



Breeder Code of Practice

For the keeping and breeding of cats and dogs.

CITY OF
GOLDCOAST™



1. Mayor's foreword

With over 50,000 dogs and 10,000 cats across the Gold Coast, pet owners, like you and me, need to do our part to reduce the number of unwanted litters in our city.

That is why the City of Gold Coast (City) has introduced breeder permits and this Breeder Code of Practice.

The introduction of breeder permits has been supported by local breeders and animal welfare agencies, who the City has worked alongside to produce this code of practice for keeping and breeding cats and dogs.

Thanks to breeder permits, compulsory microchipping and registration of dogs and cats, together we can not only promote responsible pet ownership, but ensure lost pets are reunited with their owners quickly and efficiently.

Everybody knows that our city's animal shelters receive unwanted kittens and puppies each year. We want to ensure every kitten and puppy is given a loving home, as no one wants any of these animals put down.

So, like all cat and dog owners, it is up to you to make sure everything possible is done to look after the well-being of your pet/s, including whether or not to breed from them.

As a breeder, help us set the standard in Queensland when it comes to responsible and sustainable pet ownership.

As Mayor of our great city, and a pet owner myself, I am pleased to present this Breeder Code of Practice for cats and dogs.



Mayor
Tom Tate

2. Preface

In 2008, the City of Gold Coast (City) was requested to participate in a pilot project following the introduction of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*. The aim of the project was to develop a code of practice (Code) for breeders of cats and dogs.

A key component of the pilot program was a new local law that required residents to obtain a permit should they intend to keep, or currently keep, dogs and cats for breeding purposes. Eligibility for a permit is based upon compliance with our Local Law.

The purpose of the project is to encourage owners to consider their responsibilities, reduce the oversupply of cats and dogs, and excessive euthanasia rates by desexing their animals.

The Code was developed in consultation with the Gold Coast Companion Animal Stakeholder Coalition which includes AWL Qld, Dogs Qld, Gold Coast Dog Obedience Training Club, Qld Feline Association, Queensland Independent Cat Council, Little Paws Kitten Rescue Association, Council of Federated Cat Clubs of Qld Inc, RSPCA Qld, Wildcare Australia Inc, Wildlife Preservation Society QLD, AVA Qld and the Pet Industry Association of Australia.

3. Definitions

Animal breeder register see standard 46.

Animal Management Act means *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

Code means this Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Cats and Dogs.

Permit means a permit to keep a cat or dog for breeding purposes.

Standard means a standard included in this Code.

Guideline means a guideline included in this Code.

Cat includes a kitten regardless of age.

Dog includes a puppy regardless of age.

Animal of a litter means an animal from a litter which is the progeny of an animal kept on land pursuant to a permit. An animal of a litter may be a kitten or a puppy.

Licence holder means a person holding a PID registry licence under the Animal Management Act.

Permanent identification device or **PID** is a microchip or other electronic device

- a) capable of being permanently implanted in a cat or dog
- b) designed to record information in a way that can be electronically retrieved.

Prescribed permanent identification device or **PPID** is a PID that complies with the requirements prescribed under a regulation under the Animal Management Act.

Receiver see Standard 39.

Supply includes doing any of the following things if doing the thing affects the possession of a cat, or dog or PPID, other than the mere temporary custody of it:

- a) exchange, give or sell
- b) offer or agree to supply
- c) cause or permit a supply
- d) possess for supply.

Veterinary surgeon as meaning given in the Animal Management Act.

4. Introduction

4.1 Purpose

This Code sets out the standards and guidelines for breeders and keepers of cats and dogs who propose to breed animals in our city.

The standard corresponds with the Local Law requirements. Failure to meet a standard may result in the issue of a penalty infringement notice under our Local Law.

Each guideline provides recommendations and additional information.

Compliance with this Code does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of other legislation including but not limited to our *Local Law and Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

4.2 Aim

The aim of this Code is to specify:

- a) requirements for the care of cats and dogs that are used, or proposed to be used, for breeding, and their progeny
- b) requirements for the health, safety and wellbeing of the cats, dogs and their progeny
- c) requirements for the cats, dogs and their progeny to be kept without creating a nuisance and in accordance with community standards.

Compliance with this Code demonstrates commitment to responsible care and management of cats and dogs. Keepers of cats and dogs are responsible for their health, safety and well-being, and ensuring they do not contribute to the oversupply of animals that have to be euthanised.

This Code establishes the requirements to ensure animals are responsibly re-homed to help prevent increasing numbers of stray and abandoned animals in the future.

All breeders are required to identify their animals with a microchip prior to sale or transfer. This microchip identification must be registered on a Queensland Government authorised microchip database.

Breeders should also ensure cats and dogs not destined for responsible planned breeding are desexed. This Code requires sellers of kittens, or those transferring kittens to desex them prior to sale or transfer unless they are being transferred to another person with a breeder permit. This will help reduce unwanted animals.

4.3 Application

Keepers of cats or dogs, where one or more cat(s) or dog(s) is for breeding purposes, must have a breeder permit. Compliance with the standards in this Code is necessary for a breeder permit.

The standards and guidelines include:

- animal enclosure and housing
- sourcing of animals
- food and water
- hygiene
- socialisation, exercise, enrichment and training
- health care
- breeding and rearing young animal
- transfer of ownership – including identification, desexing, adoption information and transportation
- record keeping.

