

# The welfare, behaviour, and exercising dogs Cluster

ACMGEN303 - Assess the welfare status of an animal

ACMBEH301 - Identify behaviours and interact safely with animals

ACMGEN308 - Walk and exercise dogs

## Session #3

All referencing for copyright purposes is located within the Notes section of this resource.

This resources covers the following performance criteria:

ACMGEN303: 1.3,

ACMBEH301: None

ACMGEN308: 1.1, 1.3

# Compliance



# Animal welfare legislation

Has existed in Australia for almost two centuries

Has played a crucial role in preventing acts of cruelty and educating the community about appropriate standards of animal care

Australian animal welfare legislation is primarily governed at a state and territory level, although the federal government has responsibility for animal welfare standards in international trade, including live animal exports, export abattoirs, and the international wildlife trade.

Traditionally, animal welfare legislation was reactive in nature and focused simply on prohibiting acts of cruelty.

Over time the legislation has expanded its remit to encompass the broader objective of promoting improved standards of welfare in all areas of animal use and interaction.

# Improvements:

- This expansion is reflected through the imposition of positive duties on animal owners to provide for the welfare of animals under their care, custody or control as well as in the formulation of national Standards and Codes of Practice for different animal use industries and sectors.
- In most states and territories this expansion is also reflected in changes to the title of the legislation, from the 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act' to the 'Animal Welfare Act' or 'Animal Care and Protection Act'.
  - Victoria is behind in this – we refer to POCTA, but [a new and improved Act is on the way!](#) 😊

# Yay!

- In 2017 the Domestic Animals Act was amended by the Victorian Government with new provisions around the breeding and selling of domestic animals.
- Outcome:
  - increases powers for statutory authorities and police that are investigating animal cruelty and welfare cases
  - Plus.....

# TIMELINE FOR CHANGES TO THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT (1994)

15 Dec 2017

the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 passes parliament and shortly after becomes law, amending the Domestic Animal Act.

10 April 2018

the changes the Puppy Farm Bill makes come into effect.

1 July 2018

Pet shops will no longer be able to sell puppies and kittens sourced from breeders. They may sell puppies and kittens that come from foster/shelters/pounds.

1 July 2019

all advertisements for dogs and cats must include the animal's microchip number and the unique source number generated by the Pet Exchange Register.

10 April 2020

Existing dog breeding businesses must have reduced their fertile female dog numbers to 50 or less by not replacing retiring dogs.

# Legislation

- Dog owners in Victoria must comply with:
  - The Domestic Animals Act 1994
  - The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
  - The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019
  - The Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs
- Shelters must follow these plus:
  - [Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds](#) (help guide: [Requirements for shelters and pounds](#) | [Shelters and pounds](#) | [Domestic animal businesses](#) | [Animal Welfare Victoria](#) | [Livestock and animals](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#))
  - must [register as a Domestic Animal Business](#) with the local council in the municipality that they reside.
- Kennels must follow these plus:
  - [Code of Practice for the Operation of Boarding Establishments](#) | [Codes of Practice](#) | [Domestic Animals Act](#) | [Animal Welfare Victoria](#) | [Livestock and animals](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)
  - Must [register as a Domestic Animal Business](#) with the local council in the municipality that they reside.

# Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

- Animal attendants:
  - must be trained and experienced to properly manage the type of animals kept at the establishment
  - minimum equivalent of one full- time animal attendant must be employed for every 50 animals housed at the establishment
  - must report signs of animal ill health to their manager immediately

# Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

- Staff health must be protected by being provided with or have access to:
  - personal protective clothing
  - hot and cold hand washing facilities with disinfectant soap at the establishment
  - adequate information and training on health, hygiene and safety at the induction session
  - tetanus immunisation.

# Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

- Handling of animals:
  - Staff handling animals must be able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour to undertake the appropriate handling techniques for the animals impounded at the establishment. Handling methods must be as humane as possible with minimum risk to the animals, staff and members of the public. The behaviour of the species and individual animal concerned must be taken into account when deciding on the methods used to handle the animal.

# Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

- Exercise areas must be securely fenced and designed to prevent the escape of the animal and a person must directly supervise animals when more than one animal is placed in the area, to ensure the animals are not in danger of attack or other injury.
- The type of exercise and socialisation could vary depending on the animal, the type of containment required for the animal and the period of confinement, as suggested in Table 2.

**Table 2. Minimum pen sizes for dogs or up to four puppies**

Height of dog or puppies at shoulders (centimetres)	Minimum Area (square metres)	Minimum Width (centimetres)	Minimum Height (centimetres)	Increased floor area for each additional dog (square metres)
above 70	3.5	120	180	1.7
40 to 70	2.4	100	180	1.2
below 40	1.5	90	180	1.0

# Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)

- Each local government council or shire will have its own, which cover issues such as:
  - Numbers of dogs permitted in different land zones in that council area
  - The requirements, processes and costs for excess animal permits
  - Regulations around animal waste and its disposal
  - Regulations around animal nuisance (barking, wandering, acts of aggression)
  - Define areas in that are on-leash, off-leash and dog-free and times dogs may be in dog areas
- We refer to Whitehorse Council in this cluster
  - [Dogs | Whitehorse City Council](#)

And, if you weren't working for a DAB (Domestic Animal Business), but were your own dog-walking company:

- Insurance
  - What kind do you need?

# Workplace procedures

- While not law, they are mandatory to follow when employed...
  - [Escaped animal incident procedure](#)
  - [Unexpected animal behaviour change incident procedure](#)
  - Hygiene procedure
    - Washing hands between each animal
    - Picking up faeces immediately and disposing correctly
  - PPE procedure
    - Must wear \_\_\_\_\_ to handle animals
  - Even animal handling/welfare rules and requirements that we will go into in future sessions.

# Read:

- [Dog Off-lead Areas | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Dog Off-lead Areas | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Order No 7 Section 26\\_2 of Section 10A\(1\) of the Domestic Animals Act - Dog Off Lead \\_0.pdf \(whitehorse.vic.gov.au\)](#)
- [Dog Restricted Areas | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Dog Poo Disposal | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Domestic Animal Businesses | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Registering Your Pet | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Domestic Animal Management Plan | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [City of Whitehorse Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021.pdf](#)
- [Pet Ownership In Whitehorse | Whitehorse City Council](#)
- [Animal Laws and Regulations | Whitehorse City Council](#)

# Test yourself:

- [Welfare, behaviour, and exercising dogs Cluster: Online Activity: Whitehorse canine animal management regulations for dogs in the community Quiz \(bhtafe.edu.au\)](#)
- [Responsible Dog Ownership Course - Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions \(dpi.vic.gov.au\)](#)