



Queensland Dog Breeder Register

Dog breeder registration compliance and enforcement

Many Queenslanders are concerned about the welfare of dogs and puppies sold and supplied in Queensland, so the Queensland Government has introduced new laws that promote the responsible breeding of dogs.

From **26 May 2017**, all dog breeders must be registered on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register within 28 days of their puppies being born. A dog breeder is a person who has a female dog with a litter.

The laws require all people who advertise, sell or give away their dogs or puppies in Queensland to have a unique identifying number (a supply number) that identifies the registered breeder or origin of that dog.

Implementing compliance with the new laws involves a partnership between Queensland local governments, Biosecurity Queensland and RSPCA Queensland.

Note: The new laws only apply to dogs born on or after 26 May 2017. Dogs born before this date are not affected.

Q&As

Who enforces these new laws?

Local governments are responsible for managing cats and dogs within their local area under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*. This will continue, as the new dog breeder registration laws are an extension of the animal management laws under this Act.

Laws regarding animal welfare are enforced by inspectors from Biosecurity Queensland and RSPCA Queensland under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

Will Biosecurity Queensland prescribe how local governments enforce breeder registration?

Local governments already enforce the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* within their local area. Biosecurity Queensland does not prescribe how this Act is enforced. Enforcement is undertaken according to each local government's regulatory enforcement policies, and these policies will continue when enforcing the new laws.

Who will prosecute people who commit an offence?

The prosecution and issuing of penalty infringement notices for breaches will be undertaken by local government officers appointed under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*. Biosecurity Queensland does not appoint authorised persons to enforce this Act in local government areas.



Who investigates suspected breaches or reported concerns relating to animal management?

Investigations are carried out by the local government responsible for the area where the breach of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* occurred. If evidence is required to be collected from other jurisdictions, a collaborative approach to the investigation should be taken.

Do police still have a role in animal welfare?

Yes. The police have a role in animal welfare under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*; however, it is not their primary role. The primary agencies responsible for animal welfare enforcement are Biosecurity Queensland and RSPCA Queensland.

What are the infringements under the new laws?

There are a number of offences associated with the mandatory registration of dog breeders and the supply of dogs. Each offence provision has a penalty infringement notice (PIN) applied:

- S 43E **Registration obligation**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5)
- S 43N **Registered breeder must give chief executive changed information**—maximum 20 penalty units (PIN 2)
- S 43Y **Supplier must ensure cat or dog is implanted**—maximum 20 penalty units (PIN 2)
- S 43Z **Supplier must know dog has relevant supply number**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5)
- S 43ZB **Advertiser must know dog has relevant supply number**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5)
- S 43ZC **Advertisement must include relevant supply number**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5)
- S 43ZF **Supplier of dog must give particular details**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5)
- S 140B **Offence to contravene information requirement**—maximum 50 penalty units (PIN 5).

State Penalties Enforcement Registry codes will be available after commencement of the new laws.

What is the statute of limitations for offences under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*?

The statute of limitations for the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* is defined in the *State Penalties and Enforcement Act 1999*. A proceeding for an offence may be taken within one year after the offence occurs; or within six months of becoming aware of the offence, but within two years of the offence occurring.

Does the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* allow powers of entry?

The existing powers of entry for authorised persons under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* apply to the new laws.

Does the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* provide any new powers for authorised persons?

Yes. The new laws introduce an additional power to require information from a person. This power allows for a situation in which an authorised person believes an offence has been committed and a person is able to provide information about the offence.

Does the Queensland Dog Breeder Register allow evidence to be uploaded (e.g. photos of dogs or screenshots of advertisements or Facebook posts)?

Yes. You can attach photos, screenshots or documents when you report a concern on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register.

When concerns are reported on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register by members of the public, does the evidence provided need to be date and time stamped (e.g. photos of dogs or screenshots of advertisements or Facebook posts)?

For evidence purposes, it is preferable to include the date/time on photographs or screenshots to establish the time frames of the alleged offence. These details are critical to support the investigation process.

How does the law address dogs bred interstate?

An interstate breeder must register on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register if the transaction with respect to the dog occurs within Queensland. If the transaction occurs in another state and the dog is transported into Queensland afterwards, the new laws do not apply. However, if the person who receives the dog in Queensland wants to advertise, sell or give away the dog at a later date, they must apply for a supply number and include this number in the dog's microchip information.

Interstate breeders that are registered under another state's/territory's corresponding dog breeding laws and have a unique identification number do not need to register in Queensland. However, they must use that unique identification number as the supply number when advertising, selling or giving away a dog in Queensland and include it in the dog's microchip information.

Who will set and enforce animal welfare standards that apply to breeders?

Biosecurity Queensland and RSPCA Queensland continue to have compliance obligations and enforcement powers in relation to animal welfare under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

More information

For more information, visit the Biosecurity Queensland website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call **13 25 23**.

To confirm a supply number or report concerns, visit the Queensland Dog Breeder Register website at qdbr.daf.qld.gov.au.

