.2.1.19 Unless being transported, cats must not be confined to a transport crate for more than eight hours in any twenty four hour period.
- 5.2.1.20 Yard cats must be provided with a sleeping compartment. They are not required to have a run attached to the sleeping compartment. However, the yard must have an area of at least 15 square metres or 1.5 square metres per cat whichever is the greater.
- 5.2.1.21 House cats must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions but are not required to have catteries or sleeping compartments.
- 5.2.1.22 The sleeping compartment provided for cattery cats and yard cars must be of sufficient size for each cat to simultaneously lie down, turn around and fully stretch.
- 5.2.1.23 Each cat is provided with an individual litter tray (or one per litter of kittens with or without the queen) that contains a sufficient depth of material such as commercial cat litter, sawdust, shavings, sand or shredded paper, unless the cat is a yard cat.

Table 2: Minimum sizes for catteries*/ (not including external exercise areas)**

Cats	Min width (m)	Min length (m)	Min floor area (sq m)	Min Height (m)
Kitten/s (+/- queen)	0.60	1.33	0.75	1.70
Single cat	0.60	1.33	0.75	1.70
Cats (max 2)	0.60	1.33	0.75	1.70
Socially compatible group of cats housed as a colony in a cattery	0.60	1.33	0.75 per cat	1.70

*Catteries must contain at least two levels incorporating raised sleeping compartments. Access to all levels must be available through the provision of ramps, poles, steps or the like.
 **Enclosures housing unweaned kittens are not required to be multi-level.

Figure 2: Housing and exercise requirements for cats

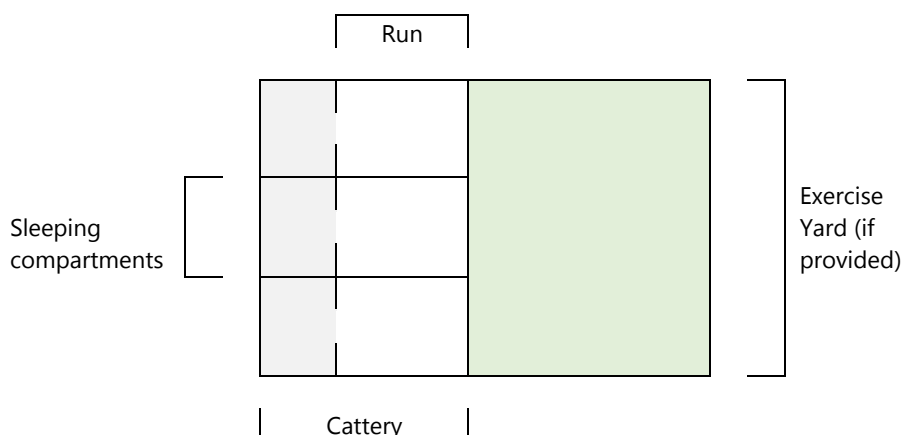


Table 3: Summary of accommodation and exercise requirements

	Shop dog	House dog	Yard dog	Kennel dog	Working dog	Guardian dog	Shop cat	House cat	Yard cat	Cattery cat
Kennel or cattery	No	No	No	Yes	Elevated	No	No	No	No	Yes
Run	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Sleeping compartment	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Litter tray	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Exercise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 Standards

Stress and handling of animals

- 5.3.1.1 Animals must be protected, as far as is practicable, against stress or injury of any cause. Animals that may be distressed by the presence of other animals (of the same or a different species) must be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces their ability to smell the other animals.
- 5.3.1.2 Animals that may be distressed by excessive handling or human interference must be placed in an area which limits or removes such interference. It must, however, be recognised that human contact may be important for socialisation (depending on the species) and may be desirable in moderation.

Animals in shops

- 5.3.1.3 Enclosures must provide protection from strong draughts and be maintained at a temperature and humidity which is conducive to the comfort and well-being of the animals held.
- 5.3.1.4 Animals must be protected from excessive light at night, including from outside the shop. Any such light must be extinguished or dimmed or other light protection measures must be used (e.g. cage covers or window blinds).
- 5.3.1.5 The lighting regime must be appropriate to the maintenance of the animals' wellbeing (e.g. providing UV light for reptiles). Animals must not be exposed to continuous light or darkness for more than sixteen hours in any twenty four hour period.
- 5.3.1.6 The duration and intensity of artificial lighting, if used, must be sufficient to allow thorough inspection and observation of animals.
- 5.3.1.7 Animals must be protected from excessive light that is generated from an external source (e.g. street lights or security flood lights). Lighting should mimic the prevailing natural light cycles.
- 5.3.1.8 Enclosures must be sufficiently ventilated to maintain the health of the animals, while minimising undue draughts, odours and moisture condensation.
- 5.3.1.9 Air ventilation devices, if used, must have an air change rate sufficient to distribute fresh air evenly to all animals.

