

THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF DOGS AND CATS IN BREEDING FACILITIES

CONSULTATION DRAFT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Interpretation and definitions	5
2.1 Interpretations	5
2.2 Definitions	5
3. Responsibilities and competency of staff	8
3.1 Standards	8
3.2 Guidelines	8
4. Quality management systems	10
4.1 Standards	10
4.2 Guidelines	11
5. Animal housing	12
5.1 Accommodation	12
5.2 Environment	14
5.3 Security	15
6. Animal management	16
6.1 Animal care	16
6.2 Food and water	17
6.3 Cleaning and disinfection	18
6.4 Transport	19
7. Animal health	20
7.1 Health checks	20
7.2 Veterinary care	21
7.3 Euthanasia	22
8. Transfer of ownership	23
8.1 Standards	23
8.2 Guidelines	23
9. Breeding and rearing	25
9.1 Standards	25
9.2 Guidelines	25

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and Cats in Breeding Facilities is made under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1985. The purpose of the Code is to specify standards and guidelines for the care of dogs and cats involved in breeding activities to ensure their health, safety and well-being needs are being met.

The Code must be observed by all people who breed dogs and cats for sale. By adhering to this Code, people involved in breeding activities demonstrate to the general community their concern for the welfare of the animals in their care.

When humans manipulate or limit an animal's choices in relation to its physical or social environment, the welfare of that animal must be considered. Humans have a duty of care towards animals. The greater the level of intervention or control of an animal or its environment, the greater those responsibilities become.

An animal's welfare is determined by its physical and social environment and how this impacts on its health, safety and well-being. Thus, health and behaviour are good indicators of the animal's state of welfare.

The standards specified in this Code are the minimum standards that must be met under law. They have legal effect in two ways:

- Failure to meet a standard may result in an Expiation Notice or a prosecution under the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012.
- In more serious cases, failure to meet a standard may support a prosecution for an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1985.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1985 the person in charge of an animal is responsible for meeting the legal obligations regarding an animal's welfare. The person in charge, who may be the owner of the animal or another person who has the custody or control of the animal, is legally responsible for the care of the animal. They are therefore responsible for meeting the standards of this Code and for ensuring any staff members or volunteers also meet the standards of this Code.

Compliance with this Code does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1985 and any other laws and regulations, for example the Local Government Act 1999 or the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

This Code has been developed in consultation with key stakeholder groups and the issues they raised have been addressed, as far as possible in this consultation draft.

Following the public consultation period the document will be amended to reflect the comments received. The stakeholders who assisted in the development of this consultation draft will canvas the views of their members and may provide further comment and proposed amendments during the consultation period.

This Code was developed using the New South Wales Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats as a base document. The South Australian Government acknowledges the generosity of the New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment for allowing the use of their Code in this manner. Aspects of the Victorian Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014 have also been incorporated.

This Code is neither a complete manual on animal husbandry, nor a static document. It will be revised from time to time to take into account new knowledge of animal physiology and behaviour, technological advances, developments in standards of animal welfare and changing community attitudes and expectations about the humane treatment of animals.

2. INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 Interpretation

Objective: The Objective describes the intended outcome(s) for each section of the Code.

Standards: Standards describe the mandatory specific actions needed to achieve acceptable animal welfare levels. These are the minimum standards that must be met under law. They are identified in the text by the heading “Standards” and use the word “must”. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

Guidelines:

Guidelines describe best practices agreed at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience. They also reflect society’s values and expectations regarding the care of animals. A guideline is usually a higher standard of care than a minimum standard, or may provide recommendations on how to comply with a standard.

Guidelines are also used to promote or encourage better care for animals than is required by a minimum standard and in circumstances for which an assessable standard is difficult to establish.

They are identified in the text by the heading “Guidelines” and use the word “should”.

General defence:

A general defence applies to the enforceable provisions of this code.

To be applicable, the accused must establish that his or her failure to comply:

- was the result of acting on advice from a registered veterinarian, or
- was in the welfare interests of the animal, or
- was in the interests of other animals in the facility, or
- was necessary for occupational health and safety reasons.

2.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Code:

Breeding means the breeding of dogs and cats for sale.

Cat means an animal of the species *Felis catus*.

Cat housing includes a cattery, cage, module, colony pen, exercise area or other enclosure used to contain cats within a facility; or garages, carports, sheds, commercially sold dog kennels of any material, and any room forming part of a house, flat, apartment or town house used for human habitation.

Dog housing includes a kennel, cage, module, colony pen, exercise area or other enclosure used to contain dogs within a facility; or garages, carports, sheds, commercially sold dog kennels of any material, and any room forming part of a house, flat, apartment or town house used for human habitation.

