Pet Exchange Register

From 1 July 2019, dogs and cats including puppies and kittens advertised for sale or rehoming, will need a source number from the soon to be established Pet Exchange Register.

**What is the Pet Exchange Register?**
The soon to be established Pet Exchange Register (PER) is an online database where individuals or businesses register for a source number. It will promote responsible pet breeding and improve the traceability of dogs and cats in Victoria.

From 1 July 2019, new advertising rules to sell, rehome or give away a dog or cat require both a microchip number and a unique source number from the PER, enabling Victorians to verify pet advertisers.

**What is a source number?**
A source number is not a microchip number.

A source number:
- identifies an individual, breeder, business or shelter
- is generated once an individual enrols on the PER
- is automatically allocated to domestic animal businesses (DAB) and foster carers following registration with council.

A microchip number is a permanent form of identification implanted into an animal. It provides details of an individual animal’s ownership.

**Do pets still need a microchip number?**
Yes, it is compulsory for all cats and dogs over three months of age in Victoria to be microchipped.

**Do pet advertisements still require a microchip number?**
Yes, the current requirement to advertise all dogs and cats with a microchip number will still apply.

**Do pet advertisements still require a DAB registration number?**
No. DAB registrations will no longer be required.

**Can I use a membership of Dogs Victoria or a cat applicable organisation instead of a source number in advertisements?**
No. Breeders from Dogs Victoria or a cat applicable organisation need to enroll on the PER as a recreational breeder and use their unique source number in advertisements.

**Is there a fee to enrol on the Pet Exchange Register?**
The application fee for individuals enrolling on the PER is yet to be determined.

Domestic animal businesses (DABs) and foster carers registered with councils will not be required to pay a fee to enroll on the PER.

Councils will enroll DABs and registered foster carers on the PER. The PER will then allocate a source number and this will automatically be sent to the council and applicants.

Source numbers will be valid for 12 months and can be renewed.
How do I check if a seller has a legitimate source number?

Specific information will be made publicly available on the PER. This will include source numbers, the council municipality where the seller is located and some sellers may also choose to disclose contact information.

People are encouraged to check the validity of a seller by searching their source number on the PER before they acquire a dog, cat, puppy or kitten.

Will I need a source number if I plan to rehome a dog, cat, puppy or kitten?

Yes, any person or business advertising to give away a dog, cat, puppy or kitten will need to be enrolled on the PER and include their source number on any advertisements.

Those rehoming or giving away a dog or cat without advertising will not need a source number from the Pet Exchange Register.

Will the Pet Exchange Register make it difficult for me to buy or sell a dog or cat?

No, enrolling on the PER will be a straightforward process.

The PER will improve traceability and make it easier to know that your pet has come from a legitimate source.

Buyers can use a source number to check the validity of a seller on the PER and be assured of a seller’s legitimacy.

Why is the Pet Exchange Register necessary?

The PER will promote responsible pet breeding by improving traceability of dogs and cats in Victoria.

From 1 July 2019, new advertising rules to sell, rehome or give away a dog or cat require both a microchip number and a unique source number from the PER, enabling Victorians to verify pet advertisers.

How will the Pet Exchange Register be enforced?

It will be an offence to publish an advertisement without a valid microchip number and a source number.

The offence applies to advertisers selling or giving away dogs, cats, puppies and kittens, and those publishing non-compliant advertisements.

When and how can I enroll on the PER?

Dates and information about how to enroll on the PER will be made publicly available in the lead up to 1 July 2019.

The PER will allow enrollment on a variety of online devices. There will also be paper enrolment forms available.

How do I report a suspicious online pet advertisement?

Non-compliant advertisements will be reportable through the PER.

Do I need a source number if I want to sell pets other than a dog or cat?

No. A source number is only required for advertisements published from 1 July 2019 to sell, rehome or give away a dog, cat, puppy or kitten.

The new advertising requirements do not apply to other pets including, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats, mice, birds, fish, reptiles and horses.

For more information

Visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au or email pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.