5.3.2 Guidelines

- 5.3.2.1 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to animals. This should include the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young, pregnant or infirm animals. For outdoor facilities, this may include wetting the animals or their housing in hot weather or providing additional insulation or bedding in cold weather. Particular attention should be given to protecting short faced (brachycephalic) breeds, especially against heat.
- 5.3.2.2 Ventilation should be in compliance with AS1668 *The Use of Ventilation and Air Conditioning Part 2 – Mechanical Ventilation in Buildings* and Part 4 *Natural Ventilation in Buildings*. As a guide, there should be about ten air changes per hour.
- 5.3.2.3 Shops in which dogs and cats are housed should be maintained at temperatures between 15 and 30 degrees Celsius.
- 5.3.2.4 Hides or retreat areas should be provided for species or individuals known to become distressed by being visible for extended periods.
- 5.3.2.5 Species-appropriate toys and other environmental enrichments should be provided.
- 5.3.2.6 Animals that may be easily stressed should be located away from high usage areas.
- 5.3.2.7 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to animals. This should include the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young, pregnant or infirm animals. For outdoor facilities, this may include wetting the animals or their housing in hot weather or providing additional insulation or bedding in cold weather.
- 5.3.2.8 Where practicable, animals should not be displayed in the shop windows or shop fronts.
- 5.3.2.9 Ventilation should be in compliance with AS1668 *The Use of Ventilation and Air Conditioning Part 2 – Mechanical Ventilation in Buildings* and Part 4 *Natural Ventilation in Buildings*. As a guide, there should be about ten air changes per hour.
- 5.3.2.10 Facilities that house dogs or cats should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure them.
- 5.3.2.11 Noise from barking dogs may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
 - 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 enclosures, use of blinds or suitable design to prevent dogs from seeing other dogs
- holding dogs in compatible pairs
- taking care to exercise dogs out of sight of kennelled dogs.

5.3.2.12 Noise from tom cats or calling queens may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:

- providing lockable soundproof quarters in which a tom cat is held at night.
- locating the tom cats enclosure inside another building, or by taking advantage of as much shielding by existing walls and buildings as possible.
- providing the tom cat with compatible companion cats, a more interesting environment, 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 enclosure and placing her in an indoor enclosure, which can also be further covered over at night.
- taking the queen promptly to the stud (whether he is entire or vasectomised).

5.3.2.13 If cats are housed as groups, consideration should be given for each cat to be able to find an area in which it can be free from interference by other cats.

5.3.2.14 The size requirements in Tables 1 and 2 are the *minimum* enforceable standard. Owners should ensure that the physical and welfare needs of individual animals are not compromised by their spatial environment.

5.4 Security

5.4.1 Standards

5.4.1.1 The facility must be able to be reasonably secured to prevent access by unauthorised people.

5.4.1.2 Housing, other than that of guardian dogs, must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals.

5.4.1.3 The public must not have access to animals unless under the supervision of the owner or an assistant.

5.4.2 Guidelines

5.4.2.1 Double barriers are recommended to assist in preventing animals from escaping.

5.4.2.2 Any security methods used should allow for ready access to animals and ready exit for the owner, assistants and animals in the event of an emergency.

6 Animal management

Objective

Animals are protected from distress, injury, illness and disease, and provided with appropriate food, water, exercise and living conditions.

6.1 Animal care

6.1.1 Standards

Equipment

6.1.1.1 All equipment that may affect the welfare of the animals held must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of illness or injury.

Environmental enrichment

6.1.1.2 Animals must receive environmental enrichment, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, to ensure good psychological health. Environmental enrichment includes training and other activities.

Animals kept in isolation

6.1.1.3 Animals in isolation must be kept in a quiet, hygienic area as appropriate for the species. In most instances the following categories of animals must be isolated (either individually or in a compatible group of animals):

- animals with dependent young
- animals about to give birth
- animals in season
- sick or injured animals
- aggressive animals.

6.1.1.4 The owner or assistants must provide animals that are isolated with additional attention and socialisation as appropriate to the species and individual.

Grooming

6.1.1.5 Animals must be groomed by brushing or clipping at a frequency which ensures that their health and comfort is maintained.

Identification of dogs and cats

6.1.1.6 The owner must be able to individually identify each dog and cat kept. This may be by recognition, written records, microchipping or external identifiers such as collars and tags or other identifying mechanisms.

