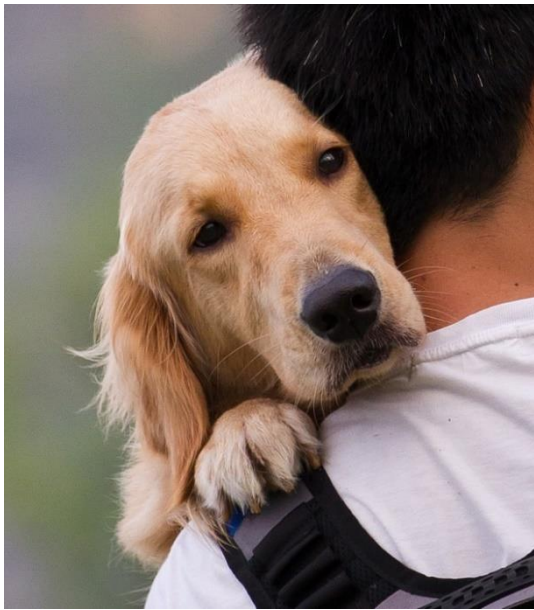




Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny

FAQs about Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny

What are the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny?



The *Queensland animal welfare standards and guidelines for breeding dogs and their progeny* (Standards and Guidelines) describe appropriate care, management, shelter and socialisation of breeding dogs - both pet dogs and working dogs.

Under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Act)*, any person in charge of an animal has a duty of care to provide for the animal's needs in an appropriate way. The Standards and Guidelines show appropriate ways of meeting the essential needs of breeding dogs and their puppies.

The new Standards have been adopted under the Act as a compulsory code requirement. This means that compliance with these new Standards is mandatory.

The Guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

The Standards and Guidelines also promote positive animal welfare management practices by providing information that informs dog breeders how they might achieve the minimum, or higher, Standards.

Why does Queensland need the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny?

The Standards and Guidelines are part of dog breeding reforms undertaken by the Palaszczuk Government to promote the responsible breeding of dogs and to ensure action can be taken when irresponsible breeding practices are identified.

The Queensland Dog Breeder Register (Register), which commenced on 26 May 2017, has been extremely well received by Queensland dog breeders. The Register facilitates the location of breeders who place profit before the welfare of their dogs.

The Standards and Guidelines are the next step towards ensuring that dog breeders are aware of, and meet, minimum acceptable animal welfare standards.

These Standards and Guidelines recognise that breeding dogs and their progeny have specific needs and require specialised care and management. Dog breeders who adhere to these Standards and Guidelines can demonstrate their commitment to the welfare of dogs in their care.



When do the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny take effect?

The Standards are written into legislation as compulsory Code requirements under the Act and compliance with the new Standards is mandatory for all dog breeders as from 1 October 2018.

Note: The Guidelines are not written into legislation and are therefore not compulsory. The Guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

How were the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny determined?

The Standards and Guidelines were developed as an initiative of the Queensland Government, in consultation with Dogs Queensland, RSPCA Queensland and the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

The Standards and Guidelines will be revised from time to time to take into account new knowledge about dog physiology and behaviour, technological advances, developments in standards of dog welfare and changing community attitudes and expectations about the humane treatment of breeding dogs.

Do the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny apply to all dogs?

The Standards and Guidelines include new Standards for the care, management, shelter and socialisation of dogs kept for breeding and their progeny.

The Standards and Guidelines apply to everyone involved with breeding dogs and raising puppies in Queensland. This includes breeders of working or hunting dogs and commercial breeders, pet dog breeders and those who own dogs who have unplanned litters.

The Standards and Guidelines are not intended to apply to organisations such as Council pounds, shelters or temporary emergency accommodation where bitches and their progeny may be temporarily housed.

However, all dogs in these circumstances must be managed in accordance with the Act.

What is the difference between a standard and a guideline?

Standards are provisions under the Act that must be met under law for dog welfare purposes.



The new Standards are intended to be clear, essential and verifiable statements, which use the word 'must'.

In the Standards and Guidelines document, the new Standards are presented in a box and are numbered with the prefix 'S'.

The Guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

Guidelines use the word 'should' and complement the new Standards.

Noncompliance with one or more Guidelines will not necessarily constitute an offence under law.

Where can I obtain a copy of the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny?

Copies of the Standards and Guidelines are available from:

- The Queensland government website: www.business.qld.gov.au
- The Customer Service Centre of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by:
 - Phone: 13 25 23 (cost of a local call within Queensland) or +61 7 3404 6999
 - 8 am to 5 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
 - 9 am to 5 pm Thursday
 - Email: info@daf.qld.gov.au
 - Fax: +61 7 3404 6900.

What are the mandatory new Standards that apply to breeding dogs and their progeny?

