



Extract of Regulations for Breeders - April 2025

Dogs Victoria members are governed by our Constitution, Rules, Regulations, Codes, Policies, and Procedures.

Members should be aware of which elements apply to all members and which apply specifically to certain activities.

For ease of reference, this appendix includes an extract of the Regulations relevant to **breeding members and breeding**.

The Dogs Victoria Regulations are regularly amended by the Management Committee. Changes are announced in the monthly Gazette and updated on the [Dogs Victoria website](https://www.dogsvictoria.org.au), so members should always check the website for the latest version.

Please note: This extract may contain incomplete regulations with only parts of a regulation or selected sub-clauses being included.

To read the regulations in their entirety, please refer to the latest version of the Regulations published on the Dogs Victoria website.

Reminder:

In these regulations 'VCA' or 'Victorian Canine Association' refers to Dogs Victoria and "ANKC" refers to Dogs Australia.

PART 3 REGULATIONS – GENERAL

3.7. RECOGNITION OF APPROVED AUTHORITY

3.7.7 It shall be a condition of membership that a person, or persons, so authorised by Management Committee may inspect the premises of any member and examine the dogs on the premises at that time.

3.7.7.1 Failure by a member to facilitate an inspection by the Field Officer of the member's premises and to examine the dogs without reasonable cause shall result in immediate suspension of the member's privileges until that inspection has taken place. (15/02/17)

PART 4 REGULATIONS - REGISTERS AND REGISTRATIONS

4.1 REGISTERS

4.1.1 Management Committee shall keep and maintain the following Registers.

- » The Main Register
- » The Limited Register
- » The Associate Register
- » Breed Development or other Registers as determined by Management Committee from time to time.

4.1.2 All dogs must be registered with the ANKC or with an ANKC recognised controlling body, and their registered owners financial members of the VCA or of an ANKC recognised controlling body before being eligible for entry for competition or exhibition or participation in any VCA recognised activity.

Members of another ANKC recognised Controlling Body competing in Victoria are bound by the Rules, Regulations, Codes and Policies of the VCA.

4.1.2.1 A member of Dogs Victoria shall not register a dog with a Registry Body not recognised by ANKC Ltd (unless an exemption is granted by Dogs Victoria). (15/11/17)

4.1.3 REGISTRATIONS

4.1.3.1 A dog shall not be registered except with the approval of and by direction of Management Committee.

4.1.3.1.1 A member who breeds a litter of dogs, the parents of which are registered or eligible for Main Register ANKC registration, must apply to register such litter. (15/09/19)

4.1.3.1.2 The member shall apply to register all puppies bred by that member that are living at the date of registration at one and the same time. Such registration must include all puppies from the litter on the one litter registration application form. (15/09/19)

4.1.3.1.3 Registration should be applied for within three (3) calendar months of the date of whelping. (15/09/19)



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4.1.3.1.4 Registration applied for after three (3) months, but up to and including eighteen (18) months, requires Management Committee approval, and an additional fee may apply. Such approval may be delegated to the **Office Operations Manager**. (15/04/25)

4.1.3.1.5 No registration application will be processed outside eighteen (18) months of the date of whelping. (15/09/19)

4.1.3.1.6 Applications for registration of litters whelped **on or after 1 January 2026** will not be processed until Dogs Victoria has received a DNA Parentage Verification Report that qualifies the puppies as being from the Sire and Dam. This requirement applies to registration applications on both the Main and Limited Registers. (15/04/25)

4.1.3.1.7 The breeder of a litter must ensure that either DNA profiles for both the Sire and Dam are available at the time of mating, or that DNA samples are collected from each parent and submitted for testing no later than the time at which DNA samples from the puppies in that litter are submitted for testing. (15/04/25)

4.1.3.1.8 In line with the Dogs Australia protocols for DNA testing, DNA sample collection for the purposes of parentage verification must be performed by an approved, independent collector. Identification of the dog by microchip or unique tattoo is required and it must be verified by the approved collector at the time of DNA collection and recorded on the appropriate form. (15/04/25)

4.1.3.4 A member shall not be entitled to effect the initial registration of a dog unless that person is the breeder of such dog and is the registered owner of a Prefix and is a resident of the State.