Exercise requirements for dogs and cats

- 6.1.1.7 Dogs and cats held in shops must be exercised according to breed and age, but for a minimum of ten minutes, at least three times daily on days when the establishment is open (i.e. a total of at least 30 minutes) and twice daily on non-trading days (i.e. a total of at least 20 minutes), unless being treated for significant illness or injury. Exercise periods must be reasonably spaced throughout the day.
- 6.1.1.8 Dogs and cats, other than those held in shops, must have the opportunity to exercise for a minimum of thirty minutes daily, unless being treated for significant illness or injury. This may be access to an exercise area, or by walking, playing, training or work activities. Exercise areas must meet the minimum dimensions specified for yard dogs and yard cats (see definition of 'Yard' in section 2.2). This does not apply to a working livestock dog that is being rested or to guardian dogs.
- 6.1.1.9 Unless dogs and/or cats are known to be compatible they must be supervised while sharing an exercise area and appropriate measures must be implemented to minimise the risk of distress or injury.
- 6.1.1.10 Dogs must not be exercised in any way which is likely to cause serious injury, for example attached to a moving motor vehicle, or unsupervised on a treadmill.
- 6.1.1.11 Exercise areas must be wide enough to allow animals to turn freely and, if used to exercise dogs, must be fenced in a manner which prevents escape.
- 6.1.1.12 The owner of a dog must be aware of the provisions of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, including their responsibilities when a dog is in a public place.

Electronic training collars

- 6.1.1.13 An electronic shock collar must not be placed on an animal to train it.

6.1.2 Guidelines

- 6.1.2.1 When grooming a dog or cat particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, claws, teeth and anal glands.
- 6.1.2.2 Efforts should be made to socialise dogs and cats to people, other species of animals and their environment, and to acclimatise them to the normal sights and sounds of living with people.
- 6.1.2.3 Measures should be put in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

6.2 Food and water

6.2.1 Standards

Note: *The following requirements also apply to public facilities on non-trading days*

Equipment

- 6.2.1.1 Animals must be able to reach their food and water containers easily. The equipment must be stable, non-toxic, and of a material and construction which can be cleaned, decontaminated or replaced.
- 6.2.1.2 Water containers must be positioned to minimise the risk of spillage and faecal contamination.
- 6.2.1.3 Food and water containers must be cleaned with sufficient frequency to ensure that food and water provided in them is safe and palatable; and must be removed, cleaned and replaced promptly if contaminated by urine, faeces, vomitus or other matter.

Food

- 6.2.1.4 Animals must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain health and growth. Food must be palatable and in a form appropriate to the species, age and condition of the animal.
- 6.2.1.5 Food supplies must be kept clean and palatable and stored to prevent deterioration or contamination.
- 6.2.1.6 Spoiled or stale food must be removed and disposed of promptly.
- 6.2.1.7 Puppies and kittens under four months of age must be offered a sufficient quantity of a balanced and complete diet at least twice daily, unless receiving adequate maternal nutrition.
- 6.2.1.8 Dogs and cats over four months of age must be provided with food at least once daily. The diet of debilitated animals must be at the direction of a veterinarian or a person of acknowledged experience in their care.

Water

- 6.2.1.9 Adequate cool, clean drinking water must be available in sufficient quantity and for sufficient time to meet the animal's physiological needs (including bathing for some species such as amphibians).

6.2.2 Guidelines

- 6.2.2.1 Food should be prepared hygienically.
- 6.2.2.2 The body condition of group-housed animals should be monitored regularly to ensure each individual is maintaining optimal body weight.
- 6.2.2.3 Animals that are group-housed and not maintaining optimal body weight should be supervised when fed to ensure that each animal gets the required amount of food.
- 6.2.2.4 For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per animal. For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult and one feeding bowl per three kittens.
- 6.2.2.5 Puppies and kittens under four months of age should be fed approximately 12 hourly (for example, a puppy that receives its final feed for the day at 7pm should receive its first feed early in the morning the following day).
- 6.2.2.6 Puppies and kittens under four months of age should be weighed at least twice per week to monitor their normal growth and general health.
- 6.2.2.7 Puppies and kittens between four and six months of age should be offered a sufficient amount of a balanced and complete diet at least twice daily.

6.3 Cleanliness and hygiene

6.3.1 Standards

- 6.3.1.1 All facilities must be cleaned and maintained to a level that ensures the health and welfare of the species being kept, especially areas where new animals are to be introduced or an animal is about to give birth.
- 6.3.1.2 The surrounds of all enclosures in shops must be regularly cleaned to minimise dirt, animal litter and faeces.
- 6.3.1.3 Litter must be replaced and bedding, containers and other furniture must be clean when animals are introduced to a vacant enclosure.
- 6.3.1.4 If an animal is known or suspected to be suffering a disease or infection which is likely to harm other animals, its housing, including bedding and exercise yards must be discarded and replaced; or disinfected and decontaminated with an appropriate product before another animal is introduced
- 6.3.1.5 Bedding and environmental enrichment items must be cleaned, changed or discarded if soiled with faeces or other organic matter.
- 6.3.1.6 Preparation and storage areas, containers, utensils and other equipment used in the preparation and provision of food must be maintained in a hygienic state.
- 6.3.1.7 Collection drains in shops and large facilities must be cleaned daily.

