DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 20 - CODES

Last update: 15 December 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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20-CODES

20.1 CODE OF PRACTICE

(Amended 15/12/24, 15/08/24, 15/03/23, 15/09/22, 15/10/21, 15/09/19, 15/08/18)

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 DOGS AUSTRALIA 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, DOGS AUSTRALIA 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 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.
(numbering issue for this Code rectified 15/03/23)

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. (numbering issue for this Code rectified 15/03/23)

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 Dogs Victoria sanctioned event, training activities, or any activity which may reasonably be seen to be in connection with Dogs Victoria. (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.

<u>Breeding</u>

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 dog of either sex unless it has reached adequate maturity for that breed as determined by Dogs Victoria, without the prior approval of Dogs Victoria.

Where the Dogs Australia and/or Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice are otherwise silent, the minimum age for breeding with bitches shall be 12 months [see attached Minimum Breeding Age for Bitches – Table 1]. (Amended 15/12/26, 15/11/26) (15/11/18)

Where the Dogs Australia and/or Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice are otherwise silent, there shall be no minimum age for breeding with dogs (see attached Minimum Breeding Age for Male Dogs – Table 2). (15/12/26)

20.1.12.1 The progeny of any matings that are not permitted by Dogs Australia Regulations and/or Dogs Victoria Code 20.1.12 will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "not to be upgraded". Excepting where Code 20.1.12.2 applies, there will be a breach of Code 20.1.12 by the member/s who are the owner/s of the sire and/or dam of the litter or the owner/s of either or both dogs used in the mating. (Amended 15/12/26) (15/12/24)

20.1.12.2 The progeny of any matings that are referred to in Dogs Australia Regulations, Part 6, 8.8.1 will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "not to be upgraded". (15/12/26)

20.1.13 A member shall not breed a bitch causing it to whelp more than twice in eighteen months. (Amended 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 (Amended 15.03.17)

20.1.14.1 First generation breeding (i.e. father / daughter; brother / sister; mother / son) matings are not permitted. (Amended 15/12/24)

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. (Amended 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)

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. (Amended 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 DOGS AUSTRALIA Ltd (unless an exemption is granted by Dogs Victoria). (Amended 15/03/17, 15/04/18)

20.1.16 A member shall take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases in accordance with the DOGS AUSTRALIA 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 Dogs Victoria that the purchaser is a member of a DOGS AUSTRALIA recognised canine controlling body in the overseas country. The member and purchaser must acknowledge in writing to Dogs Victoria 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. (Amended 15/03/23) (15/10/21) (15/11/19)

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: (15/09/22) (15/09/19) (15/11/11)

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 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 DOGS AUSTRALIA 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;
- 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. **A** breeder health declaration **must be completed within 21 days prior to the dog leaving the breeder's care and supplied to the new owner** which includes details of **any** known physical abnormality at the time and how that abnormality may affect future health and welfare of the dog. This **declaration** shall be signed in acknowledgement by the recipient **and a copy retained by the breeder**. 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 euthanised 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". (Amended 15/08/22)

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)

20.1.31 A member must not at any time communicate with a judge in a way that could reasonably be interpreted as intended to influence a judge's decision. This prohibition includes conduct which could reasonably give rise to the impression that the member is attempting to influence a judge's

attitude to the member, an exhibit entered at a show, trial or test, or a decision of a judge at any such event.

The prohibition extends to conduct of a member prior to an event but does not extend to anything contained in a paid advertisement that is published commercially. (15/02/24)

TABLE 1
Minimum Breeding Age for Bitches
Minimum age at which a Bitch may be *mated* (Amended 15/12/26, 15/11/26, 15/06/24)

The age is calculated in the same way as for conformation classes. If the corresponding day of the month does not exist in the month in which the dog reaches the required age, the last day of that month is to be treated as the dog's anniversary date. For example, a dog born on 31 January is treated as reaching three months of age on 30 April and is therefore eligible to enter the Baby Puppy class from that date.