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)

4.2 PREFIXES

4.2.1 Management Committee shall keep and maintain a register of prefixes. A prefix registered by a member may only be used in respect of a breed of dog recognised by the ANKC.

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

4.2.3 An application for an initial prefix will not be processed unless the member has been a member of DOGS Victoria or ANKC recognised body for not less than 12 months, and has successfully completed the Breeder Prefix examination. (15/11/11)

4.2.4 In the naming of dogs a prefix shall only be used with the name of dogs bred in Australia.

4.2.5 Management Committee may decline to accept a prefix for registration.

4.2.6 A prefix may not be accepted for registration if it resembles any other prefix, is misleading, is unsuitable or objectionable, or is known or believed to be a prefix or affix registered in a foreign country or is not in accord with ANKC requirements. Any objection to the registration of a prefix must be lodged with the VCA, within 60 days of the publication in the Gazette.

4.2.7 An application to change the ownership of a registered prefix must be approved by Management Committee. The applications shall require the signature of the current registered owner(s), or an acceptable alternative in lieu thereof, and be accompanied by the prescribed fee as published in the VCA Scale of Charges.

4.2.8 The period of registration of a prefix shall be the financial year of the VCA, but the owner of a prefix may make application to the VCA for the renewal of the registration at the time of renewal of membership of the VCA and upon payment of the appropriate fee.

4.2.9 If the registration of a prefix has lapsed the owner of the prefix may apply for re-registration. Such re-registration may be allowed under such terms and conditions as Management Committee determines.

4.2.10 A membership may only register one prefix for a particular breed of dog, but that prefix may be used by the membership for other breeds.

4.2.11 The decision of the ANKC on any matter relating to a prefix shall be binding on the VCA, and on the members thereof.



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4.3 BREEDING RECORDS

4.3.1 A member shall keep proper records of their breeding activities and all such records so kept shall be open for inspection by any person authorised by Management Committee. Any such person shall be at liberty to take extracts therefrom.

4.3.2 A member shall, when required by the Management Committee in writing or on the verbal request of a person authorised by the Management Committee, produce any or all breed records to the Management Committee or authorised person.

4.3.3 Failure to allow an inspection of records or to comply with a request to produce breed records shall result in immediate suspension of the member's privileges until that requirement has been complied with.

4.3.4 Any member who fails to keep proper breed records of dog breeding activities or whose records are false, misleading or inaccurate may be called upon to explain such false, misleading or inaccurate records and may be suspended or disqualified or such other penalty as Management Committee may determine.

(...)

PART 20 CODES

20.1 CODE OF PRACTICE

Each member, upon being admitted or re-admitted to membership of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. shall be bound by the Victorian Canine Association Inc. (hereinafter 'Dogs Victoria') Code of Practice.

Ethics

20.1.1 A member shall not knowingly or recklessly misrepresent the ANKC or Dogs Victoria.

20.1.2 A member shall not engage in any behaviour that is contrary to the standards accepted by the community.

20.1.3 A member shall display good sportsmanship and conduct at all times so as to reflect credit upon themselves, the ANKC and Dogs Victoria.

20.1.4 Members shall constantly strive to improve their knowledge of their chosen breed or breeds, and their knowledge of the requirements for the care, welfare and betterment of dogs.

20.1.5 Members shall ensure proper care for all dogs under their control, whereby:

20.1.5.1 Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality; it must be canine appropriate and nutritionally balanced to meet the daily requirements for the condition, activities, age and size of the each dog. All dogs shall have access, in their housing area, at all times, to a sufficient supply of fresh, clean, water daily. Food and water utensils shall be kept clean;

20.1.5.2 Dogs shall be housed in a safe and secure manner that is suitable for the size and containment requirements of the dog and provides protection from adverse environmental conditions and climatic extremes. Adequate ventilation and sufficient space must be provided for dogs to stand. The flooring area of pens/ cages shall not be made from uncovered suspended wire. Each dog older than 16 weeks of age shall have access to a separate bed or sufficient bedding material that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time;