Environmental enrichment means the provision of stimuli, such as toys, sights, smells and sounds, which promote appropriate physical and mental activities, resulting in healthier and more active animals.

Euthanasia means the act of inducing death using a method appropriate to the species that results in a rapid loss of consciousness without recovery and minimum pain and/or distress to the animal.

Facility means any place, premises or thing used for the accommodation or shelter of dogs or cats for the purpose of breeding or rearing them, or where puppies or kittens are housed as a result of breeding, and includes a vehicle used for the transportation of animals.

Kept in isolation means kept in a secure area in which individual animals are separated from other animals.

Kitten means a cat up to six months of age.

Owner means:

- » the owner of the animal (in the sense of being the owner of the animal as personal property)
- » the person by whom the animal is ordinarily kept
- » the registered owner of the animal
- » the person who has custody or control of the animal.

A reference in this Code to the owner of an animal is a reference to each and all owners of the animal.

Person in charge of an animal means the person who has it in their possession or under their care, control or supervision. This person is responsible for meeting the welfare needs of the animal, and may include the owner, a family member or friend of the owner or, in a facility, the most senior member of staff responsible for the facility at the time.

Person in charge of the facility means the owner of the facility or the manager of the facility or a person delegated by the owner or manager to fill this role.

Puppy means a dog up to six months of age.

Sell means—

- a. sell, barter or exchange, or
- b. agree or offer to sell, barter or exchange, or
- c. receive, expose, store, have in possession, send, consign or deliver for or in pursuance of sale, barter or exchange.

and sale has a corresponding meaning.

Significant infectious disease means a disease caused by a transmissible agent that is likely to cause illness or death in susceptible animals that become infected. Common examples include: canine cough, feline respiratory disease, parvovirus, feline enteritis, canine infectious hepatitis, heartworm and distemper.

Staff includes the person in charge of the facility and employees and volunteers that work in the facility, whether working full or part time and whether or not working for fee or reward.

Supervision means being available to provide advice or instruction either by being physically present or being contactable at all times.

Operating procedures means procedures for the management and operation of a facility for the accommodation and shelter of animals required under this Code.

Unauthorised person means a person on premises without lawful authority or permission of the owner or occupier of the premises.

Veterinary practitioner means a person who is registered or who could be registered as a veterinary surgeon under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPETENCY OF STAFF

Objective

All people who care for and manage breeding dogs and/or cats are competent and aware of their responsibilities. If breeding facilities employ staff or volunteers the person in charge of the facility is aware of their extra responsibilities. All people who manage breeding animals comply with the enforceable provisions of this Code, the Animal Welfare Act 1985 and all other relevant legislation.

3.1 Standards

- 3.1.1 The person in charge of the facility is responsible for compliance with all Standards within this Code.
- 3.1.2 The person in charge of the facility must be aware of their responsibilities towards the animals in their care. Each day, a person must be in attendance with sufficient frequency to meet the requirements of this Code, and must be knowledgeable and competent to:
- provide for the animals' care and welfare
 - provide for the feeding and watering of the animals
 - take reasonable steps to protect animals from distress or injury caused by other animals or interference by people
 - clean and ensure proper hygiene in the facility
 - identify signs of common diseases of the animals kept.
- 3.1.3 Where trainees and volunteers are engaged by the facility they must work under the supervision of trained and experienced staff.
- 3.1.4 Facilities must engage sufficient staff to meet these Standards and ensure the welfare of the animals being kept.

3.2 Guidelines

- 3.2.1 If staff are employed to care for animals they should have formal qualifications and experience in animal care and management, which should be recorded in a register of staff training. Where appropriate, staff should be re-trained on a biennial basis. Training should be relevant to dogs and cats and include:
- behaviour and social needs
 - receipt and release of animals
 - housing
 - husbandry
 - handling and control
 - moving, transporting and capturing
 - identifying signs of health and ill health, including identifying symptoms of stress or when prompt veterinary care is required
 - procedures for the care of sick and injured animals
 - special requirements of old or young animals
 - disease and parasite control and prevention
 - emergency management and evacuation procedures
 - the keeping of records.
- 3.2.2 Large facilities should engage one full time staff member per 15 pregnant or lactating animals and one to 50 for other animals.
- 3.2.3 Large facilities should have at least one staff member on duty overnight.
- 3.2.4 People caring for animals should be aware of the risk of transfer of infectious disease and microbial contamination which could occur when handling animals or cleaning enclosures, and the practices that will reduce or eliminate these risks.

4. QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Objective

Breeding establishments operate in a transparent, professional and systematic manner, utilising record keeping and other documentation to ensure that standards of animal welfare are maintained.

4.1 Standards

4.1.1 The following information must be recorded for each animal that is housed at the facility:

- a description which includes:
 - » name
 - » microchip number (if microchipped)
 - » sex (including whether desexed)
 - » breed
 - » colour
 - » the pedigree registration number (for purebred animals) of owned and leased animals
 - » distinguishing features
 - » any special medical and dietary requirements
- the history of the animal which includes:
 - » date of birth
 - » the date of acquisition/arrival
 - » vaccination status
 - » details of preventative and veterinary treatment, for example routine husbandry procedures such as worming or parasite control
 - » details of medical history
 - » any genetic or other health testing undertaken
- method of disposal of the animal which includes:
 - » the date and details of the sale or give away
 - » if animals are euthanised the date, reason and method for euthanasia
 - » if the animal died, the date of death, whether or not a necropsy was performed and the cause of death (if known)

- if the animal is leased:

- » the name, address and telephone number of the owner or lessee
- » the name and contact telephone number of the veterinary practitioner who normally attends the animal.

4.1.2 Information which details each litter bred must be recorded and must include:

- the name and microchip number of both the dam and the sire (if microchipped)
- the date of mating(s)
- the date of whelping or queening
- identification details for each animal within the litter including any abnormalities or deaths.

4.1.3 Records must be retained for no less than five years after the death or disposal of the animal and all staff must be able to produce the records at the request of an inspector under the Animal Welfare Act 1985.

4.1.4 The facility must have a documented program in place to control insects, external parasites (including fleas, lice, ticks) and vertebrate pests (for example rats or mice). This program must be kept at the facility and all staff must be able to produce or access it and must be familiar with its content.

4.1.5 Each facility must have a documented procedure for the swift removal of animals from the facility, in the case of emergency. This procedure must be kept at the facility and all staff must be able to produce or access it and must be familiar with its content.

For the purpose of these Standards, a program, procedure, record or document may be paper-based or in electronic form or both.

4.2 Guidelines

- 4.2.1 Programs and procedures should be documented and periodically reviewed and approved by the person in charge of the facility. The period from the last review and approval should not exceed 2 years.
- 4.2.2 Records kept should include notes and observations on individual animals at the facility, including any significant change in the animal's condition or behaviour.

DRAFT

5. ANIMAL HOUSING

Objectives

The accommodation, environment and security of dogs and cats are of a standard that ensures their security, safety, health and well-being.

5.1 Accommodation

5.1.1 Standards

- 5.1.1.1 Vehicles, caravans, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as permanent housing.
- 5.1.1.2 Breeding facilities must have a clean and adequate water supply, sufficient to meet the daily requirements of the animals.
- 5.1.1.3 Breeding facilities must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that:
- provides for the good health and wellbeing of the animals
 - minimises the risk of the transmission of infectious disease agents
 - minimises the risk of escape of animals
 - Minimises the risk of injury to animals and humans.
- 5.1.1.4 Animals must be provided with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions and must be provided with clean, dry, dedicated sleeping areas.
- 5.1.1.5 If a facility houses both dogs and cats, cat housing must be sufficiently distant or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress to cats created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.
- 5.1.1.6 Housing must meet the minimum sizes shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. These limits do not apply to animals being temporarily housed while undergoing treatment or being transported for a disease or injury.

Table 1: Minimum sizes for dog housing (not including exercise areas)

Animal/s	Min floor area (m2)*	Min height (cm)	Min width (cm)
Puppy/ies (+/- bitch)	3.5	180	120
1 dog < 40 cm height at shoulder	1.5	180	90
2 dogs < 40 cm height at shoulder	1.5	180	90
Socially compatible group of dogs < 40 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	1.5 per animal		
1 dog 40–60 cm height at shoulder	2.4	180	90
2 dogs 40–60 cm height at shoulder			
Socially compatible group of dogs 40–60 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	2.4 per animal		
1 dog > 60 cm height at shoulder	3.5	180	90
2 dogs > 60 cm height at shoulder	5.2	180	90
Socially compatible group of dogs > 60 cm height at shoulder, housed in back yard or house	3.5 per animal	180	120

* minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding

**Table 2: Minimum sizes for cat housing*
(not including exercise areas)**

Animal/s	Min floor area (m2)*	Min height (cm)
Kitten/s (+/- queen)	0.8	210
Single cat	0.8	210
Cats (max 2)	0.8	210
Socially compatible group of cats housed in back yard or house	0.8 per animal with provisions made for vertical space	

* Housing must contain at least 2 levels incorporating raised sleeping quarters. Access to all levels must be available through the provision of ramps, poles, steps or the like.

