

# Farm working dogs



**Are you, or are you contracted by, a primary producer?**

Defined as someone whose primary source of income is generated from primary production as per the land tax definition, specifically in relation to animal production.

**NO**

**No exemptions for farm working dogs apply**

Owners of working dog breeds that do not meet the primary producer and farm working dog definitions, are not eligible for legislative exemptions.

These breeders must register as a **domestic animal business** with their local council if they have 3 – 10 fertile female dogs. If they have 11-50 fertile female dogs, they must also apply for commercial dog breeder approval. They must comply with the **Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (Breeding Code of Practice)**.

**Dogs Victoria members** with working dogs that are not registered as farm working dogs must comply with the **Dogs Victoria Code of Practice** if they have 10 or less fertile female dogs. Dogs Victoria members with 11-50 fertile female dogs must register as a domestic animal business with the local council, comply with the **Breeding Code of Practice** and apply for commercial dog breeder approval.

A source number from the **Pet Exchange Register** is required before microchipping a dog, or advertising any dog for sale (or free to good home). Both source and microchip numbers must be linked and included in any advertisements.



**Is your dog a farm working dog?**

Defined as a dog usually kept on rural land, by a primary producer, or a person employed by a primary producer and primarily kept or trained for the purpose of droving, protecting, tending, or working stock on a farm.

**NO**



**Dog is registered for a reduced fee with Council, as a farm working dog**

Dog not required to have an identification marker outside of premises.

Does not count towards a property's fertile female dog breeding limit.

Regardless of the number of farm working dogs registered, owners only need to abide by laws applying to breeders of 1 – 2 fertile female dogs (if breeding of farm working dogs occurs) i.e. no requirement to register as a domestic animal business NOR meet the Breeding Code of Practice.

A source number from the **Pet Exchange Register** is required before microchipping a dog, or advertising any dog for sale (or free to good home). Both source and microchip numbers must be linked and included in any advertisements.

**It is an offence to knowingly register a non-farm working dog as a farm working dog**

For more information visit

[animalwelfare.vic.gov.au](http://animalwelfare.vic.gov.au)

**ANIMAL WELFARE VICTORIA**