20.1.5.3 Dog sleeping, housing and exercise areas shall be kept clean and at a good standard of hygiene by cleaning any faeces, wasted food, and soiled bedding daily. Where pens and kennels are cleaning by hosing, material on floors (toys, bedding, food, faeces etc) shall be removed prior. Hard surfaces in pens and kennels should be disinfected weekly or more often if required. Veterinary advice shall be sought for managing the cleaning of premises and management of isolation if a contagious illness occurs in dogs;

20.1.5.4 All dogs of all age and breeding status shall be provided with an appropriate amount of daily exercise, social contact and enrichment suitable to the individual needs of the dog;

20.1.5.5 Where dogs are tethered, they shall be tethered in accordance with the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986** and Regulations. Pregnant bitches of more than 7 weeks gestation, whelping bitches and lactating bitches with puppies shall not be tethered. Puppies under 16 weeks of age shall not be tethered.

20.1.5.6 Dogs shall be transported in a safe and secure manner. Dogs shall not be transported in the boot of a sedan type car. When on the back of a ute or trailer, dogs must be appropriately tethered or caged. Sealed transport containers shall have multiple ventilation holes.



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20.1.5.7 Veterinary care is provided as required in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs*. Additional veterinary requirements for breeding dogs is described in Section 20.8 Code of Practice for Breeding Animal Health Management.

20.1.6 A member who leaves a dog owned by them in the care of another person shall remain responsible for that dog.

20.1.7 A member shall take all appropriate lawful measures to assist a dog in distress.

20.1.8 A member shall positively enhance the reputation of dog breeders and owners by ensuring that dogs owned by the member are not a danger or nuisance to the community.

20.1.9 A member shall not participate in nor support any activity in that involves cruelty or damage to animals, excluding legal hunting activities.

20.1.9.1 Dogs shall not be trained or worked beyond their willingness and capabilities. All training methods used shall be humane and not cause undue fear, distress or pain.

20.1.9.2 Dog Collars

The use of dog collars incorporating protrusions designed to puncture or bruise the dog's skin, or electronic collars designed to deliver an electric shock to the dog is prohibited at any VCA sanctioned event, training activities, or any activity which may reasonably be seen to be in connection with the VCA. (15/09/19)

20.1.10 A member shall make every effort to rehome any dog no longer required by that member to a suitable home. A member shall not dispose of dogs owned or bred by the member to a pound or animal refuge except in exceptional circumstances and following notification in writing to Dogs Victoria. In this instance, depending on circumstances Dogs Victoria may request that any breeder prefix also be suspended or surrendered.

Breeding

20.1.11 A member shall breed primarily for the purpose of improving the quality and / or working ability of the breed in accordance with the breed standard, and not specifically or predominantly for the pet or commercial market.

20.1.11.1 If breeding animals are determined to be no longer suitable for breeding, or are retired and are to be rehomed, they must be prevented from further breeding by transfer to limited register, neutering, contraception, contract of agreement or other means.

20.1.12 A member shall not breed with a bitch unless they have reached adequate maturity for that breed as determined by Dogs Victoria, without the prior approval of Dogs Victoria. Where the Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice are otherwise silent, the minimum age for breeding a bitch shall be 12 months [see attached Minimum Breeding Age for Bitches]. (15/11/18)

20.1.12.1 The progeny of any matings that are not permitted by 20.1.12 will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "never to be upgraded". It will be a breach of Code 20.1.12 by the member/s who are the owners of the sire and dam of the litter constituting an offence against Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes. (15/12/24)

20.1.13 A member shall not breed a bitch causing it to whelp more than twice in eighteen months. (15/08/22)

20.1.14 A member shall not breed with a bitch causing it to whelp more than five times in its lifetime (15.03.17)

20.1.14.1 First generation breeding (eg father / daughter; brother / sister; mother / son) matings are not permitted.

20.1.14.2 The progeny of any matings that are not permitted by 20.1.14.1 will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "never to be upgraded". It will be a breach of Code 20.1.14 by the member/s who are the owners of the sire and dam of the litter constituting an offence against Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes. (15/12/24)

