Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board

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Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and Cats 2026



Published by the Dog and Cat Management Board
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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and overview

The purpose of the *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Dogs and Cats 2026* is to ensure the welfare of dogs and cats which are bred for fee or reward by:

- setting standards of conduct for those who breed and trade in dogs and cats; and
- specifying standards and guidelines for the care of these dogs and cats to ensure their health, safety and welfare.

By complying with the standards, people involved in breeding and trading dogs and cats demonstrate to the general community their commitment to maintain the welfare of the animals in their care.

This document draws upon the *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Breeding and Trading of Companion Animals 2017*. This document reflects nationally consistent standards, developed through benchmarking to ensure they are suitable and appropriate. It draws on national comparisons and similar approaches adopted in other states and territories to uphold a high standard of animal welfare in line with public expectations.

The *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and Cats 2026* aims to set standards which are consistent with the strictest standards across Australia for the breeding and trading of dogs and cats.

These standards and guidelines are neither a complete manual on animal management, nor a static document. They will continue to 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.

1.2 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

The *Standards and Guidelines for the Breeding of Dogs and Cats 2026* are adopted under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

The standards described in this document are the minimum requirements that must be met under law for licenced breeders of dogs and cats. Failure to meet a standard may result in an expiation notice (fine) or a prosecution under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Standards are identified by the heading “Standards” and use the word ‘must’. Standards

- are necessary for the welfare of dogs and cats,
- are practical for owners, clients and government to implement.

Guidelines

Guidelines provide recommendations on how to achieve the required standards. A guideline may provide examples of practices which are consistent with a standard and may describe recommended best practices.

Guidelines are identified by the heading "Guidelines" and use the word 'should.' They are designed to complement the standards. Guidelines are not mandatory: non-compliance with one or more guideline does not necessarily constitute an offence under law. Guidelines provide further detail on how to comply with the standards.

1.3 Other relevant legislation

In addition to these Standards, a person who breeds and/or trades dogs and cats must comply with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017, and comply with all South Australian and Commonwealth legislation, including:

- *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 (SA);
- *Veterinary Services Act 2023* (SA);
- *South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (SA);*
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 (SA);*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993* (SA);
- *Work, Health and Safety Act 2012* (SA);
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth); and
- *Local Government Act 1999* (SA).

It is the duty of the person to which these standards apply to be aware of their legislative responsibilities.

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2. Application and definitions

2.1 Application

These standards and guidelines apply to a licensed breeder as defined by Part 7 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

2.2 Definitions

Adult dog/cat	means a dog or cat six months of age or older.
Animal	means any dog or cat kept at the facility.
Assistant	means any person over the age of 16 years, who assists the owner in the breeding, rearing or trading of cats or dogs. 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.
Authorised officer	means: a police officer; or A person appointed as an authorised person under section 25A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;* or means an inspector under section 3 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.
Biosecurity	means procedures or measures designed to protect dogs and cats against harmful biological or biochemical substances.
Bitch	means an adult female dog which is not desexed.
To breed/breeding	means breeding an animal for trade.
Breeder	means a person who breeds a dog or cat.
Cat	means an animal of the species Felis catus.
Cattery	means a structure with one or more open, meshed sides dedicated for the purpose of housing cats.
Client	means the potential, intended or actual recipient of an animal.
Dam	means an adult bitch or queen that gave birth to puppies or kittens, or one that is pregnant.
Dog	means an animal of the species Canis familiaris.
Enclosure	means a cage, pen, transport crate, kennel, cattery or similar used to confine an animal.
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.
Fertile Female	means a female dog or cat aged six months or older, that has not been desexed.

Heritable defect	means a defect or disease inherited from the genes acquired from the parent generation and may be present at birth or develop later on in life.
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.
To keep an animal	means the act of raising, caring for, and maintaining control over a cat or dog.
Kennel	means a structure with one or more open, meshed sides dedicated for the purpose of housing dogs.
Kitten	means an animal of the species Felis catus up to six months of age.
Large facility	means a facility with between five to a maximum of fifty fertile females at any one time.
Microchip	microchip means an electronic device that is capable of being permanently implanted in an animal and that is designed to record information in a manner that can be electronically retrieved; microchipped or to microchip—an animal is microchipped if a microchip is implanted in the animal.
microchipped or to microchip	means to implant a microchip in the animal;
To own	means to have custody and control of an animal as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1985.
Owner	means the person(s) who has/have custody and control of the animal as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1985. 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.
Prescribed breed	means (as per the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*): a. American Pit Bull Terrier; b. Dogo Argentina; c. Fila Brasiliero; d. Japanese Tosa; or e. Presa Canario.
Puppy	means an animal of the species Canis familiaris up to six months of age.
Queen	means an adult female cat which has not been desexed.
Licenced breeder	means a person licenced as a breeder under Part 7 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.
Run	means that part of a kennel or cattery which is not the sleeping compartment.
To sell	includes: (a) auction, barter or exchange; or (b) offer for sale, auction, barter or exchange; or (c) cause or permit to be offered for sale, auction, barter or exchange; or (d) possess for the purposes of sale, auction, barter or exchange;
Serious heritable defect	means a defect or disease that causes suffering and disability in an animal, which is inherited from the genes acquired from the parent generation and may be present at birth or develop later on in life. Serious heritable defects include: Cats: • Polycystic Kidney Disease, • Folded ears associated with osteochondrodystrophy, • Aplasia or hypoplasia of long bones. Dogs: • Progressive Retinal Atrophy,

	• Hereditary cataract, • Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (CL), • Von Willebrand's disease, • Collie Eye Anomaly.
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, fodder stores and similar commercial retail outlets that trade in dogs and cats.
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.
Tether	means any physical device, other than an enclosure, used to control or contain an animal.
Trade	means the act or process of transferring, or offering to transfer, the ownership of an animal. This includes to: (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. For the purposes of clarity, in this document, 'trade' includes: (e) giving the animal away subject to the purchase of other goods or services (f) seeking a donation for an animal; but does not include the unfettered gift of an animal (including the gifting of an animal by a council to an organisation or person).
Transfer of ownership	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).
Unauthorised people	means people who are on the premises without lawful authority or the permission of the owner or occupier of the premises.
Veterinarian	means a person who is registered as a veterinary surgeon in any Australian jurisdiction.
Welfare	means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.
Working livestock dog	means a dog— (a) usually kept, proposed to be kept or worked on rural land by a person who is— (i) a primary producer; or (ii) engaged or employed by a primary producer; and (b) kept primarily for the purpose of herding, droving, protecting, tending or working stock, or training for herding, droving, protecting, tending or working stock and includes a guardian dog.
Yard	means an enclosed area (for example a suburban backyard, a dedicated holding yard or a home paddock).
Zoonotic diseases	means an infectious disease of humans caused by a pathogen that can spread between animals to humans.

3. Responsibilities and competencies of owners and assistants

Objective

All people involved in the breeding and trading of dogs and cats 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.

3.1 Responsibilities

Standards

S3.1.1 A person who breeds or trades in dogs or cats is responsible for the animals kept and must ensure that the standards in this document are met.

