



Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny

Queensland animal welfare standards and guidelines for dog breeding

The Queensland Government is committed to promoting the responsible breeding of dogs and ensuring action can be taken when irresponsible dog breeding practices are identified.

Register

The Queensland Dog Breeder Register, which commenced on 26 May 2017, has been extremely well received by Queensland dog breeders. The Queensland Dog Breeder Register facilitates the location of breeders who place profit before the welfare of their dogs.

Queenslanders clearly support the requirements for registration and declaration of registration when advertising or selling puppies, evidenced by the frequent checks and reports conducted by members of the community on the register.



Breeding standards

As of 1 October 2018 the Queensland animal welfare standards and guidelines for breeding dogs and their progeny (Standards and Guidelines) commenced.

The Standards and Guidelines describe appropriate care, management, shelter and socialisation of breeding dogs.

Under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Act), any person in charge of an animal has a duty of care to provide for the animal's needs in an appropriate way.

The Standards and Guidelines show appropriate ways of meeting the essential needs of breeding dogs and their puppies.

The new Standards have been adopted under the Act as a compulsory code requirement. This means that compliance with these new standards is mandatory.

The Standards and Guidelines also promote positive animal welfare management practices by providing information that guides dog breeders as to how they might achieve the minimum, or higher, standards.

The Queensland Government, in consultation with the RSPCA, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and Dogs Queensland developed the Standards and Guidelines.

Effect



The new Standards commenced on 1 October 2018.

The Guidelines are not compulsory and are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

All dog breeders (including those breeding pets, working dogs, hunting dogs or breeding dogs for commercial purposes) are subject to the new Standards.

The new Standards and Guidelines are not expected to impact those breeders who are already caring for their breeding dogs in responsible and appropriate ways.

Breeders should familiarise themselves with the new Standards to ensure their breeding practices meet the minimum requirements, and thus the breeders meet their duty of care obligations under the Act. Those breeders not

meeting the new Standards for care, management, shelter and socialisation will have to improve upon their practices in order to comply.

A dog breeder who fails to comply with the new laws will be investigated and penalties may apply.

Complaints

Any person who believes that a dog breeder is failing to meet the mandatory requirements of the Standards & Guidelines may lodge a complaint with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or with the RSPCA by calling 1300 264 625.

You can also lodge an animal welfare concern about a breeder, or the welfare of a dog, on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register and this information will be referred to the appropriate authorities for action.

All complaints will be assessed and investigated as appropriate.

Dogs Queensland or other dog breeding societies, councils or entities may choose to audit their members' compliance with the standards.

More information

Copies of the Standards and Guidelines are available from:

The Queensland government website: www.business.qld.gov.au

The Customer Service Centre of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by:

- Phone: 13 25 23 (cost of a local call within Queensland) or +61 7 3404 6999
- 8 am to 5 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
- 9 am to 5 pm Thursday
- Email: info@daf.qld.gov.au
- Fax: +61 7 3404 6900
- The Queensland Dog Breeder Register, including for reporting a concern, can be accessed at: www.qdbr.daf.qld.gov.au.