5.1.1.7 Animals:

- must be provided with sleeping areas that have clean, hygienic, dry bedding, appropriate to the species and breed, sufficient for the number of animals held, and sufficient to insulate them from the floor
- must not be in extended contact with wet floors
- must not be kept exclusively on wire flooring.

5.1.1.8 Cats must be provided:

- with a suitable box each in which to hide or sleep
- a litter tray that is at least 1.2 times the length of the cat and that contains a sufficient depth of material such as commercial cat litter, sawdust, shavings, sand or shredded paper.

Animals kept in isolation

5.1.1.9 An area must either be available at the facility or at a veterinary hospital where animals can be kept in isolation. There must be documented and demonstrable biosecurity measures in place prior to use.

5.1.1.10 Animals known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease or severe injury must be taken directly to where they can be kept in isolation unless it is in the animal's welfare to be housed with other animals and does not put the other animals at risk.

5.1.1.11 A cat isolation facility must be a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.

5.1.2 Guidelines

- 5.1.2.1 All facilities should be seweraged or on a septic system, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities; or have some other adequate and acceptable method for disposal of faeces and other liquid wastes.
- 5.1.2.2 If cats are housed as groups, consideration should be given for each cat to be able to find an area in which it can be free from interference by other cats.
- 5.1.2.3 The cage sizes provided in Tables 1 and 2 provide the minimum enforceable standard. Breeders should ensure that the physical and mental needs of individual animals do not become constrained by their spatial environment.

5.2 Environment

5.2.1 Standards

- 5.2.1.1 Housing must have a shaded area to escape direct exposure from the sun.
- 5.2.1.2 Animals must be protected from extremes of temperature.
- 5.2.1.3 The duration and intensity of artificial lighting, if used, must be as close as possible to natural conditions, sufficient to allow thorough inspection and observation of animals and must mimic the prevailing natural light cycles. Animals must be protected from excessive light that is generated from an external source.
- 5.2.1.4 Housing areas must sufficiently ventilated to maintain the health of the animals, while minimising undue draughts, odours and moisture condensation.
- 5.2.1.5 Air ventilation devices, if used, must have an air change rate sufficient to distribute fresh air evenly to all of the animal holding areas ; and must have a back-up system in case the system becomes inoperable.

5.2.2 Guidelines

- 5.2.2.1 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to animals. This should include the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals. Particular attention should be given to protecting short faced (brachycephalic) breeds, especially against heat.
- 5.2.2.2 Breeding facilities should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure animals.
- 5.2.2.3 Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with noise regulations and work health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials which reduce noise
 - care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal
 - limiting external stimulation e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens
 - holding dogs in compatible pairs
 - taking care to exercise dogs out of sight of kennelled dogs.
- 5.2.2.4 Noise from stud cats or calling queens should be managed to comply with noise regulations and occupational health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- providing lockable soundproof quarters in which the stud cat is held at night in compliance with noise regulations
 - locating the stud house inside another building, or by taking advantage of as much shielding by existing walls and buildings as possible
 - providing the stud cat with companion cats, a more interesting run, or more companionship such as relocation to where people, other cats and other animals can be regularly seen
 - removing a calling queen from an outside pen and placing her in an indoor pen, which can also be further covered over at night
 - taking the queen promptly to the stud (whether he is entire or vasectomised).

5.3 Security

5.3.1 Standards

- 5.3.1.1 The facility must be able to be reasonably secured to prevent access by unauthorised people.
- 5.3.1.2 Housing must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals held.
- 5.3.1.3 Animals must not be able to escape except in circumstances that cannot reasonably be foreseen and guarded against.
- 5.3.1.4 Unauthorised people must not have access to animal holding areas unless under the supervision of a staff member.
- 5.3.1.5 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of animals

5.3.2 Guidelines

- 5.3.2.1 Double barriers are recommended to assist in preventing animals from escaping.
- 5.3.2.2 Any security methods used should allow for ready access to animals and ready exit for staff and animals from the facility in the event of an emergency.
- 5.3.2.3 Functioning firefighting equipment should be readily available and staff trained and practised in its use.
- 5.3.2.4 Breeders should ensure that any fire retardants available at the facility are not toxic to the animals being held.

6. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Objective

The safety, wellbeing, and psychological health of breeding dogs and cats when housed and transported is paramount. Animals are protected from distress, injury, illness and disease, and provided with appropriate food, water, exercise and environmental enrichment.