This Code sets out the minimum requirements in each of these areas of responsibility.

5. Animal housing

5.1 Housing

Objective: Housing provides for the good health and well-being of cats and dogs.

Standards:

S1. The holder of permit must ensure that any enclosure in which an animal, including an animal of a litter, is kept:

- a) is maintained in a sanitary condition
- b) is provided with a sleeping area for the animal that
 - i) is weather proof, that is, sheltered from sun, wind and rain; and
 - ii) is raised off the floor of the enclosure in which the animal is kept; and
 - iii) does not become damp; and
 - iv) has sufficient clean, dry and comfortable bedding for the animal appropriate to the species and breed of the animal
- c) allows the animal to move around freely and urinate and defecate away from the sleeping and eating areas of the animal within the enclosure
- d) is free of any dangerous structure or object that may cause injury to the animal; and
- e) is secure so as to prevent access to the animal by persons other than the holder of the permit and persons authorised by the holder of the permit

- f) has an area which is appropriately sized so as to be capable of effectively and comfortably housing the animal kept in the enclosure
- g) is constructed of materials which are of sufficient strength to prevent the animal from escaping from the enclosure
- h) is drained so that the animal kept in the enclosure does not have continuous or extended contact with any part of the floor of the enclosure which is wet
- i) has a floor which is non-porous or coated with a non-toxic material so as to facilitate the proper cleaning of the floor and prevent the transmission of any infectious disease between animals

Example:

A wood, chipboard, brick, dirt or grass floor is not acceptable for the main living area of the enclosure, but would be acceptable for the exercise area for the animal kept within the enclosure.

- j) is equipped with items and areas sufficient to provide the animal with enrichment and exercise appropriate to the species of the animal.

S2. The holder of the permit must keep one (1) separate enclosure on the land available for:

- a) each animal that is suspected of, or diagnosed as having, an infectious disease
- b) each animal that is whelping or kitting
- c) each female animal with a litter.

S3. The holder of the permit must ensure that each cat is provided with a litter tray containing a sufficient depth of material to comfortably accommodate the cat.

Example:

Commercial cat litter, or sand in a litter tray that is of sufficient size and depth to comfortably accommodate the cat.

S4. If cats and dogs are kept on the land identified in the permit and the animals have not been socialised with each other – the holder of the permit must keep and maintain facilities for the animals so that:

- a) the dogs are separated from the cats
- b) the proximity in which the animals are kept does not cause stress to the animals.

S5. Where groups of animals are housed together on the land – the holder of the permit must ensure that each animal housed in a group is kept free of intimidation from any other animal housed in the group.

S6. If an animal kept on the land is particularly sensitive to changes in temperature – the animal must be provided with appropriate heating and cooling.

Example:

An elderly animal, kitten, puppy, or pregnant animal may be provided with an enclosed container with a doorway which gives the animal the opportunity to regulate temperature by perching on top of the container or sheltering within the container.

S7. The tables below (Tables 1 and 2) specify the minimum dimensions for an enclosure in which one (1) or more animals may be kept.

Table 1 – The table in this subsection specifies the minimum dimensions for an enclosure in which one or more cats may be kept.

Number of cats	Min area (m ²)	Min length (m)	Min width (m)	Min width (m)
1 cat (night confinement or maximum of 8 hours)	0.48	1.2	0.4	0.6
1 cat	2.25	1.5	1.5	1.8
1 stud cat ¹	4.4	2.1	2.1	1.8
2 cats	4.32	2.4	1.8	1.8
3 or 4 cats (maximum of four cats)	12.25	3.5	3.5	1.8

¹ Each stud cat must have an individual enclosure with an area set aside within the enclosure for the introduction of a visiting female cat and a high shelf to which the stud cat may retreat after mating.

Table 2 – The table in this subsection specifies the minimum dimensions for an enclosure for the keeping of dogs.

Height of the dog measured at the shoulder of the dog (cm)	Min area (m ²)	Min width (m)	Min width (m)	Increased floor area for each pup aged between eight and 16 weeks (m ²)
70 and above	15	2.40	1.80	1.5
40 to 70	10	1.80	1.80	1.0
20 to 40	6	1.40	1.20	0.5
5 to 20	4	1.00	1.20	0.5

Table 2 applies to the keeping of one adult dog or one female dog and a litter of the dog up to eight-weeks of age. If two or more adult dogs are kept in the one enclosure, the minimum dimensions for the enclosure specified in Table 2 must be increased by 1.5 square metres for each dog kept in the enclosure.

Guidelines:

An enclosure may include:

- a) a fenced area where cats and dogs share the keeper's home or an enclosed yard
- b) cats and dogs each have their own enclosures, such as in a cattery, kennel facility, pen, module, commercially sold dog kennel or cat enclosure and shed
- c) a garage can form part of an enclosure.

Each cat and dog kept in an enclosure with the minimum dimensions specified in Tables 1 or 2 must be provided daily with additional areas for exercise, exploration, stimulation and socialisation with people and animals of their own species.

Where possible, cats and dogs should also be introduced in a safe controlled situation, to other species that they may be required to live with in a future home environment.