Kennels and catteries

- 6.3.1.8 Occupied kennels and catteries must be cleaned at least once daily. This includes the removal of waste food, soiled bedding etc. and, in the case of kennels, hosed or treated in some other manner to remove urine and faeces.
- 6.3.1.9 Dog and cat exercise areas must be maintained in a clean and healthy state and cleaned before new animals are introduced to the area.

Litter trays

- 6.3.1.10 Litter trays must be:
 - checked, scooped and replenished daily
 - changed promptly if they are saturated with urine
 - changed and washed and litter replaced before being allocated to a new cat.

Dead animals

- 6.3.1.11 Animals that die must be removed from the sight and vicinity of other animals as soon as they are observed.
- 6.3.1.12 Dead animals must be disposed of as soon as possible unless a necropsy is required, in which case the body must be stored in a hygienic manner (e.g. bagged and chilled).

Waste management

- 6.3.1.13 Animal waste and food scraps must be removed on a regular basis and before such time as it could cause discomfort to the animal or pose a health risk to animals or people.
- 6.3.1.14 Equipment must be provided to ensure the sanitary disposal of animal wastes, food scraps and similar materials.
- 6.3.1.15 Organic waste products such as dead animals, faeces, soiled bedding and food wastes must be handled and stored in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

6.3.1.16 Waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.

Vermin and parasite control

6.3.1.17 Vermin infestation, in particular wild rodents, flies and ants must be minimised.

6.3.1.18 The owner of a shop or large facility must have a documented program in place to control insects (e.g. flies and ants), external parasites (e.g. fleas, lice, ticks) and vertebrate pests (e.g. rats or mice) within the facility. The documented program must be kept at the facility and all assistants must be able to produce or access it and be familiar with its content.

6.3.1.19 The owner of a small facility, other than a shop, must have a program in place to control insects, external parasites (e.g. fleas, lice, ticks) and vertebrate pests (e.g. rats or mice) within the facility. This may or may not be documented.

Hand sanitisers

6.3.1.20 Hand sanitisers or washing facilities must be available for use by the owner, assistants and the public before and after handling animals.

6.3.2 Guidelines

6.3.2.1 Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted in order to protect the health and safety of the owner, assistants and the animals kept.

6.3.2.2 The owner and assistants should be aware that some decontaminants are toxic to some species, for example some common decontaminants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxyleneols are toxic to some species.

6.3.2.3 Cleaning and decontaminant chemicals and materials should be used on the basis of their suitability, safety to the species and effectiveness, and only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

7 Animal health

Objective

The health of animals is monitored regularly to detect signs of disease, injury and distress. Treatment is provided if necessary including appropriate veterinary treatment. If the euthanasia of an animal is required it is conducted in an effective and humane manner.

7.1 Health checks

7.1.1 Standards

- 7.1.1.1 The owner is responsible for supervising the inspection of animals in accordance with these standards.
- 7.1.1.2 The owner must be familiar with the signs of those diseases that are common in the species of animal held.
- 7.1.1.3 All animals must be inspected at least once daily to monitor their health and well-being. The person who is inspecting must check for abnormal:
- eating and drinking (in the case of neonatal mammals not drinking milk)
 - defecating and urinating
 - behaviour and movement
 - coat or plumage;
 - and whether the animal is showing any signs of pain, injury, illness, distress or change in body condition.
- 7.1.1.4 An assistant must either report any change in health status promptly to the owner or take appropriate action themselves. The owner must take appropriate action to address any reported changes in health status.
- 7.1.1.5 In shops and large facilities all animals must be inspected at frequent intervals, at least at opening and closing times, and appropriate action taken to prevent or mitigate any harm.
- 7.1.1.6 Adult dogs and adult cats in public facilities must be inspected at least once daily on non-trading days.
- 7.1.1.7 Puppies and kittens in public facilities must be inspected at least twice daily on non-trading days.
- 7.1.1.8 Dogs and cats in public facilities must not be left unattended for more than sixteen hours.
- 7.1.1.9 Large facilities other than shops must have a documented Animal Health Management Plan and issues recorded in each dog or cat's individual animal health records.

7.1.2 Guidelines

- 7.1.2.1 Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary treatment should be sought is species dependant but may include:
- runny nose
 - runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
 - repeated sneezing
 - coughing
 - vomiting
 - severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained

- lameness
- bleeding or swelling of body parts
- inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate
- loss of appetite
- weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden
- apparent pain
- fits, staggering or convulsions
- bloating of the abdomen
- difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate
- fluffed feathers
- red or brown coloured urine
- patchy hair or feather loss
- depression
- fever
- presence of external parasites
- any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

