

Applicable Organisation members – Recreational breeders

What is a recreational breeder?

A recreational breeder is a person who keeps no more than 10 fertile female cats or dogs, breeds to sell and is a member of an Applicable Organisation.

What is an Applicable Organisation?

An Applicable Organisation is approved by the Minister for Agriculture under section 5A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (DA Act).

In order to receive applicable organisation status, organisations must apply to the Minister for Agriculture with:

- a report containing the prescribed details about the organisation and its activities
- the organisation's Code of Ethics
- the outcome of any disciplinary action taken by the organisation for breaches of the code of ethics during preceding years
- any other information required by the Minister
- the prescribed application fee.

An applicable organisation may be approved for up to three years, after which an organisation may apply to renew their status.

The list of approved Applicable Organisations is available on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

What are the requirements for an Applicable Organisation?

Key requirements for Applicable Organisations are that the organisation:

- has a code of conduct or ethics that is mandatory for all members and equivalent to the minimum standards required by Victorian legislation.
- enforces its code of conduct/ethics and provides sufficient communication and education to members to ensure that they can comply with relevant Victorian legislation.
- Reports annually to the Minister in accordance with the DA Act.

I am a member of an Applicable Organisation and I breed cats or dogs to sell. What does this mean for me?

This means you are a recreational breeder, provided you do not have more than 10 fertile females.

Recreational breeders do not have to register with their local council as a domestic animal business (DAB), and do not have to comply with the *Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014* (revised 2018) (the Code).

As a recreational breeder you are held to your Applicable Organisation's code of ethics and any other rules.

Will there be a limit on the maximum number of breeding cats or dogs I can have?

Yes, as a recreational breeder you can have up to 10 fertile female cats or dogs.

Recreational cat breeders, who wish to keep more than 10 fertile female cats, must register as a breeding DAB with their local council and comply with the Code.

Recreational dog breeders who wish to keep more than 10 fertile females will be required to register as a breeding DAB, comply with the Code and seek commercial dog breeder approval from the Minister for Agriculture.

Information about Commercial Dog Breeders is available on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Can I be a member of a cat and dog applicable organisation and breed both cats and dogs as a recreational breeder?

No, you can only be a recreational breeder of one species.

You will have to select if you want to be a cat recreational breeder or dog recreational breeder.

If you select to be a dog recreational breeder and still wish to breed from 3 or more fertile female cats, then you must register with your local council as a breeding DAB and comply with the Code.

My cats or dogs live in my house, they are my pets. Will I have to build housing and make them live outside?

If you are a recreational breeder, this will only be necessary if you have 11 or more fertile female. If you breed dogs, you will also need to seek Commercial Dog Breeder approval.

Do I need to enrol on the Pet Exchange Register (PER)?

Yes. Recreational breeders must self-enrol on the PER. The PER issues recreational breeders with a source number (prefix RB). The source number must be included in all cat and dog sale advertisements, along with the animal's individual microchip number, and will be required at the time of microchipping puppies/kittens for inclusion on the microchip record.

To obtain a source number, register on the [Pet Exchange Register](#).

What information do I need to include when I enrol on the Pet Exchange Register?

You'll need to enter the following information when you enrol on the register:

- your name (personal)
- business name (optional)
- contact details – address, phone number and email address
- address at which you carry out breeding
- council name
- basic details about the cats and/or dogs registered to your premises
- the name of your applicable organisation and membership number, and if known date of last inspection
- findings of guilty or court orders under relevant laws.

I am a member of an Applicable Organisation, with fertile female cats or dogs that I show, but I don't breed. Will I have to register as a recreational breeder on the PER?

If you do not breed to sell you are not a recreational breeder and you will not be required to self-enrol on the PER as a recreational breeder.

As a recreational breeder do I lose the reduced registration rate for entire animals?

No. All Applicable Organisation members (whether a recreational breeder or not), that have their animals registered with the organisation, remain entitled to reduced council registration fees. Additionally, their animals remain exempted from local compulsory desexing orders.

As a recreational breeder do I still need to comply with local council planning rules?

Yes, applicable organisation members are required to obtain the necessary planning approvals from local council.

You should contact your local council's planning department for more information about the number of animals you are allowed to keep under your local planning scheme.

Am I able to rescue dogs and cats if I'm a recreational breeder?

Recreational breeders who also rescue cats are able to foster up to five adult equivalent cats or combination of dogs and cats, at any given time.

When registering with your local council as a foster carer for the purposes of discounted dog or cat registration, you must disclose your breeding business.

Any fostered dog or cat will not be exempt from council desexing orders.

For more information

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

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