6.1 Animal care

6.1.1 Standards

6.1.1.1 Each animal must be individually identified.

6.1.1.2 Appropriate measures must be implemented to minimise the risk of distress or injury caused by other animals. This includes supervising animals sharing an exercise area unless they are known to be compatible.

6.1.1.3 Animals must be protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people.

6.1.1.4 Animals that must be kept in isolation must be kept in a quiet, warm and dry area. In most instances, the following categories of animals must be isolated :

- animals with dependent young
- animals about to give birth
- animals in season, where it is not the intention to breed
- sick or injured animals.

6.1.1.5 Animals that may be distressed by the presence of other dogs or cats, or another species (eg. sheep or cattle) must be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces their ability to smell the other animals.

6.1.1. Long haired animals must be groomed by brushing or clipping at a frequency which ensures that their health and comfort is maintained.

6.1.1.7 Adult animals must have the opportunity to exercise for at least 30 minutes daily, unless being treated for significant illness or injury. For dogs, this can be provided through training or work activities, or allowing the animal access to an exercise area to run freely, or by walking them on a lead.

6.1.1.8 Dogs must not be exercised in any way which may pose the risk of serious injury, for example attached to a motor vehicle, or unsupervised on a treadmill.

6.1.1.9 Animals must receive environmental enrichment, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, to ensure good psychological health.

6.1.1.10 Animals that are unable to feed themselves must only be kept if there are adequate facilities and expertise is available for artificial rearing.

6.1.2 Guidelines

- 6.1.2.1 All equipment that may affect the welfare of the animals held should be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of illness or injury.
- 6.1.2.2 Animals that may be distressed by the presence of other dogs or cats or another species (eg. sheep or cattle) should be housed in a manner that prevents them from smelling the other animals.
- 6.1.2.3 When grooming an animal particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, claws, teeth and anal glands.
- 6.1.2.4 Animals that are excessively nervous, aggressive or that cannot live in harmony with other animals should not be bred.
- 6.1.2.5 Efforts should be made to socialise animals to humans, other species of animals and their environment, and to acclimatise them to the normal sights and sounds of living with people. Animals that have been well-socialised when young are more manageable and responsive to training.
- 6.1.2.6 The person in charge of a dog during exercise should be cognisant of the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, which specify minimum responsibilities when a dog is in a public place.
- 6.1.2.7 Exercise areas for dogs that are kennelled should be ten times the size of the kennel, with no side less than half the length of another and with fences 1.8 m high.
- 6.1.2.8 Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth.

6.2 Food and water

6.2.1 Standards

- 6.2.1.1 Adequate cool, clean, palatable water to meet the physiological needs of the animal must be available at all times.
- 6.2.1.2 Animals must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain good health and growth. Food must be palatable and in a form appropriate to the age and medical condition of the animal.
- 6.2.1.3 Puppies and kittens under four months of age must be offered a sufficient quantity of a balanced and complete diet at least twice daily, unless receiving adequate maternal nutrition.
- 6.2.1.4 Animals that are co-housed with other animals must be monitored during feeding to ensure they all eat their own share.
- 6.2.1.5 Spoiled or stale food must be removed and disposed of promptly.
- 6.2.1.6 Food and water containers must be removed, cleaned and replaced immediately if noticed to be contaminated by urine, faeces, vomitus and the like.
- 6.2.1.7 Food must be stored to prevent its deterioration or contamination.

6.2.2 Guidelines

- 6.2.2.1 Food should be prepared hygienically and served in containers which are stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned/disinfected.
- 6.2.2.2 Food and water containers should be readily accessible and positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- 6.2.2.3 For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual animal. For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult and one feeding bowl per three kittens.
- 6.2.2.4 Food should be given to puppies and kittens under four months of age with a maximum interval of 12 hours between feeds (for example, a puppy that receives its third, and final, feed for the day at 5pm should receive its first feed for the next day no later than 5am the following morning). Newly weaned and small breed puppies and kittens may require feeding more than twice daily.
- 6.2.2.5 Puppies and kittens under four months of age should be weighed at least twice per week to ensure their growth and general health is being monitored.
- 6.2.2.6 Puppies and kittens from four to six months of age should be offered a sufficient amount of a balanced and complete diet at least twice daily.

6.3 Cleaning and disinfection

6.3.2 Guidelines

- 6.3.2.1 Dead animals and waste products such as faeces, bedding and food wastes should be disposed of promptly and hygienically and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- 6.3.2.2 Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted in order to protect the health and safety of the staff and the animals kept.
- 6.3.2.3 Staff should be aware that some disinfectants are toxic to some species, for example some common disinfectants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxylenols are toxic to cats. Tea tree oil is toxic to both cats and dogs.