7.1.2.2 All dogs and cats should undergo an examination from a veterinarian at least annually.

7.2 Medical care

7.2.1 Standards

- 7.2.1.1 The owner must identify a veterinarian who is able to attend to their animals and/or advise on disease prevention measures.
- 7.2.1.2 The contact details for the veterinarian must be known or be available to assistants.
- 7.2.1.3 Prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment must be provided for an animal which is injured or suspected to be diseased to protect the health of the individual and prevent the spread of disease.
- 7.2.1.4 Internal and external parasites including fleas, lice, ticks and gastrointestinal worms must be controlled through routine and preventative treatment as appropriate to the species. (This does not include heartworm treatment for dogs.)
- 7.2.1.5 Assistants who are responsible for the administration of veterinary treatments or routine husbandry procedures must be instructed in the required treatment regimes.
- 7.2.1.6 A person must not debark a dog unless the person is a veterinarian and the procedure is undertaken as a last resort and the only alternative is euthanasia.
- 7.2.1.7 A person must not crop the ears of an animal nor dock its tail; unless the person is a veterinarian and the procedure is undertaken for medical reasons.

Diseased, deformed or injured animals

- 7.2.1.8 Appropriate treatment must be provided for diseased, deformed or injured animals.
- 7.2.1.9 An animal suspected to have a contagious disease (and those in the same enclosure) must be strictly isolated (individually or as a group).

7.2.2 Guidelines

- 7.2.2.1 Newly acquired animals should not be mixed with existing animals for a minimum of 48 hours.
- 7.2.2.2 Veterinary advice should be obtained in the event of unexplained illness or death.
- 7.2.2.3 A program should be in place to maintain a feline leukaemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus free cat population in the facility.
- 7.2.2.4 Dogs should be vaccinated against distemper, canine infectious hepatitis, canine parvovirus and kennel cough with an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority approved vaccine in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 7.2.2.5 Heartworm should be controlled through routine and preventative treatment.
- 7.2.2.6 Cats and kittens should be vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease with an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority approved vaccine in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 7.2.2.7 Leasing contracts for dogs and cats should include arrangements in case of a medical emergency; the preferred veterinarian in non-urgent situations and responsibility for payment of veterinary costs.

7.3 Euthanasia

7.3.1 Standards

Requirement for euthanasia

- 7.3.1.1 If euthanasia is recommended by a veterinarian the animal must be euthanized, unless there is a viable alternative that is in the interests of the animal and the community. This includes animals with behavioural abnormalities (e.g. excessive aggression), a disease, genetic abnormality, injury or deformity.

Method of euthanasia

- 7.3.1.2 A person who euthanizes an animal must have the knowledge, skills and experience to undertake the procedure humanely.
- 7.3.1.3 Euthanasia must not be conducted in the presence or sight of any other animals.
- 7.3.1.4 If the owner or an assistant euthanizes an animal, it must be done in a manner which causes death or unconsciousness as rapidly as possible. The person euthanizing the animal must ensure that it does not recover consciousness before it dies and must confirm that it is dead. Drowning is not an acceptable method of euthanasia.

7.3.2 Guidelines

- 7.3.2.1 Euthanasia should be performed by a veterinarian.
- 7.3.2.2 If a healthy dog or cat can no longer be kept and it is behaviourally sound the owner should sell or give it away rather than euthanize it.

8 Transfer of ownership

Objective

The transfer of ownership of animals is used as an opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership to the client and provide appropriate advice on the care and management of the animal.

8.1 General requirements

8.1.1 Standards

Age at transfer of ownership

- 8.1.1.1 Unweaned animals must not be accepted by facilities unless the facility has adequate resources and expertise for their artificial feeding and care or euthanasia.
- 8.1.1.2 All animals must be fully able to feed independently (i.e. without a parent) when their ownership is transferred to a client.
- 8.1.1.3 Prior to the transfer of ownership to a client puppies and kittens must be fully weaned and have been on an established diet for at least a week.
- 8.1.1.4 Owners operating from shops and temporary public venues must not transfer the ownership of puppies or kittens unless they are at least seven weeks old.

Parasite treatments

- 8.1.1.5 Animals must be treated for internal and external parasites as appropriate to their species (other than heartworm in dogs) prior to transfer of ownership to safeguard the health of the animals and of people who might handle them.

Disclosure of characteristics

- 8.1.1.6 The ownership of an animal known or suspected of:
 - being ill, injured or diseased (including congenital diseases)
 - being aggressive or venomous
 - being pregnant
 - being poorly socialised
 - being deformed (if the long term prognosis is poor)
 - having known characteristics such as biting, aggression, digging, chewing or being destructive;

can only be transferred if, prior to transfer, there is full verbal and written disclosure of:

- the nature of the condition
- the appropriate management of the condition, including treatment options
- any likely change in longevity of the animal
- a realistic estimate of the cost of managing the condition
- the likely impact on the client and/or their property.

8.1.1.7 The ownership of a species that requires specialist feeding techniques can only be transferred if, prior to transfer, there is full verbal and written disclosure of feeding instructions.

