

Dog and cat breeding reforms

Frequently asked questions for breeders



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board

September 2023

In November 2022 the Dog and Cat Management Board (Board) advised there would be new rules and processes to meet the government's commitment to ban puppy factories and introduce stricter standards for breeding. Breeder registration will continue to be managed on Dogs and Cats Online, however, breeders must now provide further information via a separate breeder application as required by the Board.

What are the new requirements for breeders?

The additional requirements include but are not limited to; a limit of 50 breeding females per site and per breeding operation, declaring any animal welfare offences, stating the number of animals owned as part of the breeding program, completion of an education module, and in some circumstances providing management plans relating to breeding operations.

When do the new breeding requirements come into effect?

The new dog and cat breeding requirements commenced 1 July 2023. The Dog and Cat Management Board is now contacting breeders to help them transition to the new requirements. Breeders should continue as normal until contacted by the Board.

How long is the transition period?

Breeders will be transitioned to the new requirements in staggered stages, commencing with breeders with the highest number of fertile female dogs. A new 'breeder application' portal managed by the Board will accept breeder registration applications until the process is able to be moved over to Dogs and Cats Online.

What are the current requirements for dog and cat breeding?

Dog and cat breeding requirements are published on the Dog and Cat Management Board's website.

How does a resident register to be a dog and/or cat breeder?

Residents continue to register as usual on Dogs and Cats Online until further notice.

What is the difference between 'breeder registration' and 'breeder application'?

Breeder applications refer to the additional documents and information submitted to the Dog and Cat Management Board. Breeder registration refers to the actual registration of a breeder on Dogs and Cats Online where the breeder is issued with a Breeder Registration Number, a legal requirement of advertising.

During the transition period, breeder registrations will remain on Dogs and Cats Online, and applications will be obtained via direct contact with breeders.

What information will breeders need to provide?

The additional requirements include but are not limited to; declaring any animal welfare offences, stating the number of animals owned as part of the breeding program, completing an education module; and in some circumstances, providing management plans for their breeding operations.

What does the limit of 50 fertile females actually mean?

The limit has been introduced as part of the State Government's commitment to stop puppy farms. This limits the number of fertile females to 50 for any breeder or breeding operation in South Australia. Any breeder affected by this limit will be contacted by the Board.

What will be in the education program?

The education program focuses on the requirements in the *Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading of Companion Animals*.

Will these requirements apply to breeders with a business registration?

The breeding requirements apply to all registered breeders. Business registration applies to dog registration, not breeder registrations. Breeder registration requirements will be managed by the Board. However, councils will be consulted where appropriate to ensure any business or planning requirements, or any other requirements set out by councils have been complied with.

How will shelter or rescue organisations be affected?

Shelters who accept pregnant animals and do not allow animals to breed in their care are required to register annually on Dogs and Cat Online as a breeder and pay the required fee.

Have breeders been consulted?

In November 2022 the Board advised registered breeders of the proposed changes and asked for their feedback via a survey. Over 500 responses were received and considered when implementing the new breeder registration requirements. The feedback also helped shape the transition process to help breeders meet the new requirements.

What are the next steps?

The Board will continue to keep breeders informed as the requirements come into effect. Information is also published on the Board's website dogandcatboard.com.au

For further queries or to ensure you receive updates please email dcmb@sa.gov.au



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