S3.1.2 A person who breeds or trades in dogs or cats must ensure that their assistants are aware of their obligations in accordance with these standards and the assistants comply with these standards.

3.2 Staffing

Standards

S3.2.1 A person who breeds or trades in dogs or cats must have sufficient assistants to meet these standards and to ensure the welfare of the animals being kept.

S3.2.2 All facilities must have an appropriately knowledgeable and competent person in attendance with sufficient frequency to meet the requirements of these standards.

S3.2.3 At any time the facility is open to the public, there must be at least one person with appropriate knowledge and experience in attendance.

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3.3 Competencies and Training

Standards

S3.3.1 A person who breeds or trades in dogs and cat must be knowledgeable and competent to provide for animals' care and welfare.

S3.3.2 Licensed breeders[1] must comply with any education requirements set as a condition of their breeder licence.

S3.3.3 Adequate training must be provided to any person involved in the facility's breeding operation. Training must be relevant to species held and include:

a) the feeding and watering of animals;
b) the protection of animals from distress or injury caused by other animals or interference by people;
c) cleaning and ensuring proper hygiene in the facility where the animals are kept;
d) identification of signs of ill health which require prompt veterinary attention, including signs of common diseases;
e) procedures for the care of sick and injured animals;
f) procedures for the care of pregnant animals and birthing dams;
g) special requirements of old or young animals;
h) exercise, behavioural and social needs of the animals kept;
i) handling and control;
j) transport of animals;
k) disease and parasite control and prevention, including zoonotic diseases;
l) isolation protocols;
m) awareness and understanding of breed selection and serious heritable defects;
n) emergency management and evacuation procedures;
o) the keeping of records.

S3.3.4 All persons 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 risks. Owners and assistants should follow the SA Health guidelines in relation to the risk of illnesses associated with animal contact.

Guidelines

G3.1 Owners should read this document and keep it accessible at the facility. Each assistant should be provided with a copy of this document.

G3.2 A person who breeds or trades in dogs and cats should engage at least one assistant per six fertile females, or per 20 other dogs and/or cats (in addition to the owner themselves).

[1] It is an offence under section 70 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* for a person to sell a dog or cat they have bred unless the person is the holder of a breeder's licence that authorises the person to breed dogs or cats.

G3.3 Owners and assistants employed to care for animals should have formal qualifications received through an Australian Government accredited course (see www.yourcareer.gov.au) and have appropriate experience in animal care and management.

G3.4 Any training received by owners and staff should be recorded in a training register kept at the facility.

G3.5 All persons involved in the breeding program should undergo refresher training on a biennial basis.

G3.6 Protective clothing such as closed shoes, gloves, face masks and eye protection should be provided.

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4. 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.

4.1 General requirements

Standards

S4.1.1 All facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that:

- provides for the physical and mental welfare 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 illness and injury to animals and people.

S4.1.2 All facilities must have a clean and adequate water supply, sufficient to meet the daily requirements of the animals.

S4.1.3 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept inaccessible to animals.

S4.1.4 Animals must not be in extended contact with wet floors and must not be kept exclusively on wire flooring or bare concrete.

4.2 Minimisation of stress

Standards

S4.2.1 Animals must be protected, as far as is practicable, against stress or injury of any cause.

S4.2.2 All facilities must be designed to enable incompatible animals to be sufficiently separated or otherwise isolated to minimise stress.

S4.2.3 Noise from animals must be managed to minimise stress to animals and must comply with noise regulations and workplace health and safety requirements.

S4.2.4 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 hear and to smell the other animals.

S4.2.5 Animals that may be distressed by excessive handling or human interference must be placed in an area which limits or removes such interference.

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Guidelines

G4.2.1 Retreat areas should be provided for individual animals known to become distressed by being visible for extended periods.

G4.2.2 Animals that may be easily stressed should be located away from high usage areas.

G4.2.3 Animals should not be displayed in shop windows or shop fronts.

G 4.2.4 Facilities should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure animals in the facility.

G 4.2.5 Human contact, in moderation, may be important for socialisation of timid or easily stressed animals and its frequency and duration should be carefully considered.

4.3 Enclosure design

Standards

S4.3.1 Enclosures must be designed and maintained to meet the health, physical and behavioural requirements of the species held and be appropriate for the health and welfare of each individual animal.

S4.3.2 Outdoor enclosures must provide protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse or extreme weather conditions.

S4.3.3 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.

S4.3.4 Aggressive, sick and injured animals must be housed in a manner that minimises risks to themselves, other animals and the public; and in a manner that protects them from other animals and people.

S4.3.5 Enclosures must be constructed of materials that are durable, non-toxic and easily cleaned.

S4.3.6 Enclosures must be maintained in a clean state.

S4.3.7 Whether kept individually or in groups, animals must have space to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about and undertake a range of natural behaviours.

S4.3.8 Animal enclosure sizes must be:

a) a. no less than the size set out in Part 9, Table 1 (dogs) or Part 10, Table 2. (cats)

and

b) b. appropriate to the requirements of the individual animal to ensure its health and welfare, taking account of the animal's characteristics, including its species, size, breed, age, health, and daily time spent in the enclosure.

S4.3.9 Animals must be provided with clean, dry sleeping areas appropriate to their species. The sleeping areas must:

a) provide sufficient protection from sun, wind and rain to allow the animal to avoid inclement weather while sleeping or resting, and

b) provide dry bedding appropriate to the species and breed, sufficient for the number of animals held, and sufficient to insulate them from the floor, unless bedding is not appropriate for the animal.

Guidelines

G4.3.1 Enclosures should provide sufficient space for each animal to withdraw.

G4.3.2 Examples of when the provision of bedding is not appropriate for an animal include:

- When animals do not use bedding when offered.
- Guardian dogs generally do not require bedding.

4.4 Light, shade, temperature and ventilation

Standards

S4.4.1 Enclosures must provide protection from strong draughts and be maintained at a temperature and humidity for the comfort and welfare of the animals held.

S4.4.2 Outdoor enclosures must provide shade and protection from the elements. Exercise areas must have areas of shade.

S4.4.3 Temperature of indoor areas must be maintained within the range of 10 to 32 degrees Celsius.

S4.4.4 Ventilation of animal housing must be sufficient to keep them free of odours, moisture, condensation and dampness.

S4.4.5 Fully enclosed animal housing must

- have an air change rate of 8–12 changes per hour to prevent the build-up of foul odours.
- have ventilation devices that distribute fresh air evenly to all of the housing areas.
- have an air change rate sufficient to distribute fresh air evenly to all animals.

S4.4.6 Where forced ventilation is the only form of air, such as in enclosed cattery pods, each of the following are required:

- air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals.
- a back-up and maintained alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms.

S4.4.7 Sufficient lighting must be available in the facility to enable the proper inspection and observation of animals.

S4.4.8 Animals must be protected from excessive light at night, including from outside the facility (e.g. streetlights or security flood lights). Any such light must be extinguished or dimmed, or other light protection measures must be used (e.g. cage covers or window blinds).

S4.4.9 Animals must not be exposed to continuous light or darkness for more than sixteen hours in any twenty-four-hour period.

