



STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

FOR BEST PRACTICE

BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Revision 1

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication are the Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice (SGBP) defined by the Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA). Users are reminded that compliance with these Standards & Guidelines is a requirement of Membership of the PIAA.

New versions of these Standards & Guidelines may be issued from time to time. It is the responsibility of users to ensure the version of the Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice on which they rely is current by checking it is the latest version available on the PIAA website.

Compliance

Compliance of the Association's National Code, Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of all local, state and commonwealth legislation and codes of practice including the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts and any other laws such as Local Government Acts and National Parks and Wildlife Acts in all States and Territories.

Preface

The Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA) Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice – Breeding Establishments outline the principles that every Association member involved in the breeding of dogs and cats must use to protect the welfare of the animals in their care, By adhering to the Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice people involved in this industry are demonstrating to the general community their concern for the welfare of the animals in their care.

When humans manipulate or limit an animal's choices in relation to its physical or social environment, the welfare of that animal must be considered. Humans have a duty of care towards these animals and the greater the level of control of an animal or intervention with its environment the greater the responsibilities become.

Animal welfare can be thought of as the way an animal's health, safety and wellbeing are affected by its physical and social environment. Health and behaviour indicators provide information about how an animal is responding to a situation, thus enabling us to make informed decisions relating to the animal's welfare.

Introduction

The purpose of these Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice is to specify the minimum standards that are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in PIAA member businesses operating as breeding or rearing domestic animal businesses.

The PIAA Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice set the standard for the care and management of all dogs and cats in breeding establishments. Compliance with the Standards will ensure the care, management and welfare is of the highest calibre.

All local, state, territory and commonwealth legislation and codes of practice must be complied with by breeding establishments in the respective state of territory.

Species include:

Dogs (includes puppies)

Cats (includes kittens)

Standards

Standards describe specific actions needed to achieve acceptable animal welfare levels and are the minimum standards that must be met by all Association members. Standards are identified in the text by the heading 'Standards' and use the word must.

Individual facilities may exceed these minimum standards and are encouraged to do so, either directly or in accordance with the Association's Accreditation Scheme.

Failure by a member to meet a standard will jeopardise their membership of the Association.

Persons and breeding establishments who sell animals will be expected to conduct themselves in accordance with these Standards & Guidelines for Best Practice demonstrating their commitment and concern for the welfare of animals in their care.

Under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* legislated in most states and territories, the Person in Charge of an Animal or Facility, who may also be the owner, is responsible for meeting the legal obligations regarding an animal's welfare. Where the Person in Charge places an animal in the care of others (e.g. a pet store's manager or a member of staff), those persons also become legally responsible for the care of the animal.

Guidelines for Best Practice (Guidelines)

Best practice describes higher level systems and processes agreed on at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience in standards of animal welfare. They also reflect a considered estimate of what is thought to be society's values and expectations regarding the care of animals. They are identified by the heading 'Guidelines for Best Practice

Definitions

Animal means a dog, puppy, cat or kitten.

Animal Health Management Plan means a plan for nutrition, health and well-being of all animals in the facility/establishment prepared by the person in charge and the veterinary practitioner.

Bitch means a female animal of the species *Canis familiaris*.

Breeding means the business of breeding litters of animals for sale.

Cat means any animal identified as *Felis catus*.

Cat housing includes a cattery, cage, module, colony pen or other enclosure used to contain cats within a facility.

Disinfectant means a chemical used on an inanimate surface to destroy micro-organisms likely to cause infection in cats and dogs.

Dog means any animal identified as *Canis familiaris*

Dog housing includes a kennel, cage, module, colony pen or other enclosure used to contain dogs with a facility.

Domestic animal business means an enterprise which carries out the breeding of dogs or cats to sell

Enclosure/pen means a fully secure area preventing escape of animals from within and entrance of animals from outside the area.

Enrichment/environmental enrichment includes practices that provide situations or activities for animals that are appropriate to meet their physical and psychological needs.

Establishment/facility means any place, premises or thing used for the accommodation or shelter of animals for the purpose of breeding or rearing dogs or cats, or where puppies or kittens are housed as a result of breeding and includes a vehicle used for the transportation of animals.

Euthanasia means the animal is rendered immediately unconscious and does not regain consciousness prior to death. Euthanasia is only to be undertaken by a registered veterinarian or authorised euthanasia technician.