If a cat or a dog is on heat the holder of a permit may be required to keep the animal in an enclosure that is:

- a) appropriate to the species and breed of the animal
- b) constructed of materials of sufficient strength to prevent any other animals from entering the enclosure.

A separate quarantine area for each animal, birthing animal or female animal with a litter must be provided in a comfortable, draught free area away from people and other animals.

Where native wildlife are at risk:

- a) dogs should be confined to an area, such as a house, garage, shed or veranda at night; and
- b) cats should be confined to the house and/or an outdoor aviary type enclosure, which meets the requirements for the animals' health and well-being.

5.2 Noise management

Objective: Noise management prevents nuisance to neighbours and the community.

Standards:

S8. The holder of a permit must take specified action to prevent the animals, including each animal of a litter, from making a noise or disturbance that may cause a nuisance or disturbance to the occupiers of other premises.

Example:

If the permit relates to the keeping of dogs – barking, howling or whining of a dog may result in a nuisance or disturbance to the occupiers of other premises.

S9. A permit condition may require the permit holder to provide and maintain a soundproof enclosure for each animal kept on the land that causes, or is likely to cause, a noise nuisance.

Guidelines:

Dog barking may be reduced by one or more of the following:

- a) situating kennels so that they do not face each other
- b) limiting external stimulation, for example by erecting partitions between kennels, or, using a visual barrier

- c) holding dogs singly or in compatible pairs.

Noise from a stud cat or a calling queen may be reduced by one or more of the following:

- a) providing lockable sound proof night quarters for the stud
- b) locating the stud house inside another building, or by taking advantage of existing walls and buildings
- c) providing the stud with companion cats, or a more interesting run
- d) relocation to where people, other cats, and, other animals can be regularly seen
- e) removing a calling queen from an outside pen and placing her indoors in a pen, that can be further covered at night
- f) taking the queen to stud or vasectomised.

5.3 Security

Objective: Security methods prevent accidental or unauthorised access to animals, facilities or dangerous materials.

Standards:

S10. The holder of the permit must ensure that any enclosure in which an animal, including an animal of a litter is kept is secure to prevent access to the animal by persons other than the holder of the permit and those persons authorised by the holder of the permit.

S11. A substance or liquid that may harm the health or safety of an animal kept on the land must not be stored or used in a manner that permits the animal to access or consume the substance or liquid.

Guidelines:

Double barrier access is recommended to assist in preventing the escape of dogs and cats.

Any security method used should allow for ready access to dogs and cats and ready exit for keepers and animals in an emergency.

6. Sourcing of animals

Objective: Breeding animals are sourced responsibly to ensure the welfare of animals and prevent poor breeding practices.

Guidelines:

Dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, should only be acquired from responsible sources that meet accepted standards including:

- a) Local Government requires for a breeder permit, where they exist. In Gold Coast City, breeders of animals must meet the standards outlined in this Code to be eligible for a breeder permit.
- b) Standards of recognised Breed Societies.
- c) Animals supplied are healthy, bright, alert and sociable.
- d) The supplier is knowledgeable about breed types (the characteristics of the breed, such as size, coat, and temperament) and breed specific genetic problems, and provides documentation that the kittens'/puppies' parents and grandparents have been tested (where possible) to ensure they are free of these genetic problems.
- e) A health care program is provided to breeding stock and litters that includes worming, flea control, vaccination and heartworm prevention, as recommended by a local veterinarian.
- f) Documentation of health care and medical history is provided with each kitten/puppy, cat or dog.
- g) A health guarantee is provided.

7. Food and water

Objective: Animals receive appropriate and sufficient food and water to maintain good health and growth, recognising the special needs of differing ages, species, and states, such as pregnancy or lactation.

Standards:

S12. The holder of the permit must provide and maintain for each animal:

- a) access to fresh water
- b) a diet appropriate to the individual needs of the animal.

S13. The holder of the permit must provide and maintain on the land:

- a) an area for the storage of food for the animals which prevents –
 - i) the deterioration or contamination of the food
 - ii) water from entering the food
 - iii) vermin or insects from accessing the food.

Guidelines:

- a) Adult dogs should be fed at least once daily and adult cats twice daily. For pregnant animals, puppies and kittens, see Breeding section for special dietary advice.
- b) Food and water containers must be stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned and disinfected.
- c) Food and water containers should be readily accessible to animals and positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- d) Animals should be fed under supervision to ensure each animal gets the required amount of food.
- e) Changes to diet should be gradual to reduce the risk of stomach upset.
- f) The diet and feeding of sick or debilitated animals must be under the guidance of a veterinary surgeon.

8. Hygiene

Objective: Animals are kept in a clean and sanitary environment to prevent discomfort and disease transfer.

8.1 Cleaning and disinfection

Standards:

S14. All enclosures, animal food preparation areas, and animal food utensils must be:

- a) cleaned daily
- b) disinfected weekly
- c) if the enclosure, area or utensils are used for the keeping, storage or treatment of an animal –cleaned and disinfected prior to use by another animal.

S15. The permit holder must provide and maintain on the land an area for the storage of equipment and consumables used for the cleaning of enclosures on the land that is not accessible by any animal kept on the land.

