

# Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016

## Dog Obedience Training Organisations

### What is the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016?

The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 (Bill) introduces a range of amendments to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act).

These amendments deliver on the Government's election commitment to reform the dog breeding and pet shop industries in Victoria and better regulate the sale of dogs and cats.

Under the amended Act:

- there are limits on the number of fertile female dogs breeders can keep
- pet shops are only able to sell dogs and cats sourced from shelters, pounds or enrolled foster carers
- the role of foster carers is clearer
- there are new definitions for 'recreational breeders' and 'microbreeders'
- the definition of 'farm working dogs' is clarified
- the animal sale permit system is simplified
- traceability of cats and dogs is improved through the establishment of the Pet Exchange Register
- offences apply for publishing non-compliant pet sale advertisements.

### Key changes:

- **Not-for-profit dog obedience training organisations will continue to be exempt from registering as a Training Domestic Animal Business.**
- The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 has been amended following a Parliamentary Inquiry and further consultation.
- The Bill enables the Minister to approve an organisation to provide both "dog obedience training" and "the training of persons to carry out dog obedience training".

## How does the Bill affect dog obedience training organisations?

Dog obedience training organisations are currently approved under the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015. The Bill simply moves these provisions to the Act.

The Bill strengthens the application process and brings in annual reporting requirements for approved obedience training organisations.

Specifically, the Bill:

- exempts not-for-profit obedience training organisations from registering as a Training Domestic Animal Business
- outlines the process for the Minister to approve dog obedience training organisations
- introduces an application fee
- enables the Minister to approve an organisation to provide both “dog obedience training” and “the training of persons to carry out dog obedience training”
- includes the requirement for approved dog obedience training organisations to submit a report annually
- gives the Minister power to revoke a dog obedience training organisation approval, if the organisation has failed to submit a report.

## Is my obedience training organisation a ‘not-for-profit’?

Organisations are considered to be not-for-profit if your organisation provides services to the community and do not operate to make a profit. Any profits must go back into the services the organisation provides and must not be distributed to members.

For more information on not-for-profit organisations visit:

<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-fundraising> or call 1300 55 81 81.

## What is a Domestic Animal Dog Obedience Training Business?

Only obedience training organisations that run for profit will be required to register as a training Domestic Animal Training Business.

These organisations must register with the local council and comply with the mandatory Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training Establishments. Registration, must be renewed annually, and fees apply.

For more information, contact your local council or visit

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/domestic-animal-businesses/training-establishments/dog-training-establishments-things-you-should-know>

## What is an *approved* dog obedience training organisation?

These are organisations whose dog obedience assessment programs have been approved under the legislation. Dogs that have undergone obedience training with one of these organisations are entitled to reduced council registration fees.

For more information, visit

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/dogs/training-and-behavioural-problems/obedience-training>

## How do I apply to become an approved dog obedience training organisation?

Approved training organisations have to provide wide representation to the dog obedience training community. They need to provide both dog obedience training, and the training of persons to carry out dog obedience training.

An application must include a report containing the prescribed details about the organisation and its activities, and must be accompanied by the prescribed application fee.

Application forms and further information is available by emailing [pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au) or by calling 136 186.

### For more information

Contact your local council, visit [www.vic.gov.au/pets](http://www.vic.gov.au/pets) or call 136 186.

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