Euthanasia Technician means a person who has acquired through training, qualifications, experience and competency in humanely destroying dogs and cats.

Exercise includes practices/activities requiring physical activity and movement by animals appropriate to meet their physical needs.

Exercise area includes an area separate to the animal housing area which a business uses for the purposes of exercise as defined above. The only exception is where a dog's normal holding yard exceeds 10 times the minimum PIAA enclosure/pen size.

Experience means the qualifications, knowledge and training required to care for dogs and cats in a breeding establishment.

First aid means the immediate care and treatment provided to an animal with an injury or illness: not including veterinary care.

Full-time staff member means staff members working 8 hours of work, whether as one staff member working 8 hours continuously or multiple staff members working split shifts to the equivalent of 8 hours.

General Health Check means physical examination to assess the health of an animal including assessments for:

- Medical conditions
- Infectious and zoonotic diseases
- Parasites
- Dental, eye and ear issues
- Genetic, breed and age considerations
- Body condition score

Guarantee/Return Policy means the establishment's written agreement given to the new owner at point of sale. The agreement outlines the terms and conditions that apply should the new owner wish to return an animal to the establishment for any reason.

Guardian dogs means dogs predominantly used for guarding livestock.

Handling activities including grooming, soft patting/stroking. Picking the animal up, turning the animal over and doing a health examination by physically examining each animal's paws, ears and teeth, providing exercise, enrichment and human socialisation.

Heritable defect means a physical deformity, disease or disorder that is passed on from one generation to the next.

Hide means a small enclosed area where a cat can remove itself to 'hide' from other animals.

Impervious means materials or sealed materials that prevent water, urine or any other liquids penetrating the material or being absorbed and held by the material.

Independent veterinary practitioner means a veterinary practitioner not related by blood, marriage or de facto relationship to the proprietor (or family members of the proprietor) of the business and has no commercial interest in the business.

Isolation housing means housing kept in a separate area to general animal housing and exercise areas. It is used specifically for animals suspected of having or diagnosed with an infectious disease.

Kennel means a series of pens/enclosures designed to house multiple dogs or puppies.

Kitten means a cat aged less than 16 weeks of age.

Large business means a domestic animal business that consists of 6 or more adult fertile dogs or cats.

Litter means all offspring born dead or alive from a single whelping or queening.

Mating means the physical act of copulation between a male and a female animal.

Mating period means the period of time when the series of mating events occur to achieve a pregnancy.

Microchip means a subcutaneous full duplex electronic radio transponder that complies with the relevant ISO standard.

Module cage/condominium means an enclosure designed to hold up to 2 cats and containing at least 2 levels.

Monitoring includes the observation and assessment of animals on a regular basis including during routine management activities.

Oestrus means the period a female cat is 'sexually receptive'.

Operating procedures means procedures for the management and operation of a facility/establishment for the accommodation and shelter of animals held in that breeding facility/establishment.

Operations manager means a person responsible for the day to day operation of a business. This may or may not be the owner of the establishment.

Owner means:

- The owner of the animal (in the sense of being the owner of the animal as personal property)
- The person by whom the animal is ordinarily kept
- The registered owner of the animal

A reference to the owner in these Standards and Guidelines is a reference to each and all owners of the animal.

Parvovirus means a virus which causes intestinal inflammation in infected dogs, for which symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, high fever and dehydration.

Pen see definition for enclosure above.

Person in charge of an animal means the person who has an animal or animals in their possession or custody or under their care, control or supervision and who is responsible for meeting the welfare needs of the animal or animals. This may include the owner of an animal, a family member or friend of the owner or in a facility/establishment may be the the manager or staff or volunteers.

Proprietor means a person who legally registers the business and/or is the owner of the animals.

Puppy means a dog less than 16 weeks of age.

Re-home means the process of providing an animal with a new owner and a new place to live.

Qualifications means formal qualification provided by a registered training organisation including the management, welfare, handling and care of animals in the breeding facility/establishment.

Queen means an unspayed female cat.

Queening means the act of giving birth by a feline.

Sell/sale means the transfer of ownership of an animal or animals, including causing, permitting or suffering an animal to be sold by auction, barter, exchange or other supply and also included the attempt to sell or offer to sell expose, supply, possess or receive animals.