20.1.14.3 All bitches eight years of age and over at the time of a mating must have a current veterinary certificate stating that the bitch is in good health at the time of breeding. This certificate must be presented at the time of registration of the litter resulting from this mating. A current veterinarian certificate is defined as being within three months prior to the mating. (15/08/15)



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20.1.15 No breeding shall take place unless both the dog and bitch are on the Main Register. Dogs and bitches are not permitted to be mated to a dog or bitch of a different breed, to a cross bred dog or bitch, or to an unregistered dog or bitch of the same breed. (15/04/25)

20.1.15.1 A member shall not permit any of that member's unregistered dogs to be mated to any other unregistered dog, with the exception of dogs registered with a Registry Body recognised by ANKC Ltd (unless an exemption is granted by Dogs Victoria). (15.04.18)

20.1.16 A member shall take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases in accordance with the ANKC Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases and shall comply with Dogs Victoria's Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases (Code 20.3), and the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986**, particularly with respect to the *Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that Cause Disease*.

20.1.17 A member shall not, within Australia, sell or otherwise transfer from that member's care any puppy under eight [8] weeks of age. (amended 15.05.17)

20.1.18 A member shall not export a puppy under the age of eleven [11] weeks, or such greater age permitted under the livestock import requirements of the country to which the puppy is being exported.

20.1.19 A member shall not knowingly sell a dog to any person residing in an overseas country known to be involved in the utilisation of dogs for the meat trade without first satisfying the VCA that the purchaser is a member of an ANKC recognised canine controlling body in the overseas country. The member and purchaser must acknowledge in writing to the VCA that the intention of the sale is for the improvement of the quality of that breed in the overseas country, and not for any other purpose. (15/03/23)

20.1.20 A member shall ensure that persons acquiring dogs from that member understand the requirements for the care, welfare and responsible ownership of the dog, and that they have the time and facilities, e.g. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter, to fulfil their responsibilities.

20.1.21 A breeder shall be expected to maintain reasonable contact with the purchasers of dogs from that breeder and to offer continued advice and reasonable assistance.

20.1.22 Record keeping requirements:

20.1.22.1 A breeder shall create a record file for each individual puppy born, and maintain until ownership changes or the animal is deceased. A breeder shall make available all records for inspection by an authorised officer or as directed by an officer of Dogs Victoria. Copies of these records must be retained by the breeder for a minimum of 3 five years from date of last entry. (amended 15/09/22)

20.1.22.1.1 Records to be kept for puppies **under** 12 weeks of age shall include the following (copies of original documents are acceptable where originals accompany the puppy to its new owner):

- » a copy of the litter registration form, or alternatively:
 - name;
 - microchip number (when implanted);
 - sex;
 - breed;
 - date of birth;
 - colour and markings (if applicable); and
 - dam and sire registered names and numbers
- » health care history including vaccination records, internal and external parasite control,
- » purchase/disposal record including name and address of new owner (where applicable),
- » copy of health declaration, and
- » record of return (if applicable) with supporting documentation.

20.1.22.1.2 Records to be kept for dogs **over** the age of 12 weeks acquired or retained by breeders for the purpose of breeding shall include:

- » either ANKC registration certificate, or alternatively:
 - registered name and number when registration details become available; (amended 15/09/19)
 - microchip number;
 - sex;
 - breed;
 - date of birth;
 - colour and marking (if applicable); and
 - dam and sire registered name and numbers
- » council registration certificate;



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- » health care history including vaccination records or titre tests, internal and external parasite control,
- » breeding status and breeding history,
- » purchase/disposal records including name and address of new owner (where applicable), and
- » record of return (if applicable) with supporting documentation.

20.1.22.2 Records of breeding history for dams must include dates of mating or artificial insemination, dates of whelping, number of puppies born alive, number of puppies stillborn, record of any whelping complications and resultant treatment, microchip numbers for live pups at 8 weeks, and post-partum veterinary treatment.