Guidelines:

- a) Bedding must be cleaned and changed regularly.
- b) Cleaning and disinfection chemicals and materials should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness, and used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. Some common disinfectants, particularly those derived from or containing coal or wood tar products, are toxic to cats. Pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxylenols are such products and should be avoided. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or instructions for all chemicals held, should be readily accessible.
- c) It is important that all surfaces and utensils be thoroughly rinsed after disinfecting to avoid poisoning. To reduce the risk of transmitting disease carrying organisms between animals, and from animals to themselves, keepers should maintain high standards of personal hygiene and all carers should wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling any animal or animal equipment, and use disinfectant when infectious disease is present or suspected.

8.2 Pest control

Pest prevention and control measures should be implemented on specialist advice and manufacturers' instructions to protect the health and safety of animal carers and animals.

8.3 Waste disposal

Standards:

S16. Any enclosure in which an animal, including an animal of a litter is kept, must be properly drained and run-off must be kept off premises adjoining the land.

S17. Each cat litter tray must be:

- a) checked, scooped and replenished daily
- b) changed, washed and disinfected at least once every three days.

S18. Animal faeces must be collected:

- a) at least daily
- b) more frequently if the number of animals kept, or the conditions of the housing of the animals, necessitates collection more often than daily.

S19. Collection drains on the land must be cleaned at least daily.

S20. The holder of the permit must collect and dispose of promptly in a hygienic manner, for example:

- a) disposal of all animal droppings, soiled litter, bedding and animal food waste
- b) removal of any deceased animal.

Guidelines:

Litter trays that are saturated with urine should be changed immediately.

Collect dog faeces at least daily in a home yard, and twice daily, morning and evening, in a kennel situation.

9. Socialisation, exercise, enrichment and training

Objective: Cats and dogs and their offspring are well-socialised and provided with positive physical and mental stimulation to be friendly, confident and well-adjusted to home life.

Standards:

S21. The holder of the permit must ensure that animal management and training methods used by the holder on the land do not compromise the physical development, health or welfare of any animal, including an animal of a litter, kept on the land.

Examples:

1. Each animal, including each animal of a litter, must be socialised so as to:
 - a) encourage confident and friendly behaviour with people and other animals
 - b) discourage timidity and aggression to persons and other animals.
2. The permit holder should provide each animal with safe experiences with a range of people, other animals, places and objects.
3. Dogs, and in particular puppies, should be socialised with both adult and juvenile dogs, not just other puppies.
4. When exercising an animal the permit holder should:
 - a) allow the animal to run freely and choose and control its environment
 - b) include daily play sessions with people and other animals of the same species as the animal.

Guidelines:

- a) Keepers must provide safe experiences with a range of people, other animals, places and objects, for their breeding stock and litters.
- b) Parent animals, male and female, influence the sociability of their offspring, genetically and behaviourally. Breeders should ensure the male parent animal is confident, well-socialised and friendly with people, regardless of whether he has any physical involvement with the kittens or pups. The female parent's genetic input and her calm, friendly behaviour towards people will also promote friendly behaviour in her offspring.
- c) Between the second and seventh week of age, as suckling decreases, play, exploration and environmental learning should be supported in the following ways:
 - From the age of two weeks, kittens and pups should be spoken to while handled in the presence of their mother and littermates. Benefits of handling have been shown to increase if handled in short sessions for up to an hour a day.
 - Kittens and puppies from birth to four weeks still need close contact with their mother and should not be separated for long periods.
 - Periods of handling should be increased and include less-familiar people, and ultimately, strangers. Four or more new people each week as a minimum are required for socialisation to be generalised.

- Kittens and pups should be touched on all parts of their body, with frequent lifting and gentle restraint so that they become familiar with being held.
 - Exposure to toys, objects and different noises should be introduced after the kitten/pup has some 'people' experience.
 - The kitten/puppy should not experience fear or trauma – all new challenges should be experienced in a positive manner.
- d) New owners must be informed and encouraged to continue the socialisation process.
- e) New owners need to know how to interact with animals correctly. This includes not leaving young children unsupervised around cats or dogs and teaching young children not to approach an unknown dog, or interrupt an animal that is eating.
- f) Exercise should be provided by:
- allowing dogs and cats access to an enclosed exercise area to run freely
 - playing with humans or others of their own species
 - always walking animals on a lead
 - very active or old, pregnant or lactating animals may require more or less exercise than specified
 - cats and dogs should have the opportunity to exercise for at least 20 minutes daily
 - during group exercise, take care to avoid mixing incompatible cats or dogs, fighting and the transmission of infectious disease agents
- dogs must not be exercised in a way that poses a risk of serious injury, for example, attached to a motor vehicle, or unsupervised on a treadmill.
- g) Cats should never be tethered.
- h) A dog should only be tethered to a fixed object if it:
- is older than four months
 - has been trained to accept a tether
 - is only tethered for a short period under supervision
 - is not tethered to a moving object or where the tether may become entangled or restricted
 - is not in season or pregnant
 - is fitted with a collar with a swivel to which the tether is attached.
- i) Cats and dogs must be provided with physical and mental enrichment through exposure to a variety of safe, nonthreatening objects and activities.
- Enrichment may include:
- food storage toys that occupy the cat or dog to access their daily food
 - play with humans, other animals and toys
 - for cats, access to high ledges, scratching posts, and climbing frames.
- j) Training should involve positive reinforcement.
- k) Negative reinforcement should be kept to a minimum.
- l) Punishment should be avoided.