- S.1 A person must exercise a duty of care when breeding dogs.
- S.2 A facility that houses a total of five or more entire bitches that are of breeding age and maturity must keep records on each dog housed. Records must be retained for a minimum of three years, or the life of the dog, and must include records that demonstrate welfare outcomes have been achieved.
- S.3 A bitch must not, without reasonable excuse, be mated unless the dog is—
 - a. physically mature; and
 - b. fit and healthy; or
 - c. the person has written approval by a veterinary surgeon that the dog has been examined by the veterinary surgeon, and the veterinary surgeon reasonably considers the dog is ready for breeding.A person in charge of an undesexed dog must ensure the dog is not used for breeding with—
 - a. the dog's progeny; or
 - b. a parent or sibling of the dog.
- S.4 When whelping, a bitch must:
 - a. be able to withdraw from other animals
 - b. be monitored to ensure that any adverse consequences are detected early and corrective action provided.

- S.5 A dog with an exhibited deleterious heritable condition that has the potential to adversely impact on the welfare of the progeny must not be used for breeding, unless with the written approval of a veterinarian or geneticist.
- S.6 A puppy must be accustomed to food other than its mother's milk before being rehomed.
- S.7 The extra nutritional requirements of pregnant and lactating bitches must be met.
- S.8 Veterinary treatment must be sought for:
- a bitch that has an abnormal vulval discharge
 - bitches with swollen, red and hot, painful, or ulcerated mammary glands, or glands that have abnormal discharge from the nipples
 - whelping bitches where the whelping does not appear to be proceeding as it should
 - lactating bitches that are exhibiting excessive or rapid weight loss or showing any other abnormal behaviour
 - pups that are not gaining weight or otherwise appear unwell
 - pups that have gross or structural abnormalities e.g. cleft palate.
- S.9 A dog must be given social interaction with humans at least once per day.
- S.10 A dog must receive a variety of enrichment to ensure its physical, cognitive and psychological well-being.
- S.11 A dog must be monitored daily for signs of disease, injury or distress and receive appropriate treatment.
- S.12 A dog that appears to be sick with a condition that may be transmissible must be isolated unless advised otherwise by a veterinarian.
- S.13 A dog must be groomed regularly and not have a dirty, matted or tangled coat that affects its health, mobility or general wellbeing.
- S.14 Dogs must have constant access to clean drinking water of a quality and quantity that meets their physiological needs.
- S.15 Dogs must be provided with a complete diet sufficient to maintain good health, growth, and appropriate to the stage of physiological development and reproductive status.
- S.16 Adult dogs must receive food at least once in any 24 hour period.
- S.17 Housing and exercise areas must be maintained in a clean state and appropriate for the health and welfare of a dog.
- S.18 When the decision is made to kill a dog it must be done humanely.

What other laws apply to the breeding of dogs?

Compliance with the new Standards does not remove the need to comply with the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, local laws, or the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* or subordinate legislation.

These laws include the appropriate standards of care and management of all dogs, requirements for registration and microchipping of dogs, mandatory registration of all dog breeders, declaration of breeder registration number when advertising and supplying dogs and puppies, and management of dangerous dogs.

What is the penalty for non-compliance with the mandatory new Standards?

The maximum penalty for breaching a mandatory Standard (a code requirement) is 300 penalty units (\$40,035 as at 1 July 2019).

Other offences may also apply:

- The maximum penalty for breaching the duty of care is 300 penalty units (\$40,035 as at 1 July 2019) or 1 year's imprisonment.
- The maximum penalty for being cruel to an animal is 2000 penalty units (\$266,900 as at 1 July 2019) or 3 years' imprisonment.

How will compliance with the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny be checked?

Any person who believes that a dog breeder is failing to meet the mandatory new Standards may lodge a complaint with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or with the RSPCA by calling 1300 264 625.

You can also lodge an animal welfare concern about a breeder, or the welfare of a dog, on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register at www.qdbr.daf.qld.gov.au and this information will be referred to the appropriate authorities for action.

All complaints will be assessed and investigated as appropriate.

Dogs Queensland or other dog breeding societies, councils or entities may choose to audit their members' compliance with the new Standards.

What costs are imposed by the Queensland Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Breeding Dogs and their Progeny?

There is no charge for downloading or being provided with a copy of the Standards and Guidelines.

Compliance with the mandatory Standards is necessary to meet a breeder's duty of care to provide for the animals' needs in an appropriate way. As such, dog breeders should already be complying with the minimum Standards and the setting of the Standards should not impose any extra costs. Only breeders who currently are not meeting the minimum Standards, and thus potentially breaching their duty of care, may have to raise the standards of care, management, shelter and socialisation to comply.

More information

For further information, please call 13 25 23.

