

Dog Obedience Training Organisations

Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017

Background

The *Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017* (PFPS Act) introduced a range of amendments to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (DA 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 DA Act:

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

How does the PFPS Act affect dog obedience training organisations?

Dog obedience training organisations were approved under the *Domestic Animals Regulations 2015*. The PFPS Act simply moved these provisions to the DA Act.

The PFPS Act strengthened the application process and requires annual reporting for approved obedience training organisations.

Specifically, the PFPS Act made the following changes:

- exempted not-for-profit obedience training organisations from registering as a training domestic animal business
- outlined the process for the Minister to approve dog obedience training organisations
- introduced an application and renewal fee
- enabled the Minister to approve an organisation to provide both "dog obedience training" and "the training of persons to carry out dog obedience training"
- included the requirement for approved dog obedience training organisations to submit a report annually
- gave 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'?

An organisation is considered to be not-for-profit if it does not operate for the personal gain, profit or benefit of any of its members or the person in charge of the organisation.

What is a Domestic Animal Dog Obedience Training Business?

Only obedience training organisations that run for profit are required to register as a training domestic animal business.

These organisations must register with their 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 [the dog training establishments webpage](#).

What is an approved dog obedience training organisation?

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

For more information, visit the [obedience training webpage](#).

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 of \$1,445* for new applications and \$723* for renewals.

*Note, fees stated are current as at 1 July 2018.

For more information

Visit <http://www.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au> or email pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

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