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- m) Owners should seek professional advice on the use of any training device. A collar or lead should not cause distress or injury.
 - n) Check chains should only be used with care by an experienced trainer.
 - o) An electronic collar should only be used as a final resort where all other strategies have been used unsuccessfully, the life of the animal is at stake, and always in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
 - p) Prong and pinch collars should never be used.

10. Health care

Objective: Animals are cared for to maximise their health and well-being and minimise health risks to other animals in the breeding facility and the community.

Standards:

S22. The holder of the permit must, on request, advise the local government of the veterinary surgeon to whom animal health issues about the animals will be referred.

S23. The holder of the permit must monitor the health, well-being and grooming of each animal daily.

Example:

The holder of the permit must seek advice from a veterinary surgeon if any animal appears sick, injured or in distress.

S24. The holder of the permit must ensure that each animal, including each animal of a litter, receives all necessary vaccinations, inoculations and treatments:

- a) that are appropriate according to the age of the animal
- b) in any event, before the animal is offered for sale or otherwise disposed of by the holder of the permit.

Example:

Each animal must be vaccinated, wormed and treated for external parasites, including fleas, up to date according to protocols accepted by a veterinary surgeon.

S25. The euthanasia of any animal must only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon.

Guidelines:

Newly acquired cats or dogs, or those visiting from another location, should not be mixed with existing animals for at least 10 days.

Animal carers must note if each animal is:

- a) eating
- b) drinking
- c) defecating
- d) urinating
- e) behaving normally
- f) showing any obvious signs of illness or distress
- g) able to move about freely
- h) maintaining or gaining weight
- i) sufficiently groomed to prevent matting and/or entanglement of fur.

Veterinary advice and treatments should be sought when there are any sign of illness or injury, including:

- a) runny nose
- b) runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- c) repeated sneezing
- d) coughing
- e) vomiting
- f) severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- g) lameness
- h) bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat)
- i) inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate
- j) loss of appetite
- k) weight loss
- l) apparent pain
- m) fits, staggering or convulsions
- n) patchy hair loss.

Disease prevention measures, including appropriate vaccination protocol, and control of internal and external parasites including gastrointestinal and heart worms, fleas, lice and ticks, should be provided.

Prompt action must be taken when signs of disease or injury are observed. Any sick or injured animal should be placed in a comfortable, draught-free area away from people and other animals. Each animal with, or suspected of having, an infectious illness (including each animal in the same cage or enclosure) should be quarantined.

Euthanasia is unacceptable as a means of managing unwanted breeding stock, kittens and puppies.

Euthanasia of cats and dogs is only acceptable for the relief of incurable illness, chronic pain, and suffering.

11. Breeding and rearing young animals

Objective: When selecting and breeding animals, the quality of the life of the animal is paramount. Breeders prioritise animal welfare, maintain genetic integrity and diversity of the species, and prevent surplus animals.

Standards:

S26. A permit condition may specify the maximum number of breeding dogs and breeding cats which may be kept on the land at any one time.

S27. The holder of the permit must not mate an animal if the animal has a known hereditary disease or disorder that causes, or may cause, pain or discomfort to:

- a) the animal; or
- b) an animal of a litter of the animal.

A permit condition may specify the maximum number of breeding dogs and breeding cats which may be kept on the land at any one time.

Guidelines:

Litters must only be produced when there is a reasonable expectation of finding homes where they are wanted and appreciated, managed responsibly and provided quality of life.

Animals should be sourced from reputable breeders with a permit. In our city, breeders are required to have a breeder permit that meets the standards of the Code.

The holder of the permit should not mate an animal with a:

- a) sibling of the animal
- b) parent or offspring of the animal.

Before mating, ensure the breeding cat or dog does not have any infectious disease, for example parvovirus and hepatitis for dogs, FIV and FLV for cats.

Where a hereditary defect is recognised in a breed and there are screening procedures or tests for the defect, the keeper should:

- a) have a current official evaluation or test result for the cat or dog for the hereditary defect
- b) provide the official evaluation or test result to the keeper of the dog or cat if being bred with an animal not owned by the breeding facility
- c) provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and the dam to the new owner of any puppy or kitten.

A permit holder should endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will result in a decrease or elimination of any inherited disorder.

11.1 Breeding age and frequency

Standards:

S28. To avoid unwanted pregnancy, the holder of the permit must keep a cycling, fertile, female cat isolated from all male cats other than during a planned mating of the female cat.

S29. To avoid unwanted pregnancy, the holder of the permit must keep a cycling, fertile, female dog isolated from all male dogs other than during a planned mating of the female dog.

S30. A permit condition may require the holder of the permit to desex a female animal which the holder of the animal has retired from breeding.

Guidelines:

When deciding the best time to breed or to cease breeding their animals, breeders must ensure the welfare of:

- a) their breeding sires and dams
- b) the animals of the litters.

Breeding animals should be physically and behaviourally sound and healthy, free from potential/ known genetic fault and heritable diseases.

While there is an oversupply of cats and dogs in pounds and shelters, breeding should be kept to a minimum.