Significant infectious disease means a disease caused by a transmissible agent that is likely to cause illness or death in susceptible animals that become infected. Common examples include; canine cough, feline respiratory disease, parvovirus, feline enteritis, canine infectious hepatitis, heartworm and distemper.

Small business means a domestic animal business that consists of 5 or less adult fertile dogs or cats.

Socialisation means interaction between an individual animal and other animals and humans with the intention of making the individual animal fit for a life in companionship with others.

Staff means the person in charge, manager employees and volunteers that work in the facility/establishment, whether working full or part-time and whether or not working for fee or reward. This may include the proprietor/owner.

Veterinary practitioner means a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Practice Act*.

Volunteer see under Staff.

Whelping means the birthing of carnivorous animals, most commonly puppies.

Weaned means a puppy or kitten that no longer receives a milk diet provided by their mother or an artificial source.

Washable means an impervious surface that is capable of being cleaned.

Weatherproof means protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures to safeguard the welfare of the animals housed in the facility/establishment.

Working dogs means dogs predominantly used for working livestock.

Zoonoses means diseases of animals that are transferable to humans.

Staff – Roles, Responsibilities and Competency

Standards

All people who care for and manage breeding dogs and cats should be competent and aware of their responsibilities. The person in charge should be aware of their extra responsibilities and that all people employed by the facility/establishment to care for the animals must comply with all local, state and commonwealth legislation, regulations and codes of practice in their state or territory. In the absence of legislation or a code of practice, member breeding establishments must comply with these Standards and Guidelines for Best Practice.

Person in Charge

- The person in charge (which may be the proprietor/owner) of the facility/establishment is responsible for complying with all enforceable provisions above.
- The person in charge is responsible for animal attendants, volunteers, vehicle drivers and all other staff working in the facility/establishment on a day to day basis.
- The person in charge is responsible for the recruitment/termination of the above staff
- The person in charge is responsible for staff rostering and staff ratios.
- The person in charge must be knowledgeable and competent to provide for:
 - The health, care and welfare of dogs and cats, including monitoring the physical and psychological health of the animals in care.
 - Reporting matters of compliance and disease outbreaks to the owner/proprietor.
 - The protection of these animals from distress or injury caused by other animals or interference by humans.
 - Daily inspection of all animals in the facility/establishment.
 - Supervision of daily feeding and watering of animals.
 - Supervision of enrichment and socialisation programs for animals in care.
 - The identification and monitoring of pregnant animals and their movement to whelping/lactating accommodation.
 - Cleaning and proper hygiene in the facility/establishment including the disposal of waste materials.
 - Provision of prompt first aid for animals when required.
 - Veterinary care by a registered veterinary practitioner. This must include a signed agreement with the veterinary practitioner to attend to animals in the facility/enclosure as and when required.
 - Ensuring the health protection of all staff and volunteers working in the facility/establishment.
 - Supervision and training of staff and volunteers.
 - Development of an emergency evacuation plan and staff training practice drills.
 - Development and execution of all operational policies and procedures.
 - Ensuring the compliance of all State Work Health and Safety regulations.
 - Ensuring the maintenance and retention of animal records, stock control, statistics, and animal euthanasia reports.
 - Managing removal of animals from the rearing operation that have been deemed not fit for breeding purposes.
 - Enacting retirement plans for retiring or retired breeding animals.
 - Promoting and supporting relevant formal and informal training for staff.
 - Identifying the common signs of common diseases of the species kept.
 - Meeting all requirements for the sale of animals.

Animal Attendants

- Animal attendants including volunteers who work at the facility/establishment must be trained, experienced and competent to properly manage the type of animals kept by the facility/establishment.
- Trainees or volunteers must work under the care and supervision of the person in charge or a suitably qualified and competent animal attendant.
- Animal attendants are responsible to the person in charge and must report to the person in charge on the following duties:
 - Daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals.
 - Daily cleaning and disinfection of pens/enclosures, housing, equipment and cleaning exercise areas.
 - Administering medication as instructed by a veterinary practitioner.
 - Exercise, socialisation and environmental enrichment for each animal including handling.
 - Report any animal showing signs of infectious disease immediately. Isolate the animal, disinfecting their housing, bedding material, feeding and drinking utensils.
 - Ensure that care is taken so as not to spread infection from one pen/enclosure to another on their hands, clothing or footwear.
 - Reporting of evidence that whelping or kitting has commenced.
 - Reporting of any animals who are found to be deceased.

