



WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT DONE?



+\$5 million
100+ investigations
1000+ animals assessed

Pre-mating health checkup

Reinstated five litter limit

Increased enforcement powers



Puppies and kittens can only be sourced from registered suppliers (From 1 July 2018)



New Pet Exchange Register (From 1 July 2019)



Code of Ethics for recreational breeders / Registration and compliance for commercial breeding businesses



New schemes plus support for dog and cat foster carers



The Government has provided an additional \$5 million to RSPCA (Victoria) to strengthen its **Major Investigation Team (MIT)**. The MIT is responsible for investigating and responding to reports of illegal puppy farming. The RSPCA (Victoria) MIT has been able to increase compliance activity relating to Domestic Animal Business. The MIT has conducted over 100 investigations and assessed over 1,000 animals on site.

The Government has revised the Code of Practice for the **Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses** to:

- require pre-mating vet checks for female dogs
- reinstate the five litter limit for female dogs.

The Government has given Local Councils increased powers to seize animals from illegal puppy farms.

Banned registration of breeders found guilty of animal cruelty.

Pet shops must only sell dogs and cats that have been sourced from registered pounds and shelters and foster carers. This will increase pet re-homing rates, and remove access to retail stores for puppy farmers.

People are banned from co-registering breeding, shelter, pound and/or pet shop domestic animal businesses on a single rateable property or by the same person in Victoria. This will prevent illegal breeders establishing a supply chain to funnel puppies and kittens into a pet shop.

Any puppy and kitten 'brokers' must comply with relevant legislation and Code requirements, with the inclusion of 'rearing' in the definition of a domestic animal business.

We will be able to trace our pets better than ever before (so puppy farmers cannot hide), and online sales will be better regulated.

- From 1 July 2019, a source number from the Pet Exchange Register will be required in any advertisements for a dog or cat (including free to good home).
- Both source and microchip numbers must be included in any advertisements.
- Purchasers of puppies and kittens will be able to access basic information from this Register to validate a source number.
- It will be an offence to publish an advertisement to sell or give away a dog or cat, without including a valid microchip number and Pet Exchange Register source number. This offence applies to individuals selling pets, as well as those publishing any non-compliant advertisements.

Additional enforcement powers will be granted to **Authorised Officers** within the department, Local Councils and RSPCA (Victoria).

Applicable organisations (such as Dogs Victoria) will be required to continue to ensure their members abide by their Codes of Ethics.

The government has required applicable organisations to improve their codes of ethics.

A new category of "recreational breeders" will be introduced for applicable organisation members with 10 or less fertile female dogs.

- Council only able to approve up to 10 fertile female dogs on a property.
- A commercial dog breeder permit will allow, in exceptional circumstances, breeders to have more than 10 fertile females, if they demonstrate they can replicate a home-like environment and socialisation. These businesses:
- will be capped at a maximum of 50 fertile female dogs.
 - must apply to the Minister for commercial dog breeder approval and will only be recommended for approval on advice from Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer.
 - are required to meet additional reporting and dog socialisation requirements and are subject to regular audits and inspections.
 - must also be registered with Council as a domestic animal business and comply with the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses.

A new voluntary scheme will be available to assist dog and cat foster carers. Foster carers who choose to enrol with their Local Council will benefit from reduced pet registration fees and the ability to give animals to pet shops to sell should they choose.

This is not compulsory, Community Foster Care Networks and their members are able to continue without change.

New schemes to recognise Declared Bird Organisations and enable adoption events via Animal Sales Permits.