Note also DOGS AUSTRALIA 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. **(Added 10/10, 6.7 (Amended EAP 07/11)**

Minimum Breeding Age for Bitches

12 Months
All Other Breeds (15/08/24), (15/06/24), (15/01/24), (15/12/18)

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 - applies to bitches born after 01.01.2000
Border Collie
Borzoi
Boston Terrier
Boxer
Bullmastiff - applies to bitches born after 01.06.2011
Cane Corso
Chow Chow
Curly Coated Retriever
Dalmatian
Deerhound
Dobermann
Dogue De Bordeaux
English Setter (15/02/19)
Finnish Lapphund
Flat Coated Retriever - applies to bitches born after 01.01.2002
German Shepherd Dog (16/10/05)
German Shorthaired Pointer
Golden Retriever - applies to bitches born on or after 01.01.2002
Gordon Setter (15/06/24)
Griffon Bruxellois
Hungarian Vizsla
Labrador Retriever (30/06/16), (01/01/20)
Miniature Pinscher
Pekingese
Pharaoh Hound
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Samoyed
Schipperke
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 - applies to bitches born after 01.01.1997
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

TABLE 2
Minimum Breeding Age for Male Dogs
Minimum age at which a Male Dog may be *mated* (Amended 15/12/26, 15/11/26)

The age is calculated in the same way as for conformation classes. If the corresponding day of the month does not exist in the month in which the dog reaches the required age, the last day of that month is to be treated as the dog's anniversary date. For example, a dog born on 31 January is treated as reaching three months of age on 30 April and is therefore eligible to enter the Baby Puppy class from that date.

Minimum Breeding Age for Male Dogs

Bullmastiff – refer to Dogs Australia Regulations Part 6, Section 8.14.4 and 8.14.5 (effective 1/7/26)
German Shepherd Dog – refer Dogs Australia Regulations Part 6, Section 8.8.1 (effective 16/10/05)

20.2 CONFORMATION JUDGES CODE OF PRACTICE

RESERVED: (Note: The code is covered by Dogs Australia Judges' Code of Practice and Conduct)

20.3 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HEREDITARY DISEASES

20.3.1 Compliance

This Code of Practice has been developed to conform with 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". (Amended 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. (Amended 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: - (Amended 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; (numbering issue rectified 15/03/23)

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. (Amended 15/08/18)

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 Dogs Victoria Code of Ethics by way of a health declaration in accordance with 20.1.25. (Amended 15/08/18)

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. (Amended 15/08/18)

20.4 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MANAGEMENT AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

20.4.1 Title

This is a Code of Practice for the conduct and performance of duties by Management and other committee members of the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

20.4.2 Objective

The objective of this Code of Practice is to provide guidance and set standards for elected and appointed Management and other committee members to assist the individual to carry out their duties, responsibilities and obligations.

20.4.3 Authorising Provisions

This Code of Practice is made under clause 1.5.18 of the Constitution of Dogs Victoria.

20.4.4 General

The Management Committee shall, without limitation have the following responsibilities:

20.4.4.1 adoption and continuance of a Strategic Plan for Dogs Victoria.

20.4.4.2 adoption and continuance of a Business Plan for Dogs Victoria.

20.4.4.3 establishment and continuance of a register of pecuniary interests of Management and other committee members. Such register shall include all commercial interests in dog activities, plus involvement with affiliated clubs and any non-affiliated dog organisations.

20.4.4.4 establishment and continuance of a policy manual for Dogs Victoria.

20.4.4.5 establishment and continuance of a formal induction program for new Management and other Committee members, which shall include current policies, financial position, strategies and issues before the respective committee, as applicable.

20.4.4.6 ensure all Resolutions contain a delegated responsibility for implementation and a time frame for same.

20.4.4.7 ensure, through the Chief Executive, that at all times proper budgeted training programs are in place and undertaken by appropriate staff members and where necessary by Management Committee members.

20.4.4.8 establish an agreed charter for all committees, sub-committees, panels and working parties. Such charter to contain clearly defined delegation of authority in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.87. Working parties to be established with a specific time frame for their operation.

20.4.4.9 establish clearly defined delegation of responsibilities to the Chief Executive. Such delegation to be subject to annual review in the month of January each year.

20.4.200 ensure that staff employment contracts, which contain provision for performance evaluation of the employee against agreed key performance indicators, are entered into with all staff.

20.4.201 ensure that Dogs Victoria accounts and audit procedures conform with relevant Australian accounting and auditing standards.