The animal attendant must immediately report to the person in charge regarding any animals showing signs of pregnancy, whelping, queening or oestrus and any of the following symptoms:

- Injury or illness
- Serious physical or behavioural behaviour
- Any change in the animal's normal behaviour which is indicative of a problem with the animal's health and welfare
- Apparent pain, bleeding or swelling of body parts or bloating of the abdomen
- Ear discomfort, inflammation or discharge
- Difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate
- Fits
- Staggering, lameness or inability to stand or walk
- Lack of appetite
- Patchy hair loss or change in the appearance of the coat
- Scratching of coat or ears
- Weight loss
- Mastitis
- Observation of parasites
- Swollen or inflamed third eyelid
- Any other signs showing the health or welfare of the animal is compromised
- Signs of infectious diseases:
 - Coughing
 - Diarrhoea (especially if blood stained)
 - Red or brown coloured urine
 - Repeated sneezing
 - Runny nose
 - Runny or inflamed eyes
 - Vomiting

Staff Ratio

Staffing ratio during business hours assumes that staff may be required to work in shifts to maintain feeding and cleaning throughout the day. Shifts do not need to be a minimum of 8 hours however the facility/establishment must have the minimum staff ratio for a period of 8 hours.

- The minimum of one full-time staff member (includes any staff member including the proprietor, owner person in charge and animal attendant) must be onsite at the facility/establishment for every 25 fertile animals (or equivalent) housed in the facility/establishment during business hours.
- The staff ratio must be maintained 7 days per week.
- A single fertile animal equivalent is an animal over the age of 16 weeks of age or a litter and its mother while the litter remains housed with the mother or a litter no longer residing with its mother but under the age of 16 weeks of age.

Example: 14 females, 3 males, 6 litters residing with their mothers and 2 litters without their mothers is equivalent to 25 fertile animals and requires one fulltime staff member during business hours.

- A minimum of one staff member, as listed above, must be onsite at the facility/establishment for every 100 fertile animals (or equivalent) housed in the business overnight.

Example: 80 females, 5 males, 10 litters with their mothers and 5 litters without their mothers is equivalent to 100 fertile adults and requires one full-time staff member overnight.

- Overnight staff must be available to care for whelping/queening animals and sick or injured animals and undertake emergency activities and first aid.
- Overnight staff may need to support and undertake emergency activities should the need arise.
- All socialisation, handling, feeding, cleaning and general care activities are undertaken within normal opening hours and are not the responsibility of the overnight staff.
- In addition sufficient staff, as listed above, must be 'on call' to attend to animals in the facility/establishment in the case of an emergency. On call overnight staff must be able to travel to the facility/establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted.

The staff ratio for facilities/establishments must be as follows:

- With up to 10 fertile animals (or equivalent) – no fulltime staff members.
- With 11 and up to 25 fertile animals (or equivalent) – 1 fulltime staff member.
- With 25 and over fertile animals (or equivalent) – 1 fulltime staff member for every 25 fertile or part thereof animals (or equivalent).

Females showing signs of labour must be monitored.

Guidelines

Staff employed to care for the animals in the facility/establishment should have formal qualifications and experience in the care and management of the animals in their care. Staff should be given the opportunity to re-train and upskill on a regular basis. Training should include:

- The current animal behaviour and social needs of the animal.

- Handling animals on receipt and release of dogs and cats into and out of the facility/establishment including transportation and capture.
- Animal husbandry techniques.
- The identification of common diseases in dogs and cats, signs of ill health, stress etc. which prompts the requirement of veterinary attention.
- Procedures required for management and care of sick and injured dogs and cats.
- Special requirements for young or old dogs and cats.
- Control of parasites and prevention solutions.
- Record keeping
- Having read and understood the facilities/establishment policies and procedures and the emergency evacuation plan.
- Zoonotic diseases – transfer animal to human, hygiene, prevention and medication.