S4.4.10 Where purpose-built animal housing is constructed indoors, (such as in a kennel or cattery building), natural daylight during daylight hours must be provided.

S4.4.11 Whelping or queening and lactating areas must have access to natural daylight.

Guidelines

G4.4.1 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.

G4.4.2 Particular attention should be given to protecting short faced (brachycephalic) breeds, especially against heat.

G4.4.3 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*.

G4.4.4 Lighting should mimic the prevailing natural light cycles.

4.5 Isolation facilities

Standards

S4.5.1 There must be an area provided at the facility or at another location such as a veterinary hospital, where animals can be kept in isolation.

S4.5.2 An isolation area must be separated from general animal housing by an impervious barrier or be at least 10 metres from other types of animal housing.

S4.5.3 Drainage from the isolation area must not run from the isolation area to or through other types of animal housing.

S4.5.4 A facility must create and maintain a biosecurity plan, and ensure that isolation areas are used strictly in accordance with the procedures outlined in that plan.

Guidelines

G4.5.1 A veterinarian should be consulted in the design of the facility's isolation area.

4.6 Security

Standards

S4.6.1 The facility must be able to be reasonably secured to prevent access by unauthorised people.

S4.6.2 Animal housing, other than that provided for guardian dogs, must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals.

S4.6.3 The public must not have access to animals unless under the supervision of the owner or an assistant.

S4.6.4 Tethers must only be used when reasonably required, for the least amount of time necessary, and must be appropriate for the species and age of the animal. Tethers must not cause distress, injury or discomfort to any animal.

S4.6.5 An electronic shock collar must not be placed on an animal to confine it.

Guidelines

G4.6.1 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.

G4.6.2 Tethers should not be used unless they are the best available option to restrain the animal whilst ensuring its health and welfare.

G4.6.3 Double barriers are recommended to assist in preventing animals from escaping.

4.7 Cleanliness, hygiene and waste management

Standards

S4.7.1 All facilities must be cleaned and maintained to a level that ensures the health and welfare of the species being kept.

S4.7.2 Kennels and catteries must be cleaned at least once daily or more frequently if required. This includes the removal of faeces, waste food and soiled bedding and, in the case of kennels, hosed or treated in some other manner to remove urine and faeces.

S4.7.3 The surrounds of all enclosures must be regularly cleaned to minimise dirt, animal litter and faeces.

S4.7.4 Dog and cat exercise areas must be maintained in a clean and hygienic state and cleaned before new animals are introduced to the area.

S4.7.5 Litter must be fresh and bedding, containers and other furniture must be clean when animals are introduced to a vacant enclosure. [Note litter change requirements for cat enclosures in Part 10]

S4.7.6 Pens must be disinfected prior to the introduction of a new animal. When no new animals are introduced, pens holding animals must be disinfected at least weekly.

S4.7.7 Enclosures must be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated after the removal of animals and before placing newly acquired animals in them.

S4.7.8 If an animal is known or suspected to be suffering a disease or infection which is likely to harm other animals, its housing and exercise yards must be disinfected and decontaminated with an appropriate product, bedding must either be cleaned and disinfected or discarded and replaced, and watering and feeding utensils must be disinfected before another animal is introduced to the housing or yard.

S4.7.9 Bedding and environmental enrichment items must be cleaned by washing in hot soapy water at least once per week, and must be immediately changed or discarded if soiled with faeces or other organic matter.

S4.7.10 Food preparation and storage areas and food containers, utensils and other equipment used in the preparation of food must be cleaned and disinfected after use.

S4.7.11 Collection drains must be cleaned daily or more frequently as required to ensure their use does not cause discomfort or pose a health risk for animals or people.

S4.7.12 Animal waste and food scraps must be removed at least daily and as soon as practicable to ensure any waste does not cause discomfort or pose a health risk to animals or people.

S4.7.13 Equipment must be provided to ensure the sanitary disposal of animal wastes, food scraps and similar materials.

S4.7.14 Organic waste products such as faeces and food wastes must be handled and stored in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

S4.7.15 General waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.

S4.7.16 Animals that die must be removed from the sight and vicinity of other animals as soon as they are observed. Remains must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the relevant government authority.

S4.7.17 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).

S4.7.18 Hand sanitisers and hand washing facilities, with soap provided, must be available for use by the owner, assistants and the public before and after handling animals.

4.8 Vermin and parasite control

Standards

S4.8.1 A facility must have a documented pest control program appropriate to the size and nature of the facility. The documented program must be kept at the facility and all assistants must be able to access it and be familiar with its content. Pest control includes the control of insects (e.g. flies and ants), external parasites (e.g. fleas, lice, ticks) and vertebrate pests (e.g. rats or mice).

S4.8.2 The documented pest control program must be produced to an authorised officer on request.

S4.8.3 The pest control program must be implemented to prevent and, if necessary, control and eliminate any pest infestation.

Guidelines

G4.8.1 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.

G4.8.2 Bedding of pregnant or lactating animals should be monitored to check if it requires more frequent changing and cleaning than the required weekly minimum, depending on the needs of the animal.

G4.8.3 Special attention should be given to cleaning areas where new animals are to be introduced, or an animal is about to give birth.

G4.8.4 Animal waste and food scraps should be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate way, using a compost system or organic recycling where possible.

G4.8.5 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.

G4.8.6 Decontaminants which may be toxic to some species, (for example some common decontaminants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxylenols), should not be used in areas housing that species or in food preparation areas.

G4.8.7 Strong chemicals that could cause nasal irritation in dogs or cats must only be used in the absence of animals, and sufficient time should be allowed for any residual odours to dissipate before reintroducing animals to the area.

G4.8.8 The pest control program should be regularly reviewed to assess its effectiveness.

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4.9 Emergency management

Standards

S4.9.1 All facilities must have functioning firefighting equipment that is appropriate to the size of the facility, and readily available. All staff must know how to use the equipment.

S4.9.2 A facility must have a documented and readily available Emergency Management Plan appropriate to its size and scale, including provision for the swift removal of animals from the site (when necessary and if practical), in the event of emergencies such as fire, flood, power blackouts etc.

S4.9.3 The Emergency Management Plan must be produced to an authorised officer on request.

S4.9.4 At least one person with sufficient knowledge and experience in the care of the animals kept must be available to attend the facility after hours in case of emergency.

Guidelines

G4.9.1 An Emergency Management Plan is readily available if it is kept in a common area accessible to all staff. For example, a simple plan may be laminated and displayed on a wall in a staff common room or kitchen.

G4.9.2 The Emergency Management Plan should be periodically reviewed by the owner. The period from the last review should not exceed two years.

G4.9.3 The detail and content of the Emergency Management Plan should be commensurate with the size of the enterprise.

G4.9.4 Firefighting equipment should comply with Australian Standard AS 2444.

G4.9.5 Emergency evacuation drills should be conducted on a regular basis.

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5. Animal Management

Objective

Animal management supports quality of life where animals are protected from distress, injury, illness and disease, and provided with appropriate food, water, exercise, living conditions and are allowed freedoms to express normal behaviours. 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 euthanasia of an animal is required, it is conducted in an effective and humane manner. Mating, breeding, birthing and rearing processes are managed in accordance with standards.