8.1.1.8 The characteristics of an animal must not be misrepresented and any pertinent information must not be withheld.

Information to be provided to clients

8.1.1.9 At the time of, or prior to, the transfer of ownership the client must be offered information at no charge regarding the care of animals purchased and must be permitted to ask reasonable questions of the seller and receive accurate responses. The information offered must include:

- parasite and disease detection, prevention and treatment
- the responsibilities inherent in companion animal ownership
- the general care, housing and management of the animal
- the appropriate diet for the animal (or a diet sheet)
- the legal requirements of keeping the species, including permits;

and in reference to the particular animal being purchased:

- any particular species and breed requirements or characteristics, which may impact on its welfare and suitability in the intended home
- any individual requirements or characteristics such as the reason that a previous owner is trading or has surrendered the animal.

Prescribed breeds of dog

8.1.1.10 The ownership of a dog of a prescribed breed must not be transferred.

Information required by the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*³.

8.1.1.11 At the time of, or prior to, the transfer of ownership of a dog or cat, clients must be provided with information required by Section 71 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

8.1.1.12 Any advertisement for the sale of a dog or cat must provide the information required by Section 71 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

8.1.2 Guidelines

8.1.2.1 In addition to the Information required by standard 8.1.1.8 the following information should be provided:

- usual life span
- minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation
- minimum requirements for security
- minimum requirements for social contact with people and other animals

³ The *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* is being amended to require that certain information is provided to buyers and that certain information is provided in any advertisements for the sale of a dog or cat. These requirements will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

- procedures for seeking emergency treatment and the value of establishing a relationship with a veterinarian and/or experienced persons
- the estimated costs associated with providing food and shelter
- routine veterinary treatment that may be required, for example vaccination and parasite control
- maximum time the animal should be left unattended
- expected behaviours, for example digging or scratching
- the desirability and advantages of desexing (if species appropriate)
- minimum exercise requirements and limitations on exercise e.g. short-faced (brachycephalic) dogs in hot weather
- information about the individual animal, such as medical history
- other information of which the client should be aware.

and for dogs and cats:

- minimum requirements for disease and parasite control/prevention
- the benefits of reward based training
- how to identify and appropriately manage common diseases
- costs associated with registration.

- 8.1.2.2 If the weather is inclement, it should be recommended that the client collects their animal when conditions improve if the client does not have access to climate controlled transport or housing.
- 8.1.2.3 Policies and procedures should be implemented to encourage clients to obtain suitable animals. Such matching should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the client, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children.
- 8.1.2.4 All persons involved in the breeding and trading of dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.
- 8.1.2.5 Sellers should make themselves reasonably available to clients after transfer of ownership to answer any questions or provide advice on the health, care and training of the animal and to assist with any difficulties the client may be experiencing.
- 8.1.2.6 Clients should be encouraged to seek advice about animal care, management and training from veterinarians or other people with appropriate expertise.
- 8.1.2.7 If possible, breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the rehoming of surrendered dogs and cats. Similarly, pounds and shelters should seek the assistance of breeders, breed clubs and interest groups in finding appropriate homes for dogs and cats.
- 8.1.2.8 The ownership of a dog should not be transferred unless the dog is vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and kennel cough in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 8.1.2.9 The ownership of a cat should not be transferred unless the cat is vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 8.1.2.10 At the time of transfer of ownership, the client should be provided with a vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian.

9 Trading at temporary public venues

Objective

The animals offered for sale in temporary public venues are housed and managed appropriately.

9.1 General requirements

9.1.1 Standards

- 9.1.1.1 If the weather is inclement to the extent that the comfort and welfare of the animal at an outdoor venue cannot be safeguarded, the animal must not be presented for sale.
- 9.1.1.2 In warm weather animals must be provided with shade and cool water.
- 9.1.1.3 During inclement weather, reasonable steps must be taken to provide animals with protection from the elements to ensure the animal's health, safety and welfare taking into consideration the species, breed and age of the animal.
- 9.1.1.4 Any animal that shows signs of distress due to weather or any other condition must be removed from sale and provided with appropriate conditions or treatment to aid recovery.
- 9.1.1.5 Animals must not be confined for the purpose of sale at a temporary public venue for more than fifteen hours in any twenty-four-hour period.

10 Breeding of dogs and cats, care of dams and rearing of young

Objective

The mating, breeding, birthing and rearing processes are managed to ensure good animal welfare outcomes.