Veterinary Care

Standards

A written agreement between the proprietor/owner of the facility/establishment and a registered veterinary practitioner who has experience in small animal health and management must be established and include arrangements for:

- The use of the veterinary practitioner's facilities for the treatment of animals from the facility/establishment.
- Appropriate veterinary treatment to be provided for sick or injured dogs and cats.
- Veterinary advice to be given in the event of unexplained disease, illness or deaths of animals.
- The provision of regular health checks for all animals in the facility/establishment.
- Provision of vaccination certificates for puppies and kittens being sold signed by the veterinary practitioner.
- Contact details of the veterinary practitioner must be posted in a prominent position which is accessible to all staff and volunteers.
- Where the veterinary practitioner is also the proprietor/owner of the business, facility/establishment, the facility/establishment must undergo an annual inspection by an independent small animal veterinary practitioner.
- The annual inspection must review the health management plan for the facility/establishment and the vaccination and health status of all animals in care.

The person in charge must ensure that:

- A health management plan for the facility/establishment is prepared in consultation with the veterinary practitioner.
- Isolation housing is provided for all animals suspected of having infectious or unidentified illnesses under supervision of the veterinary practitioner.
- Permission in writing must be obtained from a dog or cat's owner or nominee (if leased) at the time of accepting the animal for breeding, authorising the provision of necessary veterinary treatment.
- Dogs must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and canine cough in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- Cats must be vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- Puppies and kittens must be vaccinated against common infectious diseases in accordance with best practice clinical guidelines in consultation with a veterinary practitioner.
- Dogs and cats known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease must not be used for breeding or be accepted for breeding under lease, unless under written approval from a veterinary practitioner.
- A program for prevention of heartworm must be in place on advice from a veterinary practitioner.
- Internal and external parasites must be controlled through routines and preventative treatment.
- Euthanasia of animals must be undertaken by a veterinary practitioner or a person qualified as a euthanasia technician.

Guidelines

- It is recommended that a program for maintaining a feline leukaemia and feline AIDS free population is recommended with assistance and guidance of a veterinary practitioner with a requirement for a current negative test prior to breeding. This applies to all permanent resident cats, new additions to the facility and visiting cats.

Humane Euthanasia

Standards

- Where treatment to restore the physical and mental health of a dog or cat while in the facility/establishment is impractical or unsuccessful and where it is recommended by a veterinary practitioner, an animal must be euthanased.
- Euthanasia of dogs and cats must only be performed by a veterinary practitioner or a person who is a qualified euthanasia technician.
- Euthanasia must be performed by the intravenous administration of an overdose of barbiturate unless there are compelling reasons to use other methods to destroy a dog or cat in emergency situations.
- In emergency situations facility/establishments may carry out euthanasia under the direction of a veterinary practitioner only.
- Puppies and kittens 8 weeks of age and under requiring euthanasia must be euthanased by intraperitoneal injection of barbiturate by a veterinary practitioner.
- Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separated from animal accommodation and must not be carried out in view of any other animals or staff.

Guidelines

- Every effort should be made to re-home healthy and behaviourally sound dogs and cats.

Breeding Facility/Establishment Operation

Work, Health & Safety

Standards

The facility/establishment must undertake all reasonable measures to ensure staff health and safety, and manage all relevant workplace risks, including the risk of contracting zoonotic disease by those in direct contact with animals. Any injured or ill staff members must seek appropriate medical attention.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, each facility/establishment must have the following processes and procedures in place to comply with relevant state and territory legislation:

Health and Safety Documentation

- **Work / Occupational Health and Safety (WHS) Policy**
- **WHS Program, outlining implementation of the policy**
- **Safe Work Method Statements / Job Safety Analysis templates**
- **Injury and Incident Management and Registers**
- **Hazardous Substance Management and Registers**
- **Risk Assessment and Risk Control templates**
- **Training Registers and Toolbox Talk templates**
- **Safety Inspection Checklist Template**
- **Fire Safety, Evacuation and Emergency Procedures**
- **Other relevant documentation according to your state or territory**

Depending on staffing levels, there must be the appropriate number of properly trained staff members to meet particular state and territory requirements for first aid, fire and emergency situations. Please refer to state and territory regulatory bodies to determine appropriate levels.

Staff Health

Standards

Potential health risks for humans exist when working with animals. Animals can harbour disease causing organisms which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses). To protect staff health a list of common zoonotic diseases and hydatids associated with animals must be prominently displayed throughout the facility/establishment and staff must be educated in the prevention of zoonoses.