5.1 Animal Health Management Plan

Standards

S5.1.1 All facilities must have a documented Animal Health Management Plan appropriate to the size and scale of the breeding operation.

S5.1.2 The facility's Animal Health Management Plan must include:

a) a disease and parasite prevention and treatment plan
b) an animal exercise program
c) animal enrichment, socialisation and handling programs
d) contact details for the facility's regular veterinarians, including the details of any emergency veterinarian.

Guidelines

G5.1.1 The Animal Health Management Plan should be periodically reviewed by the owner. The period from the last review should not exceed two years.

G5.1.2 The owner should consult with a veterinarian when creating or reviewing the facility's Animal Health Management Plan.

G5.1.3 The detail and content of the Animal Health Management Plan should be commensurate with the size of the enterprise.

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5.2 Animal care

Standards

Identification

S5.2.1 All animals must be individually identified by use of written records, microchipping[2] and external identifiers such as collars and tags or other identifying mechanisms.

Equipment

S5.2.2 All equipment that may affect the welfare of the animals held must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of illness or injury.

Exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation

S5.2.3 Animals must be provided with adequate daily exercise, in accordance with their animal health management plan, appropriate to their physiological status and individual needs, taking into account the age, health, breed and individual characteristics of the animal (Refer to Part 9 for specific guidelines applicable to dogs and Part 10 for standards and guidelines applicable to cats).

S5.2.4 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.

S5.2.5 Incompatible animals must be sufficiently physically separated.

S5.2.6 Exercise areas must be wide enough to allow animals to turn freely and must be fenced in a manner which prevents escape.

S5.2.7 Exercise areas must meet the minimum dimensions in the specified definition of 'Yard' in Part 2. This does not apply to a working livestock dog that is being rested or to guardian dogs.

S5.2.8 Animals must receive daily appropriate environmental enrichment and socialisation, in accordance with their animal health management plan, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, to ensure good psychological health (Refer to Part 9 for specific guidelines applicable to dogs and Part 10 for standards and guidelines applicable to cats).

Animals kept in isolation

S5.2.9 Animals in isolation must be kept in a quiet, hygienic area as appropriate for their species, size and health.

S5.2.10 The following categories of animals must be isolated (either individually or in a compatible group of animals):

[2] Dogs and cats must be microchipped in accordance with *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

- animals with dependent young
- animals about to give birth
- animals in season
- sick or injured animals
- aggressive animals
- animals requiring isolation for welfare reasons
- animals suspected of having or being exposed to an infectious disease.

S5.2.11 Animals that are isolated must be provided additional attention and socialisation as appropriate to the species and individual.

Newly acquired dogs and cats

S5.2.12 Newly acquired dogs and cats which have not been bred by the owner 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.

S5.2.13 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.

Grooming

S5.2.14 Animals must be groomed by brushing or clipping at a frequency which ensures that their health and comfort is maintained. Coats must not be left dirty or matted.

Guidelines

G5.2.1 Every person involved in the breeding program should be able to recognise and identify each animal kept at the facility.

G5.2.2 The name, description, breed, sex, and microchip number of each animal in a pen/cage should be displayed clearly on every pen/cage in the form of an identification card.

G5.2.3 Each identification card should also indicate whether the animals are receiving additional care and the type of care and, for females, the number, birth date, sex and details of offspring.

G5.2.4 Efforts should be made to socialise dogs and cats to people (including children), other species of animals and their environment, and to acclimatise them to the normal sights and sounds of living with people. This should be done in a safe and controlled environment. Enrichment and socialisation should be considered together and should be appropriate to the animal's developmental stage and age.

G5.2.5 Species-appropriate toys and other environmental enrichments should be provided.

G5.2.6 Puppies and kittens should not be kept in isolation where any practical alternative is available.

G5.2.7 Newly acquired animals should not be mixed with existing animals for a minimum of 48 hours.

G5.2.8 When grooming a dog or cat particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, claws, teeth and anal glands.

5.3 Food and water

Standards

Food

S5.3.1 Animals must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain health and growth. Food must be appropriate to the species, age and condition of the animal.

S5.3.2 Adult dogs and cats must be fed at a frequency appropriate to their individual needs.

S5.3.3 The body condition of group-housed animals should be monitored regularly to ensure each individual is maintaining optimal body weight.

S5.3.4 Puppies and kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.

S5.3.5 From three weeks of age puppies and kittens under four months must be offered a sufficient quantity of balanced and complete solid food at least three times daily, and must not be left without access to food for more than 12 hours. For example, a puppy that receives its third feed, and final feed, for the day at 5pm should receive its first feed for the next day no later than 5am the following morning.

S5.3.6 Animals over four months of age must be provided with food at least once daily.

S5.3.7 The diet of debilitated animals must be at the direction of a veterinarian or a person of acknowledged experience in their care.

S5.3.8 Animals that are unable to feed themselves must only be kept where adequate facilities and expertise is available for artificial rearing.

S5.3.9 Food must be prepared hygienically.

S5.3.10 Spoiled, stale or contaminated food must be removed promptly.

S5.3.11 Food must be stored appropriately and hygienically to minimize spoilage.

Food Reserves

S5.3.12 At all times the facility must hold a minimum of 5 days' food supply, sufficient to feed all animals kept at the facility, in order to ensure food is available for the animals in the case of any emergency event, such as illness, accident or large-scale emergency.

Water

S5.3.13 All animals must have access to sufficient cool, clean drinking water at all times.

Food and Water Containers

S5.3.14 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.

S5.3.15 Water containers must be positioned to minimise the risk of spillage and faecal contamination.

S5.3.16 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.

Guidelines

G5.3.1 Food should be kept in sealed and vermin-proof containers. Wet and raw food should be refrigerated.

G5.3.2 Animals that are group-housed and not maintaining optimal body weight should be supervised, and if necessary separated, when fed to ensure that each animal receives the required amount of food.

G5.3.3 Solid food for puppies and kittens should be moistened or softened when necessary.

G5.3.4 Puppies and kittens under four months of age should be weighed at least twice per week to monitor their normal growth and general health.

G5.3.5 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.

5.4 Animal health

Standards

Daily health and welfare checks

S5.4.1 All animals must be inspected by the owner or an assistant at least once daily and more if required as appropriate to the size, age, breed, and health or the animal, to monitor their health and welfare. The person who is inspecting must check for abnormal:

- eating and drinking (in the case of neonatal puppies and kittens not drinking milk);
- defecating and urinating;
- behaviour and movement;
- appearance of the animal's coat;
- any signs of pain, injury, illness, distress or change in body condition.

S5.4.2 Appropriate action must be taken promptly in response to an animal's change in health status.

S5.4.3 Any issues identified by health and wellbeing checks must be recorded in each dog or cat's individual animal health record.

Veterinary checks and treatment

S5.4.4 The owner must establish a relationship with a veterinarian who is able to attend to their animals and/or advise on disease prevention measures.

S5.4.5 The contact details for the veterinarian must be known or be available to assistants.

S5.4.6 All animals must have a general health examination by a veterinarian at least annually.