6.3.1 Standards

- 6.3.1.1 Areas housing animals within a facility must be cleaned at least once daily.
- 6.3.1.2 Exercise areas must be maintained in a clean and healthy state and cleaned before new dogs are introduced to the area.
- 6.3.1.3 Housing must be disinfected regularly.
- 6.3.1.4 Housing, including exercise yards and bedding, which has housed an animal afflicted by an infectious disease must be disinfected and decontaminated with an appropriate product before a new animal is introduced (or the bedding discarded and replaced entirely).
- 6.3.1.5 Housing must be cleaned and disinfected before new animals are introduced or before whelping or kitting.
- 6.3.1.6 Bedding must be cleaned or changed at least once daily if soiled, and disinfected at least weekly.
- 6.3.1.7 Food preparation and storage areas, food and water containers and utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food must be maintained in a hygienic state.
- 6.3.1.8 Collection drains must be cleaned daily.
- 6.3.1.9 Litter trays must be checked, scooped and replenished daily.
- 6.3.1.10 Litter trays must be changed, washed and disinfected before being allocated to a new cat.
- 6.3.1.11 Litter trays that are saturated with urine must be changed immediately.

6.4 Transport

6.4.1 Standards

- 6.4.1.1 All animals must be transported in a manner appropriate for their species, size and age. Incompatible animals must be physically separated during transport to prevent injury, harm or distress.
- 6.4.1.2 Animals must not be transported in the boot of a car.
- 6.4.1.3 Vehicles must have adequate ventilation and shade, sufficient to maintain good health and to avoid distress.
- 6.4.1.4 All vehicles used extensively for the purpose of transporting animals must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use to minimise the possibility of transmission of infectious disease agents between consignments of animals. This does not apply to a vehicle used to transport a dog that is being used in the droving or tending of stock or is going to, or returning from, a place where it will be, or has been, so used.
- 6.4.1.5 The minimum exercise requirement of this Code (6.1.1.7) applies to transported dogs and cats

6.4.2 Guidelines

- 6.4.2.1 All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.
- 6.4.2.2 Containers used for transport should provide adequate light and ventilation, protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions.
- 6.4.2.3 Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting animals (with the exception of working dogs transported for herding stock or in a livestock carrier) should:
- protect them from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area
 - have non-slip floors
 - provide easy access and safe access for handlers
 - be air conditioned or provide adequate ventilation to protect against extremes of temperature, even when stationary
 - protect against unauthorised release or escape
 - be easy to clean and disinfect
 - be fitted with an operational air conditioning system or provide adequate ventilation to the section of the vehicle where the animals are held.
- 6.4.2.4 On road trips of more than two hours duration, adequate stops should be made to give animals the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defecate where appropriate and for the containers they are being transported in to be cleaned where necessary.

7. ANIMAL HEALTH

Objective

The health of animals is monitored regularly to detect signs of disease, injury and distress. Treatment is provided if necessary, including appropriate veterinary treatment. Where the destruction of an animal is required it is conducted in an effective and humane manner.

7.1 Health checks

7.1.1 Standards

7.1.1.1 All dogs and cats must be inspected at least once daily to monitor their health and well-being. The person who is inspecting must note all adverse observations, for example if an animal is:

- not eating
- not drinking (in the case of kittens/puppies drinking milk)
- not defecating
- not urinating
- behaving abnormally
- unable to move about freely
- displaying an abnormal coat
- showing any obvious signs of pain, injury, illness or distress
- suffering any unexpected or rapid weight loss.

7.1.1.2 Any changes in health status must be promptly reported to the person in charge of the facility for appropriate action.

7.1.1.3 If there is evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced (e.g. straining or contracting) and there is no progress within two hours, the bitch or queen must be examined by a veterinary practitioner or other appropriate remedial action taken.

7.1.2 Guidelines

7.1.2.1 Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary treatment should be sought include but are not limited to:

- runny nose
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- repeated sneezing
- coughing
- vomiting
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- lameness
- bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat)
- inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate
- loss of appetite
- weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden
- apparent pain
- fits, staggering or convulsions
- bloating of the abdomen
- difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate
- red or brown coloured urine
- patchy hair loss
- depression
- fever
- presence of external parasites
- any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