20.1.23 A member shall provide to all recipients of dogs sold or otherwise disposed of by that member, written details of:

20.1.23.1 The breed characteristics;

20.1.23.2 Vaccination record and / or requirements including the due date of the next vaccination or recommended timing for next titre;

20.1.23.3 Responsible dog ownership information;

20.1.23.4 All documentation required by Dogs Victoria

20.1.23.5 Records on internal and external parasite control;

20.1.23.6 Records of microchip number with a signed transfer of owner form;

20.1.23.7 A desexing certificate (if applicable); and

20.1.23.8 A written health declaration in accordance with 20.1.25.

20.1.24 A member shall not incorrectly describe nor knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of a breed.

20.1.25 A member shall ensure that all dogs sold or disposed of by that member are in the best possible state of health. Where any known physical abnormalities exist, a breeder health declaration shall be supplied which includes details of the known physical abnormality at the time of sale and how that abnormality may affect future

health and welfare of the dog. This shall be signed in acknowledgement by the recipient. With the exception of matters disclosed in the health declaration, a member shall abide by the following as a minimum practice when selling dogs;

20.1.25.1 Where a dog is returned to the member within 3 days of sale, for any reason not supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner, the member must take back the animal and refund 75% of the purchase price.

20.1.25.2 Where a dog is returned to the member within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner that the animal is unacceptable for health reasons, the member must take back the animal and refund 100% of the purchase price.

20.1.25.3 If an animal is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanased from a physical defect or disease that is directly traceable to the point of sale within 3 years of purchase, the member must, subject to a second veterinary opinion, refund 100% of the purchase price where the owner of the animal provides supporting statements from a veterinary practitioner, including test results where a suitable test is available. Owners of the animal must make veterinary reports and test results available to the breeder for the breeder to obtain their own veterinary advice (second opinion), and for the purpose of informing future breeding management.

20.1.26 A member shall not:

20.1.26.1 Sell or dispose of a dog to a commercial pet wholesaler or retail pet shop.

20.1.26.2 Allow a dog owned by that member to be given as a prize or donation or to be auctioned.

20.1.26.3 Advertise in any media or other display, the sale or disposal of a dog without the inclusion of the member's Dogs Victoria membership number, source number and each dog's full microchip number.

It is mandatory that the following wording is included in any advertisements: *"Please contact Dogs Victoria on email: office@dogsvictoria.org.au to verify my membership"*. (15/08/22)



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General

20.1.27 A member who provides or makes available a dog for use in a film, advertisement, promotion, or any media or public display must ensure that:

20.1.27.1 The dog is portrayed in a manner consistent with its breed characteristics and temperament as described in the Standard for that breed; and

20.1.27.2 The dog is presented in a manner that is unlikely to create a negative reaction to dogs generally or that breed in particular and that if there is any likelihood of a negative impression, this is at the same time corrected through the development of a story line that presents the dog or breed in a balanced manner.

20.1.28 A member shall not indulge in false or misleading advertising relating to the conformation, characteristics or performance of that member's dog.

20.1.29 A member shall not misrepresent nor malign the conformation, characteristics or performance of another member's dog.

20.1.30 A member shall not misrepresent, malign, impugn or denigrate another member or person in such a way as to bring discredit upon themselves or Dogs Victoria. (14/02/13)

MINIMUM BREEDING AGE FOR BITCHES

Minimum age at which a Bitch can be mated

The age is calculated in the same way as for conformation classes. See also ANKC Regulations Part 5 Section 1 Regulation 1.2 which states:

1.2 To calculate the age of dogs for entry into breed classes where the date of birth does not occur in the relevant month, the anniversary date be taken as the last date of that month, e.g. dogs born on 31 January will be eligible to enter the baby puppy class on 30 April.

Note also ANKC Regulations Part 6 Section 8 Regulation 8.2 which states:

8.2 The minimum breeding age for bitches across all breeds is 12 months at the time of mating. This regulation is not intended to reduce minimum age requirement for breeding set out in the Code of Ethics of Member Bodies and the Rules of National Breed Councils and/or Breed Clubs.