Diseased, deformed or injured animals

S5.4.7 Prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment must be provided for an animal which is injured, deformed or suspected to be diseased to protect the health of the individual and prevent the spread of disease.

S5.4.8 When an animal is suspected to have a contagious disease:

a) the animal, and those in the same enclosure, must be strictly isolated (individually or as a group); and
b) their housing and exercise yards must be disinfected and decontaminated with an appropriate product; and
c) bedding must either be cleaned and disinfected or discarded and replaced; and
d) watering and feeding utensils must be disinfected.

S5.4.9 The disinfection and decontamination measures in S5.4.6 must occur before another animal is introduced to the housing or yard.

Treatment for parasites and other diseases

S5.4.10 The facility's Animal Health Management Plan must include a parasite treatment and prevention plan, and include fungal, bacterial, and viral infection management.

S5.4.11 Internal and external parasites including fleas, lice, ticks, mites and gastrointestinal worms must be controlled through routine and preventative treatment as appropriate to the species. (This does not include heartworm treatment for dogs.)

S5.4.12 Facilities must include specific measures for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of ringworm within their Animal Health Management Plan.

S5.4.13 Assistants who are responsible for the administration of veterinary treatments or routine husbandry procedures must be trained in the required treatment regimes.

S5.4.14 Details of the treatments given to each animal, including dates and types of treatment given, must be recorded in each animal's animal health record.

Guidelines

G5.4.1 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
- red or brown coloured urine
- patchy hair loss
- depression
- fever
- presence of external parasites
- any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

G5.4.2 Puppies and kittens should be checked at least twice every 24 hours (see Part 5.6 for further specific guidelines re puppies and kittens).

G5.4.3 Veterinary advice should be obtained in the event of an animal's unexplained illness or death.

G5.4.4 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.

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5.5 Euthanasia

Standards

S5.5.1 Euthanasia must be undertaken by a veterinarian, except in emergency situations, when an owner must first obtain the approval of a veterinarian and conduct the euthanasia according to the veterinarian's directions. The owner must obtain a written certificate from the veterinarian within 7 days of carrying out the euthanasia, with the certificate stating that permission was given, when the permission was given, why permission was given, and the approved form of euthanasia.

S5.5.2 Euthanasia must be done in a manner which causes death or unconsciousness as rapidly as possible and must be carried out in a way that does not cause unnecessary harm, pain or distress to the animal. The person euthanising 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.

S5.5.3 Puppies and kittens 8 weeks and under requiring euthanasia must be euthanised by a veterinarian.

S5.5.4 Euthanasia must not be conducted in the presence or sight of any other animals.

Guidelines

G5.5.1 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 euthanise it.

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

Standards

Age of Breeding

S5.6.1 All animals must be physically mature and at least 12 months old prior to mating.

S5.6.2 A bitch or queen must not be mated after reaching six (6) years of age.

*(For the maximum number of litters permitted for dogs see **Part 9** and for cats see **Part 10**)*

Suitability for breeding

S5.6.3 Animals known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease must not be used for breeding, or be accepted for breeding under lease.

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S5.6.4 If the owner knows, or reasonably ought to know, that a particular mating has a high probability of resulting in a serious hereditary defect 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* (see definitions in Section 2 for "serious hereditable defect").

S5.6.5 Dogs or cats that are excessively nervous, aggressive or are otherwise of poor temperament must not be bred.

S5.6.6 Breeding mates must not be closely related to one another (that is; father and daughter; brother and sister; mother and son).

S5.6.7 A person must not breed a dog of a prescribed breed.

Mating

S5.6.8 Dogs and cats must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of mating or artificial insemination.

S5.6.9 Surgical artificial insemination (SAI) must not be performed on bitches or queens under any circumstances for the purpose of breeding.

S5.6.10 A bitch or queen must not be mated again after undergoing three caesarean sections.

S5.6.11 During mating, breeding pairs must be isolated from other animals, and monitored by the owner or a competent assistant.

Pregnant and lactating dams

S5.6.12 Dams which are in the latter stages of pregnancy or lactating must be provided with additional food and water at frequent intervals.

S5.6.13 Obviously pregnant or lactating dams must not be offered for sale.

Birthing and postnatal care

S5.6.14 During birthing, dams must be isolated from other animals and monitored by the owner or a competent assistant on a regular basis to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.

S5.6.15 If there are any abnormalities observed or concerns for the welfare of the dam or puppies or kittens during the birthing process, veterinary advice must be immediately sought.

S5.6.16 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.

S5.6.17 If weight gain in puppies and kittens is not observed during the first 7 days of life, veterinary advice must be sought and action taken as directed by the veterinarian.

S5.6.18 Bitches and queens and their offspring must have a post-partum health check by a veterinarian no more than 8 weeks following delivery of a litter.

Rearing puppies and kittens

S5.6.19 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.

S5.6.20 Puppies and kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.

S5.6.21 Puppies and kittens must be observed to ensure they achieve a steady weight gain every week.

S5.6.22 Puppies and kittens must be appropriately socialised according to their intended lifestyle.

Retirement of animals used for breeding

S5.6.23 Retired female animals previously used for breeding must be prevented from further breeding.

S5.6.24 Retired animals must be desexed in accordance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and either remain with the breeder as a companion animal, or re-homed to a suitable home.

Guidelines

G5.6.1 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.

G5.6.2 Breeding practices should ensure that dams and sires and their offspring are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible

G5.6.3 Breeding dogs and cats should be selected to eliminate undesirable behaviours, such as poor mothering or aggression.

G5.6.4 Second degree related animals (for example, grandfather and granddaughter) should not be mated without appropriate prior expert advice.

G5.6.5 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 of that breed 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.

G5.6.6 If a breeder is notified that an animal sold by them has been diagnosed by a veterinarian to have a heritable disease/defect, or is provided with reasonable evidence of the animal having a heritable disease/defect, the breeder should stop breeding from the parents of this animal until the parents of

the animal are tested, or if a test is not available, have the parents assessed by a veterinarian for the defect. The breeder should also test any existing offspring of those parents kept at the facility.

G5.6.7 If any breeding animals are identified as having a heritable defect, genetic counselling should be obtained from a veterinarian prior to continuing to breed with those animals, and a plan should be developed in conjunction with a veterinarian for any offspring who also have the defect for their sale, or if suffering, their euthanasia.

G5.6.8 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.

G5.6.9 The welfare of breeding sires and dams should be considered when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding.

G5.6.10 Both male and female animals should have a general health check by a veterinarian prior to first mating to assess whether they are physically mature enough to be bred with.

G5.6.11 Bitches and queens should be examined by a veterinarian within 4 weeks prior to each mating to identify any factors that could impact on the health and welfare of the dam or resultant puppies or kittens.

G5.6.12 Correct documentation 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.

G5.6.13 Dams in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected at regular intervals and any health or welfare concerns should be addressed.

G5.6.14 Birthing dams should be provided with a heat source in cool or cold weather.

G5.6.15 After birth, puppies and kittens should be monitored every 6 hours until lactation and feeding are established.

G5.6.16 Once lactation and feeding are established, puppies and kittens should be checked at least twice every 24 hours.