Female cats and dogs should not be mated during their first oestrous cycle.

The permit holder should desex each animal retired from breeding or provide a written statement from a registered veterinarian as to why it cannot be desexed. The permit holder should also either:

- a) provide a permanent home; or
- b) sell or transfer to a new owner who is able to care for the retired desexed animal (different permit conditions apply).

Breeders should seek professional advice regarding breeding practices and, where possible, register with an approved governing cat or dog control body for information and advice. For a list of the relevant bodies go to cityofgoldcoast.com.au

Guidelines for breeding age, frequency and total breedings

The following tables provide recommendations for a minimum age of first breeding, breeding frequency and total number of litters for a dog and a cat.

Table 3 – Guidelines for breeding age, frequency and total number of litters for a dog.

Minimum age for first breeding		Breeding frequency	Total number of litters
Female dog	Breed specific based on maturation from the second heat	No more than two litters in 18 months	Four without veterinary certification of fitness for further breeding and not for animals older than six years
Male dog	Nine months		

Table 4 – Guidelines for breeding age, frequency and total number of litters for a cat.

Minimum age for first breeding		Breeding frequency	Total number of litters
Female cat	Nine months	No more than three litters in a two-year period (more frequent breeding, for example, two litters in one year may be acceptable on veterinary advice, to prevent some female breeding cats suffering from pyometra or other medical conditions)	Cats should not be bred when older than six years. The welfare of the breeding cat should be the primary concern. Overbreeding can have severe health consequences. While there is an overpopulation of cats and high euthanasia rates in pounds and shelters, the number of breedings should be limited.
Male cat	Nine months		

11.2 Care of breeding animals

Standards:

S31. The holder of the permit must regularly monitor the health of each pregnant animal, especially during the last weeks of pregnancy, and ensure that the animal receives all necessary treatments which are appropriate according to the age and condition of the animal.

Example:

If there is evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced, but there is no progress within 30 minutes, the animal must be examined by a veterinary surgeon.

S32. If an animal is giving birth, the holder of the permit must:

- a) isolate the animal from all other animals
- b) at least one week prior to the expected date of birth, provide the animal with a clean and adequately sized container and bedding
- c) promptly after completion of the birth, clean the birthing area and replace all bedding used by the animal.

Guidelines:

When stud cats and dogs are confined in individual quarters, they need daily human companionship. For stud cats, a feline companion housed in close proximity may be beneficial.

All matings should be supervised to ensure the well-being of animals.

The current vaccination certificates of male and female animals being brought into the premises for mating should be sighted before mating.

Veterinary advice should be sought regarding dietary requirements including an adequate supply of calcium during pregnancy and lactation.

Following birth, breeding females should be checked daily for signs of ill-health including undue bleeding or signs of mastitis.

11.3 Kitten and puppy weaning

Standards:

S33. The holder of the permit must complete the weaning of an animal before the animal is sold or otherwise disposed of by the holder.

Guidelines:

Keepers should ensure puppies and kittens achieve a regular weight gain.

- a) Between four and six weeks of age kittens and puppies should be introduced to suitable solid foods, which may include puppy or kitten commercial food, meat, raw bones (chicken necks for kittens and pups, and brisket bones for pups) and vegetables.
- b) By the end of week four puppies and kittens should be fed four times per day. The mother must be allowed to gradually remove herself from her puppies/kittens over the next few weeks and her milk allowed to dry.
- c) By eight weeks, the pups/kittens should be totally weaned and eating three meals a day.
- d) Breeders should advise and provide written guidelines to new owners of the exact dietary needs of pups/kittens including how much and how often to feed them. Ideally, the breeder should supply food for at least a few days, to ensure that changes in diet occur gradually.
- e) During the weaning stage puppies and kittens should be encouraged to urinate and defecate away from the sleeping area. A shallow litter tray for kittens and paper or training pads for puppies should be provided.

11.4 Kitten and puppy health care

Guidelines:

- a) The eyes and ears of pups and kittens should not be interfered with before they open or unfold. Eyes will generally open naturally between seven and 14 days and ears unfold at 18 to 20 days.
- b) For pups, vaccinations should be given at six to eight weeks, 10 and 14 weeks to prevent distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and kennel cough or as recommended by a veterinary surgeon.
- c) For kittens, vaccinations should be given at six to eight and 12 weeks to prevent feline enteritis, cat flu and Chlamydia.
- d) Worming for intestinal worms (hook, tape, round, whip) should commence with oral liquid at two and four weeks, after which an individual broad-spectrum wormer tablet can be used fortnightly until 12 weeks, then every month until six months and then every three months or as recommended by a veterinary surgeon.
- e) Kittens' and pups' areas should be cleaned at least twice a day, kept dry, and free of faeces and uneaten food.
- f) Pups and kittens should become used to all grooming equipment while with the breeder. This includes nail clipping, combing, brushing and exposure to gentle cleaning.

12. Transfer of ownership

Objective: The future welfare of the animals is the primary obligation when selling or rehoming animals. Animals will be responsibly confined, managed and trained to avoid public nuisance or danger. They should not contribute to the stray or unwanted animal population.

12.1 Transfer and identification

Standards:

S34. The holder of the permit must not sell or otherwise dispose of an animal of a litter to a minor.