12 Months

All Other Breeds

16 Months

Border Terrier
French Bulldog

18 Months

Akita Inu
Alaskan Malamute
American Staffordshire Terrier
Australian Kelpie
Australian Terrier
Basset Hound
Beagle
Bearded Collie (15/02/19)
Bedlington Terrier
Border Collie
Borzoi
Boston Terrier
Boxer
Bullmastiff
Cane Corso
Chow Chow
Curly Coated Retriever
Dalmatian
Deerhound
Dobermann
Dogue De Bordeaux
English Setter (15/02/19)
Finnish Lapphund
Flat Coated Retriever
German Shepherd Dog (16/10/05)
German Shorthaired Pointer
Golden Retriever
Gordon Setter (15/06/24)
Griffon Bruxellois
Hungarian Vizsla
Irish Setter (15/12/23)
Keeshond
Labrador Retriever (01/01/20)
Miniature Pinscher
Pekingese
Pharaoh Hound
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Samoyed
Schipperke



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Schnauzer (Miniature)
Scottish Terrier
Shih Tzu
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Weimaraner
Weimaraner [Longhair]

20 Months

Bernese Mountain Dog
Mastiff
Schnauzer (Giant)

22 Months

Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Leonberger
Neapolitan Mastiff
Newfoundland
Pyrenean Mastiff
Rottweiler
Spanish Mastiff
Tibetan Mastiff

24 Months

Afghan Hound (15/01/24)
Australian Shepherd
Azawakh
Cocker Spaniel [American]
Great Dane
Irish Wolfhound
Lhasa Apso
Old English Sheepdog
Pyrenean Mountain Dog
Russian Black Terrier
Saluki
Schnauzer
St Bernard

20.3 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HEREDITARY DISEASES

20.3.1 Compliance

This Code of Practice has been developed to conform with the Dogs Victoria Code of Ethics, by which each member is bound and in particular the commitment of members to 'breed only for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed'. (15/08/18)

20.3.2 Practical Application

20.3.2.1 Members will take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases in their breeds.

20.3.2.2 Where there is a control program, approved by Dogs Victoria, covering a breed for a disease known or considered to be inherited, then breeders within the breed should participate and comply with the requirements of the program. (15/08/18)

20.3.2.3 Where a hereditary disease is recognised by the breed club and Dogs Victoria, or Dogs Victoria, to be a problem in a breed, and where there is a suitable screening procedure or test for that disease: - (15.08.18)

20.3.2.3.1 The owner of a stud dog should, before making the dog available for stud duty –

20.3.2.3.2 have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog for such hereditary disease:

20.3.2.3.3 provide the official evaluation or test result to owners of bitches to be mated;

20.3.2.4 The owner of a bitch should, before mating her to a dog –

20.3.2.4.1 have a current official evaluation or test result for the bitch for such hereditary disease;

20.3.2.4.2 provide the official evaluation or test result to the owner of the stud dog;

20.3.2.5 Ensure that the proposed mating fits within the parameters of responsible action as approved by Dogs Victoria to reduce hereditary diseases within the breed.

20.3.2.6 Before any puppy or adult animal is sold, the prospective owners be advised that the seller has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is healthy as stated in the Dogs Victoria Code of Ethics by way of a health declaration in accordance with 20.1.25.

20.3.2.7 If the reason for diagnosis, death, or euthanasia of a dog is a result of a known heritable defect, the parents and any offspring from those parents still held by the breeder must be tested and managed for the heritable defect. Breeder's records must link test results and death certificates with the individual dog's microchip or registration number.

(...)



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20.8 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR BREEDING ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

20.8.1 All breeding dogs must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least once per year, or more frequently as directed by a veterinary practitioner.

20.8.2 All dogs must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to their first mating. Proof of the health check may be a Veterinary practitioner's certificate, stating that at the time of examination, the dog had no impediments to breeding. This may be undertaken in conjunction with the health check in 20.8.1.

20.8.3 All bitches must have a post-partum health check by a veterinary practitioner.

20.8.4 A breeder shall have a written agreement with one or more veterinary practitioners which describes arrangements for:

- » the use of the veterinary practitioner's facilities for the treatment of animals;
- » the provision of isolation housing if the breeder does not have a separate isolation housing; and the supervision of animals in isolation who remain in the care of the breeder;
- » advice relating to the health management plan for the breeder if Dog's Victoria's Model Health Management Plan for Breeders is not used;
- » providing vaccination certificates for puppies being sold from the breeder;
- » providing veterinary assistance for the breeder and able to provide treatment and/or services to the breeder within 6 hours of notification that veterinary attention is required; and
- » 24 hour contact or treatment or provision of services through an alternative 24 hour or emergency practice.