20.4.202 ensure that at all times Dogs Victoria Constitution, Rules, Regulations, Codes and Policies are upheld by all members and administration staff.

20.4.5 Confidentiality

20.4.5.1 Where a Resolution is reached by Management or any other committee the committee shall also decide upon a responsibility for "communications to members or individual", thereby ensuring all Management or other committee members clearly understand how communication is to be made or announced. Management and other committee members shall not discuss

such resolutions, with any person who is not a member of Management Committee or other committee (as the case may be), until the matter has been officially announced or conveyed in accordance with the agreed procedure.

20.4.5.2 Management and other committee members shall not knowingly discuss matters under investigation or before the Disciplinary or Appeals Committee with any individual. Any member raising serious queries on such matters shall be referred to the Convenor of the Investigations Committee, or advised to correspond with the Chief Executive.

20.4.5.3 Where the Management Committee decides that a matter before any Dogs Victoria committee is to be kept totally confidential then no member of a committee shall divulge any details to do with that matter, except to a person who is a member of the appropriate committee.

20.4.5.4 Subject to the above conditions, Management and other committee members shall be free to and indeed encouraged to discuss, explain and seek viewpoint of members on any matter.

20.4.6 Use of Position or Information

20.4.6.1 Management and other committee members shall not make improper use of information acquired by virtue of their position as a committee member. This applies irrespective of whether the committee member would gain, directly or indirectly, a personal advantage or advantage to any associated person, organisation or company.

20.4.6.2 Management and other committee members shall not take improper advantage of their position to gain, directly or indirectly, a personal advantage or advantage for any associated person, organisation or company.

20.4.7 Conflict of Interest

20.4.7.1 Management and other committee members shall at all times give primacy to the interests of Dogs Victoria and shall not allow their personal interests, or the interests of any associated person, organisation or company, to conflict with those of Dogs Victoria.

20.4.7.1.1 Any office bearer or ordinary member of the Management Committee who, as plaintiff or co-plaintiff, commences legal action against Dogs Victoria (except legal action in respect of any personal injury in respect of which Dogs Victoria is indemnified under its insurance policies) shall forthwith stand down from office pending judgement, settlement or withdrawal of the action. (15/12/24)

20.4.7.1.2 Any office bearer or ordinary member of the Management Committee is unable to take legal action against another office bearer or ordinary member of the Management Committee or Dogs Victoria employee whilst serving as a member of the Management Committee unless on the grounds of discrimination which can only occur in a private / civil lawsuit. (15/12/24)

20.4.7.2 Management and other committee members shall at all times act in the best interest of the total membership and the purebred dog fraternity in general and not support sectional interests.

20.4.7.3 Management and other committee members shall immediately disclose any conflict which may arise, in accordance with the requirements of Dogs Victoria Rule 2.79.3 and 2.79.4.

20.5 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR AFFILIATES

Dogs Victoria approval to conduct a fixture is on the understanding that the affiliate will endeavour to conduct and manage the fixture ensuring that the activities are an enjoyable experience for all members and that the fixture represents a public showcase of Dogs Victoria activities.

In particular:

20.5.1 The affiliate is to ensure that DOGS AUSTRALIA Judges Contracts are completed fully and reflect all of the affiliate's requirements, especially in relation to embargoes.

20.5.2 The Show Secretary is to ensure that contracted conformation Judges are notified of the number of exhibits entered for each breed. Such notification is to be communicated in writing so as to reach the Judges as soon as practical after the closing date. (Amended 15/10/2024)

20.5.3. The affiliate committee is to ensure that non-Australian judges are briefed on Dogs Victoria and DOGS AUSTRALIA procedures for judging.

20.5.4. Affiliate committee personnel, show managers or show secretaries who facilitate/d or interact/ed with appointed judges shall not handle dogs under those judges nor participate at the competition area in such a way as to compromise the perception of fairness. Specialty and Breed clubs are excluded but must always be seen to be acting with the perception of fairness to exhibitors. (Amended 15/03/21, 15/10/20) (15/11/17)

20.5.4.1 Affiliate committee personnel, show managers or show secretaries involved in facilitating or interacting with judges in a cluster of shows will not handle dogs under any of those judges nor participate at the competition area in such a way as to compromise the perception of fairness. (Amended 15/03/21)

20.5.5 The Show Secretary is to ensure that entry fees are banked promptly to ensure that invalid cheques / payments are identified.