G5.6.17 For the first week post birth, dams should be examined twice daily for mastitis and treatment provided immediately upon diagnosis.

G5.6.18 After delivery of a litter the birthing area should be cleaned and decontaminated.

G5.6.19 Solid food for puppies and kittens should be moistened or softened when necessary.

G5.6.20 Puppies and kittens under four months of age should be weighed at least twice per week to monitor their normal growth and general health.

G5.6.21 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.

G5.6.22 All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that puppies and kittens kept are physically and behaviourally healthy.

G5.6.23 Any puppy or kitten that does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinarian. (Note that a veterinary check is mandatory for any puppy or kitten that does not achieve weight gain within the first 7 days after birth. *See Standard **5.6.4***)

G5.6.24 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.

G5.6.25 Prevention of breeding of retired animals kept as companion animals should be discussed with a veterinarian and may be achieved by either de-sexing of the animal, by contraception or by appropriate separation from other animals.

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6. Transport

Objective

Animals are fit for their journey, adequately prepared and transported in a manner that ensures their safety, security and welfare whether that journey be by road, air or water.

6.1 General requirements

Standards

S6.1.1 All animals must be transported in a manner appropriate for their species, size, age and individual characteristics.

S6.1.2 Animals must be transported for the minimum time practicable.

S6.1.3 Prior to transport, all animals must be fit for the intended journey.

6.2 Restraint

Standards

S6.2.1 All animals must be placed in a container or adequately restrained to ensure their security, protection and welfare during transport.

S6.2.2 Incompatible animals must be physically separated and restrained or individually enclosed by a compartment or cage that is both escape-proof and prevents the protrusion of head and/or limbs of any animal carried.

S6.2.3 Dogs transported on the back of a truck or utility must be tethered or caged in accordance with the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

S6.2.4 Dogs must not be transported in the cabin of a vehicle unless restrained or enclosed in a compartment or cage.

S6.2.5 Cats must be transported in a cage or container when being transported.

6.3 Containers

Standards

S6.3.1 Containers must be suitable for the size of the animal and protect the animal from serious injury, other animals, extreme temperature and excessive stress.

S6.3.2 Containers must provide adequate ventilation and protection from rain, wind, direct sunlight and other adverse weather conditions.

S6.3.3 Containers must be sufficiently strong to withstand stacking and general handling and constructed to exclude most light, whilst not prejudicing adequate ventilation including when stacked.

S6.3.4 Containers must be secured to the vehicle to prevent movement of the container.

6.4 Food, water and exercise during transport

Standards

S6.4.1 Food must be provided for animals undertaking an extended journey and at least every 12 hours, this includes loading, unloading and waiting time.

S6.4.2 Animals must be provided with clean, fresh water during transport at intervals appropriate to their species, age, and health status, to ensure adequate hydration.

S6.4.3 The requirement that animals must be provided with adequate daily exercise appropriate to their needs applies on days on which animals are transported.

6.5 Vehicles used to transport animals

Standards

S6.5.1 All vehicles used to transport animals must provide the animals adequate ventilation and shade, sufficient to maintain good health and to avoid distress.

S6.5.2 A vehicle which is specially designed or predominantly used for transporting animals must:

a) protect them from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area;
b) provide easy and safe access for handlers;
c) prevent unauthorised release or escape;
d) prevent the protrusion of head and/or limbs of any animal carried in the vehicle;
e) be easy to clean and decontaminate;
f) be 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.

S6.5.3 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.

S6.5.4 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).

Guidelines

G6.5.1 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 labelling of containers.

G6.5.2 The requirements of the individual animal being transported and the nature of the journey undertaken should be the primary guide to food provision during the journey.

G6.5.3 The weather, the age and individual characteristics of the animal should be considered in the amount and frequency of water provided during transport. In some situations, it is necessary to provide water even for relatively short journeys.

G6.5.4 The driver of a vehicle transporting animals should stop to inspect those animals at least every two hours.

G6.5.5 An animal should have the opportunity for at least 30 minutes of exercise every 24 hours when confined for transport.

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7. Requirements of Sale

Objective

The transfer of ownership of animals occurs only when the animal is old enough and ready for transfer. The transfer of ownership is used as an opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership to the client, to provide them with information about the animal and to advise on the care and management of the animal.

7.1 Minimum age at sale

Standards

S7.1.1 Owners must not transfer the ownership of puppies or kittens unless they are at least eight weeks old.

S7.1.2 All animals must be fully able to feed independently (i.e. without a parent) when their ownership is transferred to a client.

S7.1.3 Prior to the transfer of ownership to a client, puppies and kittens must have been on an established diet for at least a week.

S7.1.4 Unweaned animals must not be accepted by facilities unless the facility has adequate resources and expertise for their artificial feeding and care or euthanasia.

7.2 Parasite treatments

Standards

S7.2.1 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.

7.3 Information to be provided to clients and disclosure of characteristics

Standards

S7.3.1 All animals being sold must be accompanied with an Animal Health Declaration, which must include the following information:

- date of last health check, name of person who conducted the health check, and outcomes of the check;

- details of injury or physical abnormality (including congenital disease) at the time of sale, and how that abnormality may affect the short and long-term health and welfare of the animal;
- details of any known heritable defect identified by a veterinarian or as a result of genetic testing.

Note: 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*. The information in required to be provided in this Standard must be provided in addition to the information required by Section 71.

S7.3.2 The ownership of an animal known or suspected of being aggressive, poorly socialised or pregnant can only be transferred if, prior to transfer, there is full verbal and written disclosure of its condition or characteristics.

S7.3.3 If a previous owner has traded, returned after sale or surrendered the animal, this fact, and the reason for it, must be disclosed to the client at the time of, or prior to sale.

S7.3.4 The characteristics of an animal must not be misrepresented, and any pertinent information must not be withheld.

S7.3.5 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;
- what future vaccinations will be required and how often;
- the responsibilities inherent in companion animal ownership;
- the general care, housing and management of the animal
- the appropriate diet for the animal;
- the legal requirements of keeping the animal;
- any particular breed requirements or characteristics, which may impact on its welfare and suitability in the intended home as well as any individual requirements or characteristics.

7.4 Prescribed breeds not to be sold

Standards

S7.4.1 In accordance with section 71G of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, a dog of a prescribed breed must not be sold or given away, or advertised for sale or to be given away.

Guidelines

G7.1 In addition to the Information required by Standard 7.3 the following information should also be provided:

- usual life span of the animal;
- minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation;
- minimum requirements for security;
- minimum requirements for social contact with people and other animals;
- 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 grooming that may be required;
- maximum time the animal should be left unattended;
- expected behaviours, for example digging, chewing or scratching;
- information regarding desexing;
- minimum exercise requirements and limitations on exercise e.g. short-faced (brachycephalic) dogs in hot weather;
- detailed medical history;
- the benefits of reward-based training for dogs;
- how to identify and appropriately manage common diseases.

G7.2 If the animal is suffering from an illness, injury or physical abnormality (including congenital abnormality) at the time of sale, the Animal Health Declaration referred to in Standard 7.3 should include the following details:

- symptoms of the condition;
- the appropriate management of the condition;
- any likely change in longevity of the animal;
- a realistic estimate of the cost of managing the condition;
- information from the animal's treating veterinarian regarding the condition and any recommended treatments.

