

Sunset of the Domestic Animals Regulations

November 2015

Q. What are the Regulations?

A. The Domestic Animals Regulations support the Domestic Animals Act 1994, by providing additional detail on certain matters. For instance, requirements for the keeping of restricted breed and dangerous dogs; the manner of permanent identification (microchipping) of a prescribed class of animals (dogs, cats and horses); the licensing and operation of animal registry services; the accreditation and operation of microchip implanters; record keeping requirements for pet shops; and requirements for dog obedience training organisations approved by the Minister for the purpose of reduced dog registration fees.

Q. Why do Regulations sunset?

A. All Regulations must be reviewed every 10 years in accordance with the Subordinate Legislation Act 1994. The Domestic Animals Regulations 2005 were due to sunset on 29 November 2015, and have been reviewed and replaced by the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015 (which commence on the 26 November 2015).

Q. What are the changes?

A. There have only been a few minor changes to the Regulations, as follows:

- an amended definition of a microchip 'reader' to reflect current technology;
- removal of the requirement for 'sealed' concrete in dangerous and restricted breed dog enclosures. The requirement for 'sealing' of the concrete is unnecessary in a private residence where the enclosure is only required to house a single dog, unlike in a pound or shelter facility where hygiene is paramount;
- an amendment of the minimum width of dangerous and restricted breed collars; improving dog owners' ability to source collars that meet the requirements of the Regulations and improve the fit and comfort of collars for smaller dogs;
- amendment to references to scent trailing hounds registered with the Secretary to reflect machinery of government changes and references to the Game Management Authority;
- inclusion of a prohibition on the movement of a microchip record between microchip registries once a record has been established for an animal. The purpose of this is to prevent a single animal having multiple records on multiple registries, which can be difficult for owners to keep up to date. Preventing transfer of records between registries will improve the return of lost animals to their owners and, in some cases, reduce the time taken for owners to be notified that their animal is lost;
- amendment to the length of time a record must be kept by a registry. Records must now be kept for the lifetime of the animal or 30 years, whichever is the 'greater';

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- prescribing the requirements for proof of change of ownership of an animal on an animal registry record, in cases where ownership is in dispute, to an order of the court of VCAT; and
- increasing the number of practical hours a dog trainer must complete before being fully qualified, from 25 to 100. This change is in line with current industry practice.

Q. Was industry consulted?

The department consulted with stakeholders prior to and during the preparation of the new Regulations. The new Regulations are supported by councils and industry.

Q. Where can I get more information?

Contact your local council (animal management / local laws unit). Visit www.vic.gov.au/pets. Or call the DEDJTR Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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