S35. The holder of the permit must not sell an animal of a litter which is a cat, or otherwise dispose of the cat, unless the cat is at least 10 weeks of age.

S36. The holder of the permit must not sell an animal of a litter which is a dog, or otherwise dispose of the dog, unless the dog is at least eight weeks of age.

S37. If the holder of the permit advertises an animal, including an animal of a litter, for sale or disposal – the advertisement must specify the permit number allocated to the permit by the local government.

Guidelines:

Under the Animal Management Act, a breeder who is the owner of a dog must register the dog if it is 12 weeks or older.

The breeder or seller of a dog should inform a new owner, verbally and in writing, that they must register the dog with the relevant local government if the dog is 12 weeks or older.

A breeder must not, unless there is a reasonable excuse, supply a cat or dog to anyone else if it is not implanted with a permanent identification device, that is, a microchip or other electronic device:

- capable of being permanently implanted in a cat or dog
- designed to record information in a way that can be electronically achieved.

An authorised implanter must not implant a PPID in a cat or dog that is younger than eight weeks unless the implanter has a reasonable excuse as listed in the Animal Management Act.

An owner of a cat or dog that is not implanted with a PPID must ensure it is at 12 weeks unless there is a reasonable excuse (see section 14 of the Animal Management Act).

If PID information for a cat or dog changes, the owner must, within seven days, give notice of the changed information to a licence holder, there is a reasonable excuse.

Animals offered for sale must be healthy, weaned, vaccinated, wormed and flea-treated up-to-date, according to veterinary protocols.

12.2 Desexing

Standards:

S38. The holder of the permit must not sell or otherwise dispose of an animal which is a cat or an animal of a litter of a cat, unless:

- a) prior to the sale or disposal, the holder obtains from a veterinary surgeon a certificate stating, or other evidence of, either of the following:
 - that the animal has been desexed
 - that desexing the animal is likely to be a serious risk to the animal's health
- b) the animal is sold or otherwise disposed of to the holder of a current animal breeder permit.

Guidelines:

Desexing cats and dogs - including puppies and kittens - prior to sale or transfer contributes to reducing unwanted cat and dog populations. Early age desexing of cats from eight to 12 weeks prevents accidental or unwanted kittens. Cats can be pregnant by the age of four months.

Decisions on the age to desex a pup, should be made with a veterinary surgeon. Issues for consideration include the risk of the dog becoming unwanted or producing unwanted litters and how the dog will be kept and cared for.

An exemption from desexing a cat or kitten authorised by a veterinarian should clearly explain the reason in writing - to be presented by the breeder.

12.3 Pre and post adoption information and support

Standards:

S39. If the holder of the permit sells or otherwise disposes of an animal, including an animal of a litter, to a person (the receiver) – the holder of the permit must give written notice to the receiver of:

- a) the number allocated to the permit by the local government
- b) particulars of:
 - i) the typical lifespan of the animal
 - ii) the common physical and behavioural characteristics for the age and breed of the animal
- c) the standard of care appropriate for the animal, including specific information about:
 - i) diet
 - ii) containment
 - iii) socialisation
 - iv) exercise and play
 - v) training
- d) the medical and health care history of the animal, including particulars of all vaccinations, inoculations and treatments that have been carried out on the animal
- e) the obligations of the receiver as the keeper of the animal under each of:
 - i) the local law
 - ii) the Animal Management Act.

Examples:

1. The obligation to comply with minimum standards.
2. Animals to be kept under effective control.
3. The duty to provide a proper enclosure.
4. The registration obligation.
5. The dog registration renewal obligation.

Guidelines:

Information on any known condition of the animal that might affect its future well-being should be disclosed to a prospective purchaser prior to sale or transfer.

Prior to sale or transfer, the breeder should determine the prospective owner's circumstances, expectations and capacity to care for the animal, as much as reasonably possible, including:

- a) verification of age (18 or over), and name and address
- b) owning or renting (written verification of landlord/body corporate permission)
- c) suitable enclosures and housing
- d) capacity to integrate this pet into their current household, for example:
 - separate room initially
 - supervision of children and supervision of other pets,
 - time commitment
 - expectations of how long it will take for the new pet to feel comfortable
- e) consideration of long-term capacity to keep the animal, for example:
 - moving

- allergies
- finances
- previous commitment

- f) capacity to provide appropriate socialisation, exercise and training

Advice given to new owners prior to purchase should include:

- a) usual life span of the breed/species and the long-term commitment required
- b) desirability and advantages of desexing kittens and pups, including discounted registration fees and reducing behaviours that often cause nuisance to owners and the community
- c) keeping puppies and kittens away from other puppies and kittens who are unvaccinated or their vaccination is unknown - and the need for follow up vaccinations, worm and flea treatments
- d) general care including appropriate diet, socialisation, housing, exercise and training of the animal
- e) common behavioural characteristics of the breed/species
- f) Legal requirements of keeping the animal, such as containment on owners' property and numbers allowed.

Post adoption advice should be offered to assist the owner to manage any animal behaviour that is causing concern in its new home environment.

Owners should be encouraged to contact the breeders when any problem arises.

