

Pet Exchange Register

Since 1 July 2019, advertisements for the sale or rehoming of dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, need a source number from the Pet Exchange Register.

What is the Pet Exchange Register?

The Pet Exchange Register (PER) is an online database where individuals, organisations and businesses can register for a source number. It promotes responsible pet breeding and improves the traceability of dogs and cats in Victoria.

Since 1 July 2019, advertisements to sell, rehome or give away a dog or cat must display 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 organisation
- is generated once an individual enrolls 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.

Why is the Pet Exchange Register necessary?

The PER promotes responsible pet breeding ownership by improving traceability of dogs and cats in Victoria.

The PER introduces a level of traceability for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens being

sold or given away in Victoria that has never existed before.

Do pets still need a microchip number?

Yes, it is compulsory for all cats and dogs in Victoria to be microchipped prior to being sold or given away. Animals must also be microchipped prior to being registered by council.

Do pet advertisements still require a microchip number?

Yes, the current requirement to advertise all dogs and cats with a microchip number still applies.

Do pet advertisements still require a domestic animal business (DAB) registration number and local council name?

No. DAB registration numbers and local council name are 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 and cat applicable organisations need to enrol 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 enrolling on the PER is waived for the first 12 months. From 1 July 2020, it will be approximately \$22.

Source numbers are valid for 12 months and can be renewed every year.

DABs and foster carers registered with councils are not required to pay a fee as councils enrol them. Their source number is valid for as long as the registration with council is valid.

How do I check if a seller has a legitimate source number?

Members of the public can see specific information on the PER. This includes the source number and the council municipality where the advertiser is located.

For those that it applies to, domestic animal business registration numbers and applicable organisation name and membership numbers are visible.

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

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

Anyone advertising to give away a dog, cat, puppy or kitten needs 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 do not need a source number from the PER.

Will I need a source number if I never advertise my puppies or kittens?

From 1 July 2020 it will be a requirement that all breeders include their source number as prescribed identifying information when microchipping animals they have bred.

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

No, enrolling on the PER is a straight-forward process.

The PER improves traceability and makes it easier for prospective buyers to know that their pet has come from a legitimate source.

You do not need a source number to surrender an animal to a rescue organisation, shelter or pound. A source number is only required when advertising to sell or rehome a cat or dog – this includes advertising free to a good home.

How will the Pet Exchange Register be enforced?

It is 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. Penalties apply.

Animal Welfare Victoria has a dedicated compliance team to monitor compliance with the new advertising requirements. Local council and RSPCA Victoria officers are also authorised to enforce the PER's requirements.

How do I report non-compliant or suspicious advertisements?

These can be reported through the PER and Animal Welfare Victoria will investigate.

How can I enrol on the PER?

You can enrol on the PER via <https://per.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au/>.

The PER allows enrollment on a variety of online devices. Paper enrolment forms are also available. For copies of paper forms, please contact 136 186 or email per@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

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 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.