20.8.5 A breeder shall either:

20.8.5.1 adopt Dogs Victoria's Model Health Management Plan for Breeders, or

20.8.5.2 alternatively develop their own written health management plan that has been formulated and is reviewed annually in consultation with a veterinary practitioner, and meets the requirements for Health Management Plans which are contained within Section 3(5) of the *Victorian Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (2014)*

DOGS VICTORIA MODEL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Model Health Management Plan will be a separate document, published as a template for members to complete and is referred to by our Code of Practice in section 20.8.5. It is therefore expected that once complete, members will follow the content of the plan, or develop their own which meets the requirements in 20.8.5.1. Members will be required to produce their plan on request of Dogs Victoria and compliance may be inspected by Dogs Victoria Field Officers. The Model Health Management Plan will be developed by a working party including veterinary practitioner[s].

The Model Health Management Plan is expected to include protocols for:

- » grooming requirements
- » exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation programs
- » behavioural and welfare assessment of dogs
- » assessment programs for the health and welfare of dogs being reared for sale or as breeding dogs
- » assessment for admission of new breeding dogs
- » processes for determining the suitability of breeding dogs to continue breeding
- » processes for long term management, desexing and/or assessing suitability for rehoming of retired breeding dogs
- » whelping protocols
- » health assessment for puppies
- » vaccination and/or titre testing protocols, internal and external parasite prevention programs consistent with Dogs Vic's position on these (below)
- » response to a general outbreak of disease
- » protocols for quarantine and movement of dogs, including new animals introduced
- » management of isolation facilities (where isolation facilities are constructed at the breeder's premises
- » consideration of an appropriate response to foreseeable emergencies for both humans and dogs, including evacuation procedures
- » approved methods of euthanasia for emergency situations consistent with Dogs Vic's position on euthanasia (below)



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Position on vaccinations, titre testing, parasite and pest control

Vaccination programs and/or titre testing protocols within the Health Management Plan for all dogs and puppies shall address the Core Vaccines as recommended by the AVA (Canine Distemper; Infectious Canine Hepatitis; Canine Parvovirus) at a frequency determined by the breeder following consideration of the policies of the AVA and WSAVA, or consistent with findings of published and peer reviewed research.

Guidance on this will be provided by Dogs Vic in the Model Plan. Preventative treatment is also recommended for intestinal worms and Heartworm.

Non-core vaccines (Parainfluenza virus, Bordetella bronchiseptica and Leptospira interrogans) are only required by dogs whose geographic location, local environment or lifestyle places them at risk of contracting specific infections.

Every effort should be made to control pests such as fleas and paralysis tick. Preventative treatment for pests should be considered based on risk, geographical location and health risk factors.

Prevention and treatment products should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's or alternatively the AVA, or breeder's vet's recommendations. Where no prevention or treatment is used in an instance where the Health Management Plan had originally indicated it would be given, a veterinary certificate to that effect containing the veterinary advice given and the breeder's rationale for the different action must be available.

First treatment for worms should not be given before 14 days of age and first vaccination not before 6 weeks of age except on veterinary recommendation. Other preventatives should only be administered to puppies under 8 weeks on veterinary recommendation.

Vaccination certificates, including dates of next vaccine, details of the vaccine required, and a record of who administered the vaccine, must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination. Alternatively where titre testing is used in lieu, a copy of the results and recommended date for the next test should be kept on file.

Position on euthanasia

Where euthanasia is necessary, it must be carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations. In the case of emergency, a breeder may only carry out euthanasia under the direction of a veterinary practitioner, using a humane method. In such a situation, the veterinary practitioner must provide the breeder with a certificate stating that the veterinarian gave permission for the euthanasia including time, reason and approved form of euthanasia.

Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separate from any dog housing areas, out of view of any other animals.