20.5.6 The Show Manager is to ensure that all Stewards are competent in the duties required of them and arrange appropriate support where necessary.

20.5.7. The affiliate is to ensure adequate provision for and maintenance of parking, toilets, foodstuffs [if applicable], first aid, competition and exhibitor areas.

20.5.8 The affiliate is to ensure that safe and unimpeded access is provided around and to the rings.

20.5.9 The affiliate committee is to appoint a Dogs Victoria Representative as required by Dogs Victoria Regulations and provide the administrative and logistic support required by Dogs Victoria Procedures - Fixture Incidents / Complaints.

20.5.10 Aggressive Dog incidents are to be dealt with in accordance with Dogs Victoria Regulation 3.5.6.

20.5.11 The affiliate committee is to ensure that persons attending the fixture comply with acceptable standards of behaviour, and therefore the committee is to be fully conversant with Dogs Victoria Procedures - Fixture Incidents / Complaints.

NOTE: "facilitate" referred to in 20.5.4 does not include normal secretarial communication relating to contractual and travel arrangements prior to the day of the event. (15/11/17)

20.6 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS - SOCIAL MEDIA

Members shall at all times conduct themselves with behaviour as set out in Dogs Victoria Policy Statement – Social Media Code of Conduct dated 15 July 2016 and updated in June 2025. (Amended 15/11/25, 15/08/25) (15/07/16)

Dogs Victoria Policy Statement - Social Media Code of Conduct

Background
Social media has become an integral part of day-to-day communication for individuals as well as businesses.

Social media is defined as the social interaction among people in which they create, share or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks.

Social media may include but is not limited to magazines, Internet forums, weblogs, social blogs, microblogging, wikis, social networks, podcasts, photographs or pictures, video, rating and social bookmarking. Technologies include blogging, picture-sharing, vlogs, wall-posting, music-sharing, crowdsourcing and voice over IP.

Its ability to capture community sentiment and shape opinions is driven by its dynamic and immediate nature.

What constitutes ethical behaviour can be somewhat ambiguous when engaging in social forums, however Dogs Victoria requires its members to uphold high ethical standards displaying respect, honesty and integrity. (Amended 15/08/25)

This Social Media Code of Conduct explains Dogs Victoria's expectations of members when using social media. Members must: (Amended 15/08/25)

* Abide by Dogs Victoria Rules and Regulations and the law (Amended 15/08/25)
* Be reasonable and respectful – not post malicious, misleading or unfair content in relation to Dogs Victoria or its affiliates, Dogs Victoria staff, Dogs Victoria members or members of other Dogs Australia affiliated bodies or their dogs (Amended 15/08/25)
* Be accurate – any content posted as fact including about yourself and your dogs, should be able to be substantiated and not be misleading (Amended 15/08/25)
* Act in manner that is consistent with good community expectations
* Abide by the relevant policies, codes, and procedures in accordance with the Child Safety Standards of Dogs Victoria (15/11/25)

The same values that apply in the real world also apply in the virtual world and in social media exchanges.

Despite the seemingly unregulated nature of social media, the law is applicable to online content. Postings online (and similarly in email or text messages) are subject to the law in areas such as defamation, racial discrimination, intimidation and bullying.

Breach of the Social Media Code of Conduct

Dogs Victoria continually monitors activity in relation to the organisation and its members.

Dogs Victoria takes compliance with this policy seriously. Where members believe that behaviour is in breach of our Rules, Regulations or codes and is reported, the disciplinary process may be initiated by Dogs Victoria. Where proven, either formal warnings or other penalties may apply or if it is of a serious nature the offending members may be considered liable under the law.

Consultation or advice
This policy has been developed to provide outline requirements for Dogs Victoria members. (Amended 15/08/25)

Any members who are unsure of their rights, liabilities or actions online and seek clarification should contact Dogs Victoria Compliance Officer. (Amended 15/08/25)

20.7 CODE OF CONDUCT BY PARTICIPANTS AT DOGS VICTORIA EVENTS

(Amended 15/11/25)
Dogs Victoria expects that all members and exhibitors will conduct themselves in a responsible manner when attending Dogs Victoria activities. Participants must also ensure that their dogs are properly cared for at all times during events and do not become a nuisance to others.

