

Rescue organisations, Community Foster Care Networks and the Pet Exchange Register

Over 90 rescue organisations have successfully self-registered for a source number. It is simple and will only take a few minutes.

Can a rescue organisation or Community Foster Care Network (CFCN) register on the Pet Exchange Register?

Yes, rescue organisations and CFCNs can easily register for a Pet Exchange Register (PER) source number.

Can a rescue organisation or CFCN use the name of their organisation when registering on the Pet Exchange Register?

Yes. Simply put the name of your CFCN or rescue organisation in the 'business name' field.

Will the source number generated for a rescue organisation or CFCN be clearly distinct from a breeder's source number?

Yes. The source number for rescue organisations or CFCNs will have the prefix 'EE', clearly distinct from the prefix for any registered breeders or domestic animal businesses.

Importantly, this difference in registration is reflected in the level of detail required to support the registration record. For example, rescue organisations and CFCNs are not required to include details of individual animals in their care when registering for a source number.

How many rescue organisations or CFCNs are registered on the Pet Exchange Register?

Over 90 PER registrations have used the 'business' field to self-identify as a rescue organisation or CFCN.

How does a rescue organisation or CFCN register on the Pet Exchange Register?

An individual enrolls on the Pet Exchange Register as a representative of the organisation.

In most cases this would be the same as the Secretary of an incorporated association or the contact person nominated with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

The process is simple and is as follows:

- Verify your email address and set up a password.
- Provide your name and verify it using an official form of ID (takes around 30 seconds).
- Provide a contact phone number
- Add the name of your local council (registered address of your incorporated association/charity).
- You may put the name of your CFCN or rescue group in the 'business' name field (this is optional).
- The source number is generated immediately, displayed on screen and emailed to you.

Enroll at:

<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.

Why is the Pet Exchange Register necessary?

The PER will improve traceability of dogs and cats sold or rehomed in Victoria, leading to better animal welfare outcomes.

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.

The PER is just one step in a range of actions the Victorian Government is taking to reform breeding and pet sale industries in Victoria.

Is there currently a fee to enroll on the Pet Exchange Register?

No, for the first 12 months the application fee for individuals enrolling on the PER is waived. After the first 12 months, the fee will be approximately \$22. This is a once a year fee.

Does every foster carer in an organisation need to have their own source number?

No. If the organisation is advertising dogs or cats for rehoming, then the organisation applies for a source number and uses this number in all its advertisements.

Why does the Pet Exchange Register require an individual's details?

Any organisation enrolling on the PER is required to provide a key contact person.

The individual identified in your PER enrolment could be the same, or different, as the Secretary of your incorporated association or the person nominated in your charity registration.

It is important that an accountable individual is identified for the organisation to ensure they can be contacted by authorities. For example, if someone is fraudulently using the organisation's source number.

Will individual details be made public?

No. Individual details are not publicly available. Any public search for a source number will only reveal that the number is valid and the name of the local council.

Does the Pet Exchange Register apply to any person or business advertising to sell or rehome a dog, cat, puppy or kitten?

Yes, the PER applies to any person or business advertising a dog, cat, puppy or kitten for sale or rehoming.

The only exception is for registered Greyhound Racing Victoria greyhounds. Transfer of ownership during a greyhound's racing career is captured on the Greyhound Racing Victoria database. Once a greyhound is retired and ready for rehoming however and no longer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria, the advertiser must obtain a source number from the PER.

To identify those doing the wrong thing, and for Victorians to have confidence in knowing where their pet comes from, it is important for the PER to apply equally to all persons or businesses advertising dogs and cats.

Who did the Victorian Government consult in developing the Pet Exchange Register?

The PER formed part of the *Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017* that passed through Parliament after extensive stakeholder consultation. Groups consulted include:

- RSPCA Victoria
- Australian Veterinary Association
- Applicable Organisations
- Breeders
- Industry groups
- Community Foster Care Networks and rescue organisations.

For more information or help enrolling on the Pet Exchange Register visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au or email per@ecodev.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

What is the status of the government's review into regulatory frameworks for CFCNs?

The Victorian Government conducted a review of the operating environment for CFCNs and animal rescue groups. The review report is being considered.

All known CFCNs and rescue organisations were invited to participate in the review. The review report will be made available later this year.

Nineteen roundtables were held in October 2018, including during evenings and weekends. A survey was also distributed to stakeholders and generated over 400 individual responses.

The review report considers:

- the relevant legislative, compliance and enforcement frameworks
- best practice models for recognising community foster care networks and animal rescue groups in legislation
- opportunities to maximise the welfare and survival rates of cats and dogs, including barriers to rehoming
- best practice models for the minimisation of shelter and pound euthanasia rates through utilising community foster care networks and rescue groups
- best practice approaches for registration and identification for dogs and cats in foster care.