7.1.2.2 Bitches or queens in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected at regular intervals.

7.1.2.3 All animals should undergo an examination from a licensed veterinary practitioner at least annually.

7.2 Veterinary care

7.2.1 Standards

- 7.2.1.1 The person in charge of the facility must establish liaison with a veterinary practitioner who is able to attend to their animals and advise on disease prevention measures.
- 7.2.1.2 The contact details for the veterinary practitioner must be posted in a location which enables staff and visitors to see them.
- 7.2.1.3 Appropriate veterinary treatment must be provided for sick or injured animals.
- 7.2.1.4 Permission in writing must be obtained from the owner (or nominee if the animal is leased at the time of acceptance for breeding) authorising the provision of necessary veterinary treatment.
- 7.2.1.5 Dogs and puppies must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations unless there is written advice from a veterinary practitioner not to do so.
- 7.2.1.6 Cats and kittens must be vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations unless there is written advice from a veterinary practitioner not to do so.
- 7.2.1.7 Animals known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease must not be used for breeding or be accepted for breeding under lease unless under written approval from a veterinary practitioner.
- 7.2.1.8 Internal and external parasites including fleas, lice, ticks, gastrointestinal worms and heartworm must be controlled through routine and preventative treatment as appropriate.

7.2.2 Guidelines

- 7.2.2.1 A program for maintaining a feline leukaemia free population is recommended. This should include a program of testing and vaccination of resident cats in accordance with veterinary advice, and a requirement for a current negative test prior to breeding (which applies to cats from the permanent population, new additions to the permanent population or visiting cats).
- 7.2.2.2 Newly acquired animals, or animals visiting from another location, should not be mixed with the permanent population for a minimum of 48 hours.
- 7.2.2.3 Dogs should be vaccinated against kennel cough in accordance with veterinary advice.
- 7.2.2.4 Veterinary advice should be obtained in the event of unexplained illness or death.

7.3 Euthanasia

7.3.1 Standards

- 7.3.1.1 If treatment to restore the physical and mental health of an animal while in the facility is impractical or unsuccessful, or if euthanasia is recommended by a veterinary practitioner, the animal must be euthanised.
- 7.3.1.2 Euthanasia must be conducted in an area that is separated from animal accommodation at the facility and must not be carried out in view of any other animals.

7.3.2 Guidelines

- 7.3.2.1 Breeders should make every effort to sell or give away animals that are physically healthy and behaviourally sound rather than euthanising them.
- 7.3.2.2 Euthanasia should only be performed by a veterinary practitioner unless there are compelling reasons for another person to destroy the animal.
- 7.3.2.3 Euthanasia should be performed by the intravenous administration of an overdose of pentobarbitone sodium unless there are compelling reasons to use other methods.

8. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Objective

The transfer of ownership of animals is used as an opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership.

8.1.1 Standards

- 8.1.1.1 Puppies and kittens must not be sold before they are 7 weeks of age.
- 8.1.1.2 No animal must be sold unless vaccinated in compliance with the requirements of Section 7.2 of this Code.
- 8.1.1.3 All animals must be treated for internal and external parasites prior to sale.
- 8.1.1.4 No animal suspected of suffering a significant illness, injury or disease (including congenital diseases) must be sold.
- 8.1.1.5 At the time of purchase, clients must be offered accurate written information at no charge that concerns the care of animals purchased.

8.1.2 Guidelines

8.1.2.1 Information required by Standard 8.1.1.5 should include information about:

- general care requirements, including appropriate diet and feeding regimes
- usual life span
- minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation
- minimum requirements for security
- minimum requirements for social contact with humans and other animals
- minimum requirements for disease and parasite control/prevention
- how to identify and appropriately manage common diseases
- procedures for seeking emergency treatment and the value of establishing a relationship with a veterinary practitioner and/or experienced persons
- the estimated costs associated with providing food and shelter
- routine veterinary treatment that may be required, for example vaccination and parasite control
- maximum time the animal should be left unattended
- expected behaviours, for example digging or scratching
- the legal requirements for pet ownership and the penalties for non-compliance
- the animal's vaccination status and the need for ongoing vaccinations
- the desirability and advantages of desexing
- minimum exercise requirements and limitations on exercise eg short-faced (brachycephalic) dogs in hot weather
- costs associated with registration
- information about the individual animal, such as medical history
- provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- other information of which the purchaser should be aware.

- 8.1.2.2 All advertisements for the sale of an animal should include its microchip number (if microchipped) and vaccination status.
- 8.1.2.3 Desexing of dogs and cats not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.
- 8.1.2.4 All facilities that sell animals should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.
- 8.1.2.5 Policies, procedures and staff training should be implemented to ensure that prospective buyers are matched to suitable animals. Such matching should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the buyer, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal including exercise requirements, and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children.
- 8.1.2.6 Aggressive, pregnant, unweaned, poorly socialised or deformed animals or those with known vices such as excessive barking or fence jumping (dogs) should not be offered for sale, unless the purchaser is made aware of the problem(s) by full vendor declaration disclosure.
- 8.1.2.7 New owners should be encouraged to seek advice about animal care, management and training from veterinary practitioners or other people with appropriate expertise.
- 8.1.2.8 If possible, breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the rehoming of surrendered animals.
- 8.1.2.9 Purchasers should be advised of the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 at the time of purchase.

