Rescue organisations, Community Foster Care Networks and the Pet Exchange Register

Can a rescue organisation or Community Foster Care Network (CFCN) register on the Pet Exchange Register?

Yes, rescue organisations and CFCNs can easily register for a Pet Exchange Register (PER) source number.

Can a rescue organisation or CFCN use the name of their organisation when registering on the Pet Exchange Register?

Yes. Simply put the name of your CFCN or rescue organisation in the 'business/organisation name' field.

Will the source number generated for a rescue organisation or CFCN be clearly distinct from a breeder's source number?

Yes. Animal Welfare Victoria has introduced a new user category for Rescue organisations and CFCNs who self-enrol on the PER. A source number issued to these entities will be identifiable with the prefix of RE.

Importantly, this difference in registration is reflected in the level of detail required to support the registration record. For example, rescue organisations and CFCNs are not required to include details of individual animals in their care when registering for a source number.

If I already have a prefix of EE, will I be able to change it to the new prefix of RE?

Yes. If your rescue organisation or CFCN has already enrolled or renewed with an EE prefix but would like to update the source number to reflect the new prefix of RE, you can contact the PER team at per@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

How many rescue organisations or CFCNs are registered on the Pet Exchange Register?

Over 250 PER registrations have used the 'business/organisation' field to self-identify as a rescue organisation or CFCN.

How does a rescue organisation or CFCN register on the Pet Exchange Register?

An individual enrols on the PER as a representative of the organisation.

In most cases this would be the same as the Secretary of an incorporated association or the contact person nominated with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

The process is simple and is as follows:

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- Verify your email address and set up a password.
- Provide your name and verify it using an official form of ID (takes around 30 seconds).
- Provide a contact phone number
- Add the name of your local council (registered address of your incorporated association/charity).
- You may put the name of your CFCN or rescue group in the 'business/organisation' name field (this is optional).
- The source number is generated immediately, displayed on screen and emailed to you.

You can enrol by visiting the Pet Exchange Register.

The PER allows enrolment on a variety of online devices. Paper enrolment forms are also available. For copies of paper forms, please contact 136 186 or email per@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Why is the Pet Exchange Register necessary?

The PER will improve the traceability of dogs and cats sold or rehomed in Victoria, leading to better animal welfare outcomes.

The PER introduces a level of traceability for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens being sold or given away in Victoria that has never existed before.

The PER is just one step in a range of actions the Victorian Government is taking to reform breeding and pet sale industries in Victoria.

Is there currently a fee to enrol on the Pet Exchange Register?

From 1 July 2021, an annual fee of $22.50 applies. Payment can be made online, by phone, BPAY or at an Australia Post office.

This fee was scheduled to be applied in 2020, however the Victorian Government waived the annual fee until 1 July 2021 due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Does every foster carer in an organisation need to have their own source number?

No. If the organisation is advertising dogs or cats for rehoming, then the organisation applies for a source number and uses this number in all its advertisements.

Why does the Pet Exchange Register require an individual's details?

Any organisation enrolling on the PER is required to provide a key contact person.

The individual identified in your PER enrolment could be the same, or different, as the Secretary of your incorporated association or the person nominated in your charity registration.

It is important that an accountable individual is identified for the organisation to ensure they can be contacted by authorities. For example, if someone is fraudulently using the Organisation's source number.

Will individual details be made public?

No. Individual details are not publicly available. Any public search for a source number will only reveal that the number is valid and the name of the local council.

animalwelfare.vic.gov.au

For more information or help enrolling on the Pet Exchange Register visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au or email per@agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

Does the Pet Exchange Register apply to any person or business advertising to sell or rehome a dog, cat, puppy or kitten?

Yes, the PER applies to any person or business advertising a dog, cat, puppy or kitten for sale or rehoming.

The only exception is for registered Greyhound Racing Victoria greyhounds. Transfer of ownership during a greyhound's racing career is captured on the Greyhound Racing Victoria database. Once a greyhound is retired and ready for rehoming however and no longer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria, the advertiser must obtain a source number from the PER.

To identify those doing the wrong thing, and for Victorians to have confidence in knowing where their pet comes from, it is important for the PER to apply equally to all persons or businesses advertising dogs and cats.

What are the requirements when microchipping a dog or cat in Victoria that is born after 1 July 2020?

The source number of the breeder of any dog or cat, or the source number of the council pound, animal shelter, pet shop or foster carer that owns the animal will be required when implanting a microchip into a dog or cat born after 1 July 2020.

Where breeder details are unknown, shelters and pounds will need to use their own source number when implanting a new microchip into a dog or cat in their care.

Who did the Victorian Government consult in developing the Pet Exchange Register?

The PER formed part of the *Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017* that passed through Parliament after extensive stakeholder consultation. Groups consulted include:

- RSPCA Victoria
- Australian Veterinary Association
- Applicable Organisations
- Breeders
- Industry groups
- Community Foster Care Networks and rescue organisations.