10.1 General requirements

10.1.1 Standards

Suitability for breeding

- 10.1.1.1 The owner must not permit a bitch to have more than five litters over her lifetime unless a veterinarian has certified in writing that she is fit to do so.
- 10.1.1.2 The owner must not permit a queen to have more than eight litters over her lifetime, and no more than two litters in 12 months, unless a veterinarian has certified in writing that she is fit to do so.
- 10.1.1.3 Dogs or cats known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease must not be used for breeding or be accepted for breeding under lease unless under written approval from a veterinarian.
- 10.1.1.4 If the owner knows, or reasonably ought to know, that a particular mating has a high probability of resulting in a serious hereditary defect (e.g. mating two dogs with severe hip dysplasia or clinical progressive retinal atrophy), which is likely to compromise the health or welfare of offspring, the owner must not allow that mating to occur unless the mating is approved by an animal ethics committee established in accordance with the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.
- 10.1.1.5 Dogs or cats that are excessively nervous, aggressive or are otherwise of poor temperament must not be bred.
- 10.1.1.6 A person must not breed a dog of a prescribed breed.

Mating

- 10.1.1.7 Dogs and cats must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of mating.
- 10.1.1.8 During mating, breeding pairs must be isolated from other animals, and monitored by the owner or a competent assistant (with the exception of guardian dogs).

Pregnant dams

- 10.1.1.9 Dams which are in the latter stages of pregnancy or lactating must be provided with additional food and water at frequent intervals.
- 10.1.1.10 Obviously pregnant or lactating bitches and queens must not be offered for sale from a shop or temporary public venue.

Birthing dams

- 10.1.1.11 If there is evidence that birthing has commenced (e.g. straining or contracting) and there is no progress within two hours, appropriate remedial action must be taken including close monitoring and seeking advice from a veterinarian or an experienced breeder.

- 10.1.1.12 During birthing, dams must be isolated from other animals (with the exception of guardian dogs) and monitored by the owner or a competent assistant on a regular basis to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.
- 10.1.1.13 Birthing bitches, with the exception of guardian dogs, must be provided with a suitable whelping box lined with clean bedding, which is changed or replaced if soiled. This does not apply to bitches that refuse to accept a whelping box or that will not tolerate or not use bedding or they place their offspring at risk through interference with bedding.
- 10.1.1.14 A guardian dog that is due to give birth must be provided with a shelter which provides protection from other dogs, predators, wind, rain and extremes of temperatures.
- 10.1.1.15 Birthing queens must be provided with a covered kitting box lined with clean bedding, which is changed or replaced if soiled.

Lactating dams

- 10.1.1.16 Lactating dams must be housed in such a manner that they are able to move around and escape their young or be separated from their litter for short periods on a regular basis.

Rearing puppies and kittens

- 10.1.1.17 Kittens or puppies must not be permanently separated from their litter or their lactating dam until they are weaned, unless it is in the best interests of the puppy or kitten, or their dam.
- 10.1.1.18 Puppies and kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.
- 10.1.1.19 Puppies and kittens must be observed to ensure they achieve a steady weight gain every week.
- 10.1.1.20 Puppies and kittens must be appropriately socialised according to their intended lifestyle (for example, a dog intended to be a guardian is not socialised in the same manner as one which is intended to be a house dog).

10.1.2 Guidelines

- 10.1.2.1 The minimum age for a bitch or queen to have her first litter is dependent on her size, breed, nutritional and health status. In general, a bitch should not be mated before she is twelve months old and a queen before she is ten months old.
- 10.1.2.2 Dams in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected at regular intervals and any health or welfare concerns should be addressed.
- 10.1.2.3 Breeding practices should ensure that dams and sires and their offspring are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible.
- 10.1.2.4 Breeding dogs and cats should be provided with the best quality of life possible, and litters should only be produced if there is a reasonable expectation that they will find appropriate homes.
- 10.1.2.5 If a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and if there is a screening procedure or test for that disease, before breeding a dog or cat the owner should:
- obtain for the animal a current official evaluation or test result for the hereditary disease
 - provide the official evaluation or test result to the owner in the event that the screened or tested animal is to be mated to another animal not owned by the breeding facility
 - provide the official evaluation or test result of both parents to clients considering any puppy or kitten
 - endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both parents will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.