9. BREEDING AND REARING

Objective

The mating, breeding, birthing and rearing processes are managed to ensure good animal welfare outcomes.

9.1.1 Standards

- 9.1.1.1 Bitches and queens must not be intentionally mated during their first oestrous cycle.
- 9.1.1.2 Males and females must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of mating.
- 9.1.1.3 During mating, breeding pairs must be isolated from other animals, and monitored by the person in charge or a competent member of staff.
- 9.1.1.4 Bitches and queens in the latter stages of pregnancy must be provided with additional food and water, at frequent intervals.
- 9.1.1.5 During birthing bitches and queens must be isolated from other animals and monitored by the person in charge or a competent member of staff on a regular basis to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.
- 9.1.1.6 Whelping bitches must be provided with a suitable whelping box, lined with clean bedding, which is changed daily.
- 9.1.1.7 Kittening queens must be provided with a covered kitting box, lined with clean bedding, which is changed daily.
- 9.1.1.8 Animals that are isolated must be provided with additional attention and socialisation to animal carers.
- 9.1.1.9 Bitches must not have more than two litters in any eighteen month period, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- 9.1.1.10 Queens must not have more than three litters in any two year period, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- 9.1.1.11 Lactating bitches and queens must be provided with additional food and water.
- 9.1.1.12 Lactating bitches and queens must be housed in such a manner that they are able to escape their young.
- 9.1.1.13 Kittens or puppies must not be separated from their litter or their lactating mother until they are seven weeks of age, unless it is in the best interests of the puppy or kitten, or their mother.
- 9.1.1.14 Puppies and kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.
- 9.1.1.15 Puppies and kittens must be observed to ensure they achieve a steady weight gain every week.

9.1.2 Guidelines

- 9.1.2.1 Breeding practices should ensure that parents and their offspring are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible.
- 9.1.2.2 Breeders should ensure that their breeding stock are provided with the best quality of life possible, and litters are only produced if there is a reasonable expectation that they will find homes where they are wanted, appreciated and given a good quality of life.
- 9.1.2.3 If a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and if there are screening procedures or a test for that disease the person in charge of the facility should:
- obtain for the animal a current official evaluation or test result for the hereditary disease
 - provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners in the event that the screened or tested animal is to be mated to another animal not owned by the breeding facility
 - provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and the dam to the new owners of any puppy or kitten
 - endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- 9.1.2.4 Breeding animals should be selected to eliminate undesirable behaviours, such as poor mothering or aggression.
- 9.1.2.5 Puppies and kittens should be encouraged to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area. It is easier for dogs and cats to learn this behaviour at a young age, and animals with good toileting practices are more manageable and responsive to training.
- 9.1.2.6 Animals that are well socialised to humans (including children) and other animals are more likely to become well-adjusted companions. The best time to socialise puppies is from five to twelve weeks of age. For kittens, socialisation is best achieved before seven weeks of age.
- 9.1.2.7 Breeders should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the animals they sell are physically and behaviourally healthy.
- 9.1.2.8 Breeders should consider the welfare of their breeding sires and dams when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding.
- 9.1.2.9 When an animal reaches the end of its useful breeding life, or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes, and if the animal would be a suitable pet, the breeder should:
- have the animal desexed
 - settle the animal into its new conditions (ex-stud cats require considerable patience and care, but can become excellent candidates for pet homes)
 - either provide a home for the desexed animal themselves or sell or give it away.
- 9.1.2.10 When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating, staff should endeavour to ensure that the queen and stud:
- are both eating and using their litter tray
 - have separate beds
 - have actually mated and that the stud has an easily accessible shelf on which to jump after mating with the queen to enable him to escape her claws.
- 9.1.2.11 After delivery of a litter, the dam and young should be checked by a veterinary practitioner, and the birthing area should be cleaned and disinfected.
- 9.1.2.12 Any puppy or kitten that does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinary practitioner.
- 9.1.2.13 The correct paper work including mating dates, sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms should be supplied to the owner/lessee of the bitch or queen when she is collected after the mating, or on payment of an agreed fee.
- 9.1.2.14 Solid food should be offered to puppies and kittens from three weeks of age. Solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- 9.1.2.15 Whelping bitches and kitting queens should be provided with a heat source in cool or cold weather.