



Becoming a Dogs Victoria Breeder

So you think you want to breed Purebred, Pedigree dogs?

If you are thinking about breeding purebred dogs, Dogs Victoria would like to welcome you and help you learn everything you need to know to become a responsible breeder.

Dogs Victoria aims to promote best practice within the dog breeding community and has been recognised as the peak body for purebred dogs in this state.

Breeders who hold a current Dogs Victoria 'Breeder's Prefix' are granted some very special exemptions by the Victorian Government, so it is important that you are committed to meeting or exceeding all of the requirements expected of a prefix holder.

This includes adhering to all of the Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations, and Codes of Practice, in addition to the Local Council and State Government requirements that apply to all breeders in Victoria.

Dogs Victoria breeders are classed as 'Recreational Breeders' by the Victorian Government. This sets our breeders apart from backyard hobby breeders (called 'micro' breeders) and large scale 'commercial' breeders.

Dogs Victoria aims to have breeders who always have their dog's welfare and best interests at heart, who make considered breeding choices, and who understand the importance of doing things well. Breeders who are always striving to produce healthy, happy, puppies that are true to their breed standard in physical appearance and temperament, fit for the purpose they were originally bred for.



What is a Pedigree Purebred dog?

A '**purebred**' dog is one whose mother and father are both of the same breed.

A '**pedigree**' represents a known family tree going back many generations. Pedigree 'papers' will usually show a three generation family tree for that individual animal.

To be a '**pedigree purebred**' dog, both the mother and the father of the litter must be the same breed, AND both must be registered with Dogs Australia (or the equivalent register in another country such as the Kennel Club in the UK, or the American Kennel Club in the USA).

All dogs in the pedigree, going back many generations, will have been registered purebred animals of the same breed.

Dogs Australia recognises over 200 different breeds of dog and has 'Member Bodies' in each state who are responsible for registering breeders and for registering litters of puppies. In Victoria, this is Dogs Victoria.

If you are planning on breeding with Dogs Victoria, your breeding female will need to be a registered purebred.

*She should have Dogs Australia pedigree 'papers' and be on the **Main Register** (blue coloured papers). She must be registered in your name with Dogs Victoria.*

If she is a cross breed or mixed breed, is purebred but does not have papers, or if she is pedigree purebred but registered on the Limited Register (orange coloured papers), you will not be able to breed her and register your litter with Dogs Victoria.

Note: More information on eligibility for breeding, the selection of breeding stock, and health testing of breeding animals is covered in the 'Breeding Basics' section of our Breeder Education Package Booklet, and in other Fact Sheets within the Breeders and Breeding category.



Becoming a Dogs Victoria Breeder

So what is a 'Breeder Prefix'?

If you want to breed purebred pups with pedigree papers, you will need to apply for and be granted a 'Breeder's Prefix' **BEFORE** you begin breeding.

In a nutshell, a Breeder's Prefix is a 'Registered Kennel Name'. It is a bit like a business name and a breeder's license all rolled into one.

Across Australia, every breeder who is registered with one of Dogs Australia's state member bodies (such as Dogs Victoria) will have been granted a unique prefix – no two prefixes can be the same!

Every time you register a purebred litter, your 'Prefix' forms part of each puppy's official pedigree name – making it easy for people to know who bred the litter.

Dogs Victoria Regulation 4.1.5.7

*No dog shall be registered or litter recorded unless the breeder has registered a stud prefix **prior to undertaking the breeding** and this prefix shall be the only prefix permitted in the full name of the dog. (15/10/21)*

Dogs Victoria Regulation 4.2.2

*A member who wishes to breed must register a Prefix **prior to undertaking a breeding**. (15/10/21)*

How do I qualify for a 'Breeder Prefix'?

