

BREEDING AND SELLING

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board

If you breed or sell dogs or cats, there are big changes to the law that will affect you. These changes don't just affect professional breeders, but anyone whose dog or cat has a litter. For full details of the new laws, visit dogandcatboard.com.au

What are the new rules, and when do they come into effect?

New laws are coming that require all dogs and cats to be microchipped and desexed. As registered breeders, you will be exempt from this desexing requirement. The new laws are being phased-in over the 2017/18 financial year.

The key dates to remember are:

1 August 2017 - New standards and guidelines for anyone who breeds companion animals, including dogs or cats, for sale or trade. These animal welfare rules apply across the board; to professional breeders, people whose dog or cat has an unwanted litter that they intend to sell or exchange, pet shops and anyone selling or trading a companion animal. These guidelines are available from www.dogandcatboard.com.au

1 July 2018 - Introduction of mandatory microchipping for all dogs and cats. Introduction of mandatory desexing of all dogs and cats born after this date (registered breeders exempted). New requirements for all breeders to register with the Dog and Cat Management Board. New rules around minimum details to be provided in ads for sale of a dog or cat.

What are the exemptions to the new desexing rules?

Breeders registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board are entitled to keep entire animals. Desexing exemptions also apply to working livestock dogs or on medical grounds.

I am a full member of Dogs SA/Governing Council of the Cat Fancy SA/The Feline Association. Does this exempt me from the desexing requirement?

Yes. This exemption can be found in regulation 12(2) of the new rules.

Does the RSPCA enforce the breeder standards and guidelines?

The RSPCA will have some role in enforcing the new standards and guidelines, as they do with all animal welfare issues.

Desexing and microchipping - your responsibilities:

From 1 July 2018, if you breed dogs or cats for sale, you must ensure they are microchipped before they are sold (or before they reach 12 weeks of age).

The microchip must be implanted by a qualified person and from 1 July 2018, its details recorded on the new Dogs and Cats Online database.

Unless you are selling to another registered breeder, or working livestock dogs, your customers will be required to desex their new animals by six months of age. There are additional deferrals to allow large breeds to fully develop, but this requirement is something you must inform your clients of as part of the sale.

Does breeder registration replace council registration?

No. Council registration funds local dog and cat management services, and provides valuable data on who owns dogs and cats in the local area. Breeder registration helps the Dog and Cat Management Board track who is breeding dogs and cats, in an effort to better manage the industry and shine a light on unscrupulous breeders.

Does breeder registration replace my dog/cat society renewals or breeder prefixes?

No.

Do mandatory microchips replace council registration?

No. Microchips simply make it easier for your dog or cat to be returned home if lost or impounded.

How much will breeder registration cost?

The Dog and Cat Management Board expects to charge a nominal annual fee for breeder registration. This will help fund management activities, shine a light on the industry and help discourage unscrupulous breeders from the trade.

Does the RSPCA administer breeder registration?

No. This is managed by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

I am not a pedigree breeder, I have a mixed breed and just want some puppies. Do I have to register as a breeder after 1 July 2018?

Yes. This applies to all dogs and cats, not just pedigree breeds.

I have access to dogs kept on separate properties under "breeder terms". How do the changes affect me? Do the people who care for these dogs have to register as breeders?

If the dog was born after 1 July 2018, the Dog And Cat Management Board recommends the owner/carer of the dog in question register as a breeder, or joins a pedigree organisation to the required membership level, in order to keep the dog entire.

Which regulations define desexing at the point of sale?

Regulation 18. You can find a copy of the new legislation and regulations at dogandcatboard.com.au

What constitutes desexing?

The law defines desexing as a surgical procedure performed under general anesthetic that renders the dog or cat incapable of reproduction. The Dog and Cat Management Board advocates the removal of the testicles in males, and removal of the uterus and ovaries in females. This is due to the behavioural benefits seen with this type of desexing, as well as the reduced risk of some cancers.

How are the new regulations going to address puppy farms?

Puppy farms thrive in a system with no accountability. Breeder registration, the new standards and guidelines, and point of sale requirements, will shine a light on those operators that do not meet the exacting standards set by most breeders. In time, consumers will come to expect their next dog or cat comes from a registered breeder who supplies contact details, including a current phone number and Breeder Registration Number at the point of sale. Enforcement of the new rules will focus on weeding out unscrupulous operators. Reputable breeders and the general public are encouraged to report advertisements for animals for sale, or giveaway, that don't meet the new requirements.

I am a member of a pedigree organisation and I want to use my dog or cat as a stud. Do I have to register as a breeder?

No. Dogs SA full members, Feline Association of South Australia and Governing Council of Cats of South Australia members are already entitled to keep their animals entire. If you receive puppies or kittens from that litter, however, and intend to sell them, then you must register as a breeder. Those who are not members of a pedigree organisation who wish to keep animals born after 1 July 2018 entire must register as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.

How will the new advertising requirements be enforced on sites like Gumtree or community notice boards?

Gumtree is required to operate under Australian law, and works with governments to ensure compliance on other advertisement categories (i.e. listing the odometer reading on cars, builder's licence numbers, etc.). The Dog and Cat Management Board will work with Gumtree and other providers to ensure that a valid breeder registration number will be a compulsory addition to any advertisement for a dog or cat for sale. Consumer pressure and reputable breeders reporting ads that don't meet the new standards will be an important step in the fight to end puppy farming.

DACO - Dogs and Cats Online.

The South Australian Government is developing a new online system for all your dog and cat registration, microchip and breeder registration needs. This new Dogs and Cats Online website - DACO - will be launched on 1 July 2018, and brings together data currently held on 68 different council registers and private microchip databases.

Learn more at
dogandcatboard.com.au