G7.3 If the weather is very hot or very cold, it should be recommended that the client collect their animal when conditions improve if the client does not have access to climate-controlled transport or housing.

G7.4 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.

G7.5 All persons involved in the breeding and trading of dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.

G7.6 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.

G7.7 Clients should be encouraged to seek advice about animal care, management and training from veterinarians or other people with appropriate expertise.

G7.8 At the time of transfer of ownership, the client should be provided with a vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian.

8. Record keeping

Objective

Facilities 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.

8.1 Retention, production and accessibility

Standards

S8.1.1 Records required by these standards which relate to individual animals must be retained for no less than five years after the death or disposal of the animal.

S8.1.2 Records required by these standards must be produced at the request of an authorised officer.

S8.1.3 Records relevant to the health and welfare of animals being held must be accessible by assistants.

8.2 Individual animal health records

Standards

S8.2.1 Individual animal health records must be kept for each animal and must include:

(a) for each animal in their possession:
- sex (including whether desexed);
- species, breed and colour;
- microchip number;
- any special medical and dietary requirements;
- the name (if named) or reference number of the animal;
- the history of the animal, including;
- date of birth (if known);
- date of acquisition;
- vaccination status;
- details of preventative and veterinary treatment, for example routine husbandry procedures such as worming or parasite control;
- details of medical history;
- details of any known heritable defect identified by a veterinarian or as a result of genetic testing;
- observations of the temperament of the animal;
- if the animal is leased or on consignment:
  a. name, address and telephone number of the person from whom the animal is leased or consigned

b. 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 litter bred:
- name and microchip number of the dam or queen
- date of birth
- the number of puppies or kittens in the litter

(c) a copy of all of the information given to buyers in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 71 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*

(d) a copy of the Animal Health Declaration

(e) name and contact details of the new owner of each animal traded and the date of transfer to the new owner.

(f) if an animal is euthanised the date, reason and method for euthanasia, and if euthanised by a person other than a veterinarian, the written certificate of permission obtained from a veterinarian as required by Standard 5.5.

(g) if an animal dies, the date of death, whether or not a necropsy was performed and the cause of death (if known).

Guidelines

G8.1 Individual animal records kept should include, in addition to the above:

- all notes and observations on individual animals, including weight recorded at the time of health checks;
- any significant change in the animal's condition or behaviour;
- distinguishing features or markings;
- date of mating;
- name and microchip number of the sire of all litters (if known);
- a grooming program for each animal.

G8.2 Recorded observations of an animal's temperament should include whether the animal has exhibited:

- signs of aggression;
- signs of timidity, anxiety or whether the animal is easily stressed;
- any excessive negative behaviours including barking, clawing, chewing, scratching.

G8.3 The detail and content of the records should be commensurate with the size of the enterprise.

G8.4 For the purpose of these standards, records (including programs, plans and procedures) may be either paper-based or in electronic form or both. Records should be recorded in the manner and form determined by the Board.

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9. Requirements specific to dogs

In addition to Parts 1 to 8, the following standards and guidelines apply to dogs.

Objective

A person who breeds or trades in dogs is aware of specific requirements for dogs to ensure their health and wellbeing. A person who breeds or trades in working livestock dogs, including guardian dogs, is aware of specific requirements and exemptions applicable to this group of dogs.

9.1 General

Standards

S9.1.1 The owner of a dog must be aware of the provisions of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

9.2 Transport

Standards

S9.2.1 Dogs transported on the back of a truck or utility must do so in accordance with the requirements under Section 45 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

S9.2.2 Dogs must not be transported in the cabin of a vehicle unless restrained or enclosed in a compartment or cage.

9.3 Accommodation

Standards

S9.3.1 House dogs must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions (such as a dog door providing entry to a house). They are not required to have kennels or sleeping compartments.

S9.3.2 Dogs must be sufficiently contained to ensure that they do not wander at large[3].

S9.3.3 Dog sleeping compartments must be of sufficient size for each dog to simultaneously lie down, turn around and fully stretch.

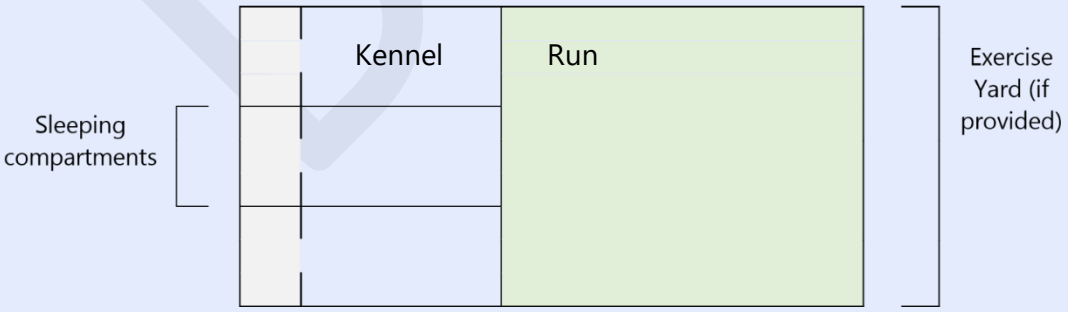
[3] Under sections 7 and 43 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, it is an offence to permit a dog, other than a working livestock dog, to wander at large.

S9.3.4 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.

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

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



9.4 Breeding

Standards

S9.4.1 A bitch must not be permitted to have more than five litters over her lifetime.

S9.4.2 A bitch must not be permitted to have more than two litters every eighteen months.

S9.4.3 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 if they place their offspring at risk through interference with bedding.

9.5 Working Livestock Dogs

The following standards apply only to working livestock dogs and apply in place of the specified general standards.

Standards

S9.5.1 All working livestock dogs, on days when they are not being used for working/guarding livestock or training, must be provided with adequate daily exercise, in accordance with their Animal Health Management Plan, appropriate to their physiological status and individual needs, taking into account the age, health, breed and individual characteristics of the animal. However, on days when working livestock dogs are working, there are no additional exercise or enrichment requirements.

S9.5.2 Working livestock dogs must have a sleeping location appropriate to the needs of the dog to ensure health and comfort but do not require a purpose-built enclosure.

S9.5.3 All working livestock dogs must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions.

S9.5.4 A working livestock dog that is due to give birth must be provided with an appropriate shelter which provides protection from other dogs, predators, wind, rain and extremes of temperatures.

Guidelines – All dogs

G9.1 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.

G9.2 In general, minimum daily exercise for dogs should be of the following duration:

- dogs over 16 weeks of age - two sessions of at least 30 minutes each session,
- puppies 8 to 16 weeks of age - two sessions of at least 20 minutes each session
- pregnant bitches - 2 sessions of at least 20 minutes each session.

G9.3 Dogs may be exercised by providing access to an exercise area, or by walking, playing, training or work activities.

G9.4 Exercise periods should be reasonably spaced throughout the day with socialisation being accomplished during exercise and handling periods.