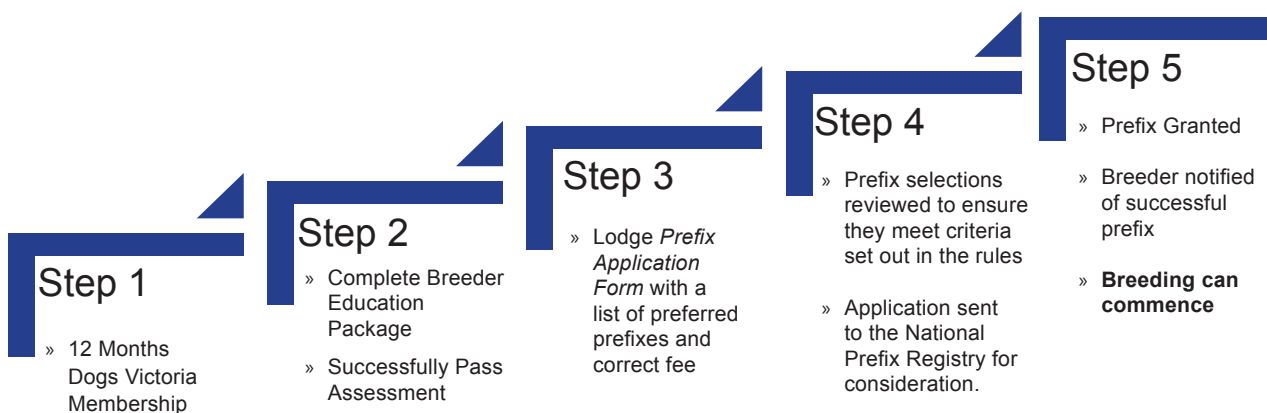
Because breeding dogs comes with responsibilities and obligations, there is a requirement for all new breeders to undergo some education and assessment before they can qualify for a Dogs Victoria Breeder's Prefix.

There is also a **minimum membership period** of 12 months before you can apply.

The minimum membership period was put in place to encourage new members who are thinking of moving into breeding to get involved in the various dog related activities offered by Dogs Victoria and to give them time to learn more about their chosen breed and what it was bred to do **before** breeding their first litter.

This involvement may be through breed club activities, conformation shows, or one of the many other dog related disciplines/sports. Attending events allows you to meet other breeders, see your breed in action, and allows you to learn more about breeding. The more examples of the breed you meet, the better you will come to understand what constitutes an excellent example of your chosen breed – both mentally and physically.

The breeder education component aims to ensure that, as a breeder, you understand your obligations under the relevant pieces of legislation that apply to breeders, have the knowledge to make considered breeding choices, and understand what is involved in whelping and raising a litter of pups.





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The breeder education package consists of nearly 30 smaller units covering everything from Codes of Practice to the various developmental stages of puppies, from basic genetics and health testing through to preparing your puppies for their new homes. It is aimed at new breeders who may have little or no experience and provides an ongoing point of reference throughout your breeding career.

Once you have read through all of the breeder education package material, you will be asked to complete an Assessment on the information that it contains.

This helps Dogs Victoria ensure that you have taken the time to become familiar with the requirements and that you are ready to start thinking about breeding a litter.

Once you have successfully passed the Breeder Education Assessment and completed the minimum of 12 months as a Dogs Victoria member, you can then apply for your Breeder Prefix.

You will be required to nominate a list of choices for your preferred prefix and pay a fee. It is suggested that you select **at least** seven or eight options (the more the better) because some of your choices may already be taken, or there may be similar prefixes already registered.

Your preferred prefixes will be assessed by the National Registry, rather than Dogs Victoria, so this part of the process can take a few weeks.



Prefix selections must meet the following criteria:

- » *Be a single word consisting of between 4-12 letters*
- » *Must not include numbers, either as numerals or words*
- » *Must not include apostrophes, hyphens or punctuation marks of any kind*
- » *Must not include the word 'Kennel'*
- » *Must not be similar or the same as another prefix already registered in Australia or overseas, which could be deemed to cause misunderstanding or confusion*
- » *Must not incorporate the full name of any breed of dog*
- » *Must not include a full first or surname*
- » *Must not be a notable person*
- » *Must not be a place or country*
- » *Must not be a registered business name, interstate or overseas*
- » *Must not be a brand*
- » *Must not be deemed offensive*
- » *Must not be a common dog name, being where five or more dog names are already registered on the ANKC database*

Although the requirements might seem a bit daunting at first, along the way, you will meet a host of other breeders who have the same passion for their breed as you do, and who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

Many will have had years (even decades) of experience; they will have seen both the highs and lows of breeding dogs and will be happy to provide advice and support to help you have success with your own breeding endeavours.

If you have any questions in regards to becoming a Dogs Victoria Member or relating to obtaining a Dogs Victoria Breeder's Prefix, please contact our Member Services Team on 03 9788 2500