Breeders should provide verbal and written information to prospective owners, about their guaranteed return policies, including a

health guarantee of a minimum of 10 days, offering free treatment for any illness which develops during the guarantee period.

Information on health guarantees to prospective new owners should include:

- a) If an animal is unacceptable to a new owner because of health problems deemed to be hereditary, congenital or existent prior to the sale, that are supported by a statement from a veterinary surgeon, within 10 days of purchase, the breeder will allow the animal to be returned and refund all monies or offer a replacement animal of the same breed with the same guarantee. Animal replacement should be delayed or avoided if the problem is due to a contagious disease.
- b) If the animal dies or is euthanised because of a disease that is traceable to the point of sale, the breeder will refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.
- c) In the event a health problem is related to the care and management of the animal after sale, the breeder is not obliged to cover the cost of treatment, take the animal back, and/or refund monies. However, the breeder may still choose to do so.
- d) Cover for other existing animals within the household if the sold or transferred animal passes on a disease that is traceable to the point of sale.

Breeders should assist with the re-homing of their animals where the initial circumstances of the purchaser change, and participate in breed placement programs for dogs and cats in pounds and shelters.

12.4 Transport

Guidelines:

- a) Transporting animals to new owners can cause distress to animals and should be kept to a minimum.
- b) The breeder should provide adequate space, ventilation, shade, food and water, provision for exercise and cleaning pens to ensure the well-being of animals in transit to their new owner.
- c) The size of transport cages should prevent excessive movement and risk of injury during any sudden movement of the transport vehicle.
- d) All transported animals should be contained or suitably restrained to ensure space to turn around, and to ensure security and protection from injury.
- e) Animals should have adequate ventilation, shade and be protected from extremes of temperature. They must not be transported in the boot of a car or left in an unattended vehicle.
- f) Food and water must be provided during an extended journey, including loading, unloading and waiting time.
- g) The minimum exercise requirement of the Code applies to transported dogs.
- h) Purpose-built vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use to minimise the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases between consignments of animals.
- i) Pups should not be transported domestically under the age of eight weeks, and overseas under the age of 11 weeks.

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- j) Animals from different sources or who are unfamiliar with each other must be contained separately and with barriers to prevent additional stress, conflict or disease transfer.
 - k) Kittens should not be transported domestically under the age of 10 weeks and overseas under the age of 12 weeks.
 - l) Animal containers should be strong enough to withstand handling and stacking.
 - m) The consignor and consignee should confirm the departure and arrival times of animals with the carrier. Containers should be clearly labelled by the consignor, including contact details of consignor and consignee, licence number, date and time of departure.
 - n) The requirements of the individual animal(s), conditions and the journey being undertaken should guide when to provide food and water. On road trips of more than two hours duration, take adequate stops to allow dogs and cats to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defecate where appropriate; and for enclosures to be cleaned where necessary.
 - o) All transportation of live animals must comply with the requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current IATA Live Animals regulations.

For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see: [iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals](https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals)

13. Record keeping

Objective: Records assist with monitoring and enforcement of breeder standards for animal care and management.

Standards:

S40. The holder of a permit must keep and maintain a written register (an animal breeder register) which records details of the activities of the holder under the permit:

- a) during the term of the permit
- b) for a minimum of three years after the end of the term of the permit.

S41. The animal breeder register must detail:

- a) the particulars and description of each animal kept on the land including, breed, name, date of birth, identifying tag and any other form of identification
- b) a medical history for each animal listing vaccinations, inoculations and treatments that have been carried out for each animal
- c) if any animal is sold or otherwise disposed of – the name and address of the new keeper of the animal and the date of sale or disposal of the animal
- d) if the animal is, or has been, implanted with a permanent identification device – particulars of the permanent identification device of the animal
- e) for each animal of a litter of an animal kept on the land:
 - the dam of the litter
 - the sire of the litter
 - the breed of each animal of the litter

- the date of birth of each animal of the litter
 - the date of mating of the parents of the litter
 - the sex of each animal of the litter
 - the distinguishing marks or other form of identification of each animal of the litter
 - if any animal of the litter is implanted with a permanent identification device – particulars of the permanent identification device of the animal
 - if an animal of the litter is sold or otherwise disposed of – the name and address of the new keeper of the animal and the date of sale or disposal of the animal
 - in the event of the death of an animal of the litter – the date and the cause of death of the animal
 - a medical history for each animal of the litter listing vaccinations, inoculations and treatments of the that have been carried out for the animal
- f) if an animal kept on the land – was not born on the land for the acquisition of the animal by the holder of the permit:
 - the date of the acquisition
 - the person from whom the animal was acquired by the holder of the permit.

S42. The holder of the permit must:

- a) keep and maintain records about the activities of the permit holder
- b) produce the records for inspection promptly after receipt of a request from an authorised person
- c) permit the authorised person to take copies of, or extracts from, the records
- d) keep the records:
 - at specified premises
 - for a specified period.

S43. The records that the holder of the permit must keep and maintain include, without limitation, details of procedures and protocols adopted and implemented by the holder of permit in relation to:

- a) cleaning and disinfecting enclosures, food preparation and storage areas and animal husbandry equipment
- b) pest management
- c) emergencies.

Guidelines:

Keepers should hold back-up copies of all electronic records.



For more information

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