G9.5 Measures should be put in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

G9.6 The minimum recommended amount of handling for puppies is as follows:

(a) Pups 0-4 wks.: from 7 days, 5 mins handling daily per pup.
(b) Pups 4-8 wks.: 30 mins handling per litter daily
(c) Pups 8-16 wks.: 30 mins daily handling
(d) 16 wks. + daily 30 mins handling plus play/exercise with other vaccinated dogs.

G9.7 For dogs, daily enrichment includes training, access to toys, mental stimulation, social interaction, sniffing, appropriate introduction to new textures and smells.

G9.8 One feeding bowl should be provided per animal for each dog or weaned puppy.

G9.9 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.

G9.10 Heartworm should be controlled through routine and preventative treatment.

G9.11 Male dogs more than six years of age should not be mated unless it is appropriate to do so. A veterinary practitioner should provide guidance for the use in a breeding program of any male dog more than 6 years of age.

G9.12 Male dogs over 6 years of age should be assessed for prostatic disease as part of the annual health check and castrated where assessment indicates castration is required.

G9.13 Male dogs should not mate with more than one female dog at a time and should have at least 2 rest days every 60 days.

G9.14 Whelping boxes should be large enough for the bitch to both lie comfortably while whelping and afterwards to accommodate the bitch and her puppies for at least the first 4 weeks after whelping. The whelping box should be of a height that will allow the bitch to exit readily but that will prevent puppies from falling out.

G9.15 Whelping boxes should provide the bitch with visual separation from all other animals.

G9.16 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.

Guidelines – Working Livestock Dogs

G9.17 In general, working dog breeds will require more exercise and mental stimulation than non-working breeds.

G9.18 Working livestock dogs transported on the back of a truck or utility are not required to be tethered or caged. Guardian dogs are exempt from the requirements for socialisation and handling

G9.19 Shelter for working livestock dogs may be natural (e.g. shrubbery, trees etc.) or purpose built. They are not required to have kennels or sleeping compartments.

G9.20 If housing is provided for guardian dogs, it is not required to be fitted with a secure closing device.

G9.21 Guardian dogs should be reared and trained in accordance with the Guardian Dogs Best Practice Manual for the use of Livestock Guarding Dogs.

Note: All dogs are subject to the provisions which prohibit dogs being permitted to wander at large. However, under s 7(2) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995,* working dogs, including guardian dogs, are not taken to be wandering at large if the dog is being used in the droving or tending of stock or is going to or returning from a place where it will be, or has been, used to drove or tend stock.

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10. Requirements specific to Cats

In addition to Parts 1 to 8, the following standards and guidelines apply to cats.

Objective

A person who breeds or trades in cats is aware of specific requirements for cats, to ensure their health and wellbeing.

10.1 General

Standards

S10.1 1 The owner of a cat must be aware of the provisions of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and must be aware of any local government regulations relating to cats in their local government area.

S10.1.2 Cats and kittens must receive appropriate exercise and enrichment in the form of climbing or scratching activities appropriate to their physiological status and individual needs, taking into account the age, health, breed and individual characteristics of the animal, as detailed within their Animal Health Management Plan.

10.2 Transport in cages

Standards

S10.2.1 Cats must be transported in a cage or container when being transported.

10.3 Litter trays

Standards

S10.3.1 Each cat must be provided with an individual litter tray (or one per litter of kittens with or without the queen) that contains a sufficient depth of litter material such as commercial cat litter, sawdust, shavings, sand or shredded paper.

S10.3.2 Litter trays must be:

- checked, scooped and replenished daily;
- changed promptly if they are saturated with urine;
- changed, washed and disinfected and litter replaced before being allocated to a new cat;
- changed, washed and disinfected at least once every 3 days, or more often as required, depending on the needs of the cat.

10.4 Accommodation

Standards

S10.4.1 House cats must be provided with a means to escape inclement weather conditions (such as a cat door providing entry to a house). They are not required to have catteries or sleeping compartments.

S10.4.2 Cat housing must be designed and constructed to minimise the risk of disease transmission.

S10.4.3 If cats are kept outside, soft, warm bedding must be provided in all housing and changed weekly or more often if required. Bedding must be raised off the ground, able to be kept dry at all times, be weatherproof, protected from the elements, and not made of concrete or metal.

S10.4.4 When multiple cats are together, each cat older than 12 weeks of age must be provided with a separate bed/hide/nest of sufficient bedding material that all animals can sleep comfortably.

S10.4.5 The sleeping compartment provided for cats must be of sufficient size for each cat to simultaneously lie down, turn around and fully stretch.

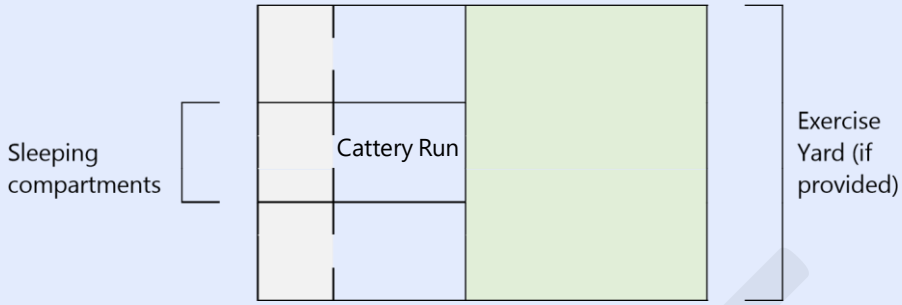
S10.4.6 Cats should be managed and housed to prevent cats from freely wandering from the property.

S10.4.7 Catteries must meet the specifications in Table 2. Also see Figure 2.

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

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

Figure 2: Housing and exercise requirements for cats



10.5 Breeding

Standards

S10.5.1 A queen must not be permitted to have more than five litters over her lifetime.

S10.5.2 A queen must not be permitted to have more no more than three litters every two years.

S10.5.3 Birthing queens must be provided with a covered kittening box lined with clean bedding, which is changed or replaced if soiled.

Guidelines

G10.1 Cat housing areas should have multiple levels and built-in hiding spots to allow cats to climb, hide, and feel safe and secure.

G10.2 Where individual enclosures or cages are positioned facing one another, a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained between enclosures to reduce the spread of airborne pathogens, such as those transmitted through sneezing. Alternatively, solid physical barriers must be installed between facing cages to prevent direct transmission of infectious agents.

G10.3 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.

G10.4 If cats are housed as groups, each cat should be given an area in which it can be free from interference by other cats.

G10.5 Cats' exercise requirements include the provision of opportunities for climbing and scratching. Large facilities should use exercise colony cages.

G10.6 For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult and one feeding bowl per three kittens.

G10.7 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 instructions.

G10.8 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 vaccine's manufacturer's instructions.

G10.9 A program should be in place as part of the Animal Health Management Plan to maintain a feline leukaemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus free cat population in the facility.

G10.10 Environmental enrichment for cats should include access to toys, mental stimulation, social interaction, sniffing, scratching, and appropriate introduction to new textures and smells.

G10.11 Male cats more than ten years of age should not be mated unless it is appropriate to do so. A veterinarian should provide guidance for the use in a breeding program of any male cat more than 10 years of age.

G10.12 When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating, owners or assistants should 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.

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