Members will always act in a way which will make events friendly and welcoming, creating a safe environment for the enjoyment of all. They will conduct themselves by displaying good manners, respecting other participants, officials and judges.

Participants will ensure they adhere to the relevant policies, codes, and procedures in accordance with the Child Safety Standards of Dogs Victoria. (15/11/25)

The following is the expectation of Dogs Victoria of all attending an event authorised by it.

- You will display a commitment to the values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, spirited competition whilst winning and losing with grace equally.
- You will welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- You will act so that the experience of others attending a Dogs Victoria event may be enriched.
- You will reject any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed on you.
- You will always consider paramount, the welfare of the dogs.
- You will refuse to embarrass the sport or Dogs Victoria whilst taking part.

Behaviour not tolerated

- Abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone attending the event whether it be the judge,

event officials or management or participants.

- Harassment which may be defined as causing alarm, distress or anxiety, physical violence, threats, offensive language or verbal abuse.
- Refusal to accept a judge's decision by comment on the decision whilst still in the ring or near precincts or refusal to continue to participate whilst eligible to do so.

Reporting of poor or bad behaviour will be encouraged. It may then be speedily tracked through the disciplinary process by which Dogs Victoria demonstrates its strong commitment to a high standard of behaviour at all times by its members. (15/07/16)

20.8 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR BREEDING ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

(Amended 15/08/18)

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 current (dated within the last 3 years and containing up to date veterinary details) written agreement with one or more veterinary practitioners which describes arrangements for: (Amended 15/07/26)

- 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 six 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)

<u>Position on vaccinations, titre testing, parasite and pest control</u>

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 before14 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.

20.9 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VOLUNTEERS (15/08/25)

Dogs Victoria recognises that the work of its many volunteers is invaluable. This statement sets out its commitment to those who volunteer in a wide range of roles, including:

- being leaders in the organisation;
- organising and running fixtures and events;
- participating in, and improving governance;
- education and training;
- working to maintain and develop facilities and resources.

Dogs Victoria people are required to abide by this Code which applies to all staff, volunteers, management committee members, members and affiliates. It applies to all activities conducted by Dogs Victoria.

Our Commitment

1. We will encourage volunteers and actively seek their involvement in the activities of Dogs Victoria, building on our volunteering culture

    - leaders are expected to value diversity and equity, and reflect this in their actions
    - leaders will be encouraged to circulate opportunities for volunteers as vacancies occur and as part of succession planning
    - all members (irrespective of background or ability) will be encouraged and welcome to come forward to volunteer rather than wait to be approached

2. We will provide our volunteers with an induction program that enables them to clearly and fully understand their roles, obligations and opportunities, as well as Dogs Victoria's duties and commitment to them

- leaders will ensure that their team members are trained to understand their responsibilities in relation to child safety and to support their engagement with children
- leaders will provide newcomers with job specific induction where the nature of the role requires it

3. We will actively support our volunteers and identify opportunities for development, recognising that improvement is critical to a prosperous future

    - leaders will maintain regular contact with team members to provide feedback and to be responsive to ideas, concerns and development needs

4. We will at all times strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our volunteers and work in partnership with them to identify and eliminate any hazards and manage risks.

5. We will build on our current volunteer recognition program, which includes the volunteer stories published in Dogs Victoria Magazine, the annual thank you function and personal message of recognition from the Chief Executive.

6. We will treat our volunteers with respect, sensitivity and consideration at all times and in all situations, recognising that they give freely of their time but have other life commitments

    - we will work to further develop our culture around reporting so that people are increasingly comfortable to raise concerns
    - we will ensure that fair and transparent procedures are in place for changing the role or nature of the involvement of our volunteers and for ending the involvement of a volunteer, for whatever reason
    - volunteer performance or misconduct issues will be promptly identified, recorded and addressed in line with principles of natural justice and our Constitution Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice and Ethics

We will always remember that the words ‘thank you’ go a long way