- 10.1.2.6 Breeding dogs and cats should be selected to eliminate undesirable behaviours, such as poor mothering or aggression.
- 10.1.2.7 All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that dogs and cats are well socialised to people (including children) and other animals.
- 10.1.2.8 Puppies and kittens should be encouraged to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area as animals with good toileting practices are more manageable and responsive to training.
- 10.1.2.9 Solid food should be offered to puppies and kittens from three to four weeks of age. Solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- 10.1.2.10 Any puppy or kitten that does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinarian.
- 10.1.2.11 All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that puppies and kittens kept are physically and behaviourally healthy.
- 10.1.2.12 When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating, owners or assistants should endeavour to ensure that the queen and stud:
- are both eating and using their litter tray
 - have separate beds
 - have actually mated and that the stud has an easily accessible shelf on which to jump after mating with the queen to enable him to escape her claws.
- 10.1.2.13 After delivery of a litter, the dam and young should be checked by a veterinarian.
- 10.1.2.14 After delivery of a litter the birthing area should be cleaned and decontaminated.
- 10.1.2.15 The correct paper work including mating dates, the sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms should be supplied to the owner/lessee of the dam when she is collected after the mating, or on payment of an agreed fee.
- 10.1.2.16 Birthing dams should be provided with a heat source in cool or cold weather.
- 10.1.2.17 The welfare of breeding sires and dams should be considered when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding.
- 10.1.2.18 When an animal reaches the end of its useful breeding life, or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes, and if the animal would be a suitable pet, the owner should:
- have the animal desexed
 - settle the animal into its new conditions (ex-stud cats require considerable patience and care, but can become suitable for pet homes)
 - either provide a home for the desexed animal themselves or transfer its ownership to another person.
- 10.1.2.19 Breeders should not select for breed characteristics (such as protruding eyes, dish faces etc.) to such a degree that it may impact on the viability, health or welfare of the resultant puppies or kittens.
- 10.1.2.20 Bitches and queens should be examined by a veterinarian prior to mating to identify any factors that could impact on the health and welfare of the dam or resultant puppies or kittens.

11 Transport

Objective

Animals are fit for their journey, adequately prepared and transported in a manner that ensures their safety, security and welfare.

11.1 Seller responsibilities

11.1.1 Standards

Containers

- 11.1.1.1 All animals must be placed in a container or suitably restrained to ensure their security, protection and welfare when handed or consigned to the client.
- 11.1.1.2 Containers must be suitable and protect the animal from serious injury, other animals, extreme temperature and excessive stress.
- 11.1.1.3 Containers must provide adequate ventilation and protection from rain, wind, direct sunlight and other adverse weather conditions.
- 11.1.1.4 Containers must be sufficiently strong to withstand stacking and general handling and constructed to exclude most light, whilst not prejudicing adequate ventilation.
- 11.1.1.5 If the animal is being transported to the client by a third party (e.g. an airline or road transport) the container must be clearly labelled "(Number of – e.g. 5) LIVE (species – e.g. DOG) INSIDE" and include the name and phone number of the seller and client. If the animal is venomous or dangerous this must also be stated on the label.

Food and water

- 11.1.1.6 Food must be provided for animals undertaking an extended journey. In general, including loading, unloading and waiting time, an extended journey is one which exceeds 12 hours, however the requirements of the individual being transported and the journey undertaken must be the primary guide to food provision.
- 11.1.1.7 Water must be provided according to the requirements of the species and individual. In some cases, it is necessary to provide water even for relatively short journeys.

Fitness to travel

- 11.1.1.8 Prior to transport, all animals must be assessed by the seller to confirm that they are fit for the intended journey.

Communication with the client

- 11.1.1.9 All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the client is aware of the estimated time and location of the animal's arrival.

11.2 Transfer of responsibilities during consignment

11.2.1 Standards

- 11.2.1.1 The seller is responsible for the animal until it is in the custody of the person transporting it.
- 11.2.1.2 The person transporting the animal then accepts responsibility for its care until it is in the custody of the client, at which time the animal becomes the responsibility of the client.

11.3 Transporter responsibilities

11.3.1 Standards

- 11.3.1.1 The person transporting the animal must ensure that, if the vehicle is especially designed or predominantly used for transporting animals it:
- protects them from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area
 - provides easy and safe access for handlers
 - protects against unauthorised release or escape
 - is easy to clean and decontaminate
 - is fitted with an operational air conditioning system or provides adequate ventilation to the section of the vehicle where the animals are held to protect against extremes of temperature, even when stationary.
- 11.3.1.2 The person transporting the animal must provide a safe means of transport with adequate restraint that will not endanger the animal.
- 11.3.1.3 All animals must be transported in a manner appropriate for their species, size and age. Incompatible animals must be physically separated during transport to prevent injury, harm or distress.
- 11.3.1.4 Animals must not be transported in the boot of a sedan vehicle or in the rear of a utility under a tonneau cover (soft or hard).
- 11.3.1.5 Dogs transported on the back of a truck or utility must be tethered or caged. This does not apply to working livestock dogs whilst working.
- 11.3.1.6 Vehicles must have adequate ventilation and shade, sufficient to maintain good health and to avoid distress.
- 11.3.1.7 All vehicles used predominantly for the purpose of transporting animals must be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated after use to minimise the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases between consignments of animals. This does not apply to a vehicle used to transport a dog that is being used in the droving or tending of livestock or is going to, or returning from, a place where it will be, or has been, so used.
- 11.3.1.8 The minimum exercise requirements of these standards apply to all transported dogs and cats. Thus dogs and cats must be afforded the opportunity to exercise for at least thirty minutes if they are confined for a period of twenty-four hours.

11.3.2 Guidelines

- 11.3.2.1 All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements of the current International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations in relation to animal behaviour and containers.
- 11.3.2.2 Transport time should be minimised.



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources