

Record keeping requirements for pet shops

July 2015

Introduction

The Victorian Government has introduced new record keeping requirements for pet shops in Victoria, as part of its crackdown on illegal puppy farming.

From 1 July 2015, pet shop owners must keep detailed records on every individual dog and cat sold or offered for sale, including where they were sourced from.

This will allow authorised officers from local Councils, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and the RSPCA to review the information and identify illegal breeders for further investigation.

These requirements were introduced in response to community concern about pet shops selling animals bred in illegal and cruelly operated puppy farms.

Following are some FAQs regarding these requirements.

Q. What extra records will a pet shop be required to keep?

A. For each dog or cat that is offered for sale or sold, the pet shop must make and keep records based on the 'prescribed information' specified in the Domestic Animals Regulations 2005. This information must also be recorded in the 'prescribed manner'.

This is in addition to the records required to be kept under the mandatory Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops.

Q. Who can access these records?

A. Any authorised officer of the Council, RSPCA or the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources.

Q. Why is this information required?

A. The community are concerned about where pet shop dogs and cats are sourced from. Records will allow authorised officers to access the information to determine the source of animals in pet shops and to help identify illegal breeders

Q. What is the 'prescribed information'?

A. The Domestic Animals Regulations 2005 require the proprietor of a pet shop to record the following information for each dog or cat that is offered for sale or sold at the pet shop:

- the name of the dog or cat, if any;
- the sex of the dog or cat;
- the breed of the dog or cat;
- the age of the dog or cat;
- the microchip details;
- the name, address and telephone number of the person from whom the pet shop proprietor obtained the dog or cat, together with a copy of a document verifying the identity of that person;
- if the pet shop proprietor obtained the dog or cat from a registered domestic animal business, the registered domestic animal business number of that business;
- if the person from whom the pet shop proprietor obtained the dog or cat did not breed it, the name, address, telephone number and registered domestic animal business number (if any) of the person who bred the dog or cat;
- the name, address and telephone number of the purchaser of the dog or cat;
- a copy of the microchip change of ownership form signed by the purchaser of the dog or cat.

Q. What is the 'prescribed manner' for keeping records?

A. The prescribed information must be:

- accessible to and made available for examination by an authorised officer on request; and
- kept and maintained for not less than 5 years after the record was made.

Q. Won't this be very onerous?

A. It is expected that pet shops are already collecting much of this information –they would already be paying, ordering from, and dealing with suppliers. This is to make sure the information is kept in an orderly and obtainable manner for enforcement agencies.

Q. If I buy a dog or cat from a pet shop can I demand to see the record of where it came from?

A. No, the usual privacy laws still apply for releasing personal information to the public. It will be the role of authorised officers to seek and review the data. **For more information**

Contact your local council, call the DEDJTR Customer Service Centre on 136 186, or visit www.vic.gov.au/pets

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