All staff, especially women of childbearing age, working with cats, must be made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.

Staff health must be protected by the provision of, or access to:

- Induction upon commencing work in the facility/establishment.
- Adequate hot and cold hand washing facilities available.
- Hand disinfectant placed at various locations around the facility/establishment.
- Staff should be immunised against tetanus.
- Provision of personal protective equipment e.g. disposable gloves.

Guidelines

- Adequate ongoing training should be provided to ensure optimal animal and staff health and welfare. This includes induction training and ongoing staff and proprietor training.

- Adequate systems and processes, written procedures and record keeping should be in place to demonstrate the above without ambiguity.

Animal Health Management Plan

Every business must have a health management plan which is reviewed annually. Health management plans must be formulated in consultation with a veterinary practitioner. Plans must be signed by a veterinary practitioner on an annual basis and whenever veterinary practitioners change, whichever is more frequent.

The health management plan must include protocols for:

- Assessment for admission of new breeding animals to the business
- Protocols for quarantine and movement of animals, including new animals introduced to the business
- Provision of appropriate diet for all animals at the business
- Hygiene, disinfection and disease prevention
- Vaccination programs
- External parasite prevention and treatment programs including screening for ear mites, dermatophytes, ticks, and ringworm
- Internal parasite prevention and treatment programs
- Investigation and treatment of animals showing signs of chlamydia
- A procedure for the investigation and management of FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis). Businesses with repeated cases of diarrhoea leading to the suspicion of FIP must undertake investigation by means of autopsy of cats that die or are euthanased due to their symptoms. Cats showing clinical symptoms must be provided with palliative care prior to humane euthanasia. A management and breeding plan should be developed where businesses have confirmed multiple cases
- Response to a general outbreak of disease
- Grooming requirements
- Approved methods of euthanasia for emergency situations
- birthing protocols
- Management of isolation facilities (where isolation facilities are constructed at the business)
- exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation programs
- Assessment programs for the health and welfare of animals being reared for sale or as replacement breeding animals
- Health assessment for puppies and kittens for sale
- Behavioural and welfare assessment of animals on a daily basis
- Processes for determining the suitability of breeding animals to continue breeding within the business
- Processes for long term management, desexing and/or assessing suitability for rehoming or euthanasia of retired breeding animals
- Risk assessments of housing and exercise areas and risk management plan/s
- Pest management protocols
- Development and display of emergency response plans for both humans and animals including evacuation procedures at the business.

Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection

Standards

- A facility/establishment must be clean and hygienic at all times.
- A hygiene management plan must be established in consultation with a veterinary practitioner and included in the facility's/establishment's health management plan.
- Areas housing animals with a facility/establishment must be cleaned at least once daily.
- Animal enclosures must be disinfected at least once weekly, noting that **some disinfectants are dangerous and toxic to dogs and cats.* See note.**
- Animal pens/enclosures must be cleaned and disinfected before new animals are introduced or before whelping.
- Bedding must be cleaned or changed at least once daily and disinfected at least once a week.
- Exercise areas must be cleaned daily or before new dogs and puppies are introduced to the area.
- Food preparation and storage areas, food and water containers, utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food, must be maintained to a hygienic standard.
- All uneaten food must be removed as soon as possible after feeding with the exception of cats and kittens who must have dried food available throughout the day for grazing.
- Faeces and waste materials must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate authority. Faeces must not be disposed of in sewer or septic systems.
- Disposable bedding, food containers and general waste from the facility/establishment must be placed in a waste disposal device.
- Wastes must not be incinerated unless the incinerator is registered with the appropriate authority.
- Collection drains must be cleaned daily.
- Litter trays must be checked, scooped and replenished daily.
- Litter trays must be changed, washed and disinfected at least once every three (3) days.
- Litter trays that are saturated with urine must be changed immediately.
- Toys used in socialisation and environmental enrichment must be washed in hot soapy water and disinfected after each use.
- MSDS sheets for all chemical and industrial products used in the facility/establishment must be prominently displayed throughout the facility/establishment including feeding and storage areas.

Guidelines

- All dead animal waste products such as faeces, bedding and food waste should be disposed of promptly and hygienically and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- Use of a trade waste service should be used for collection and disposal of wastes.
- Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted in order to protect the health and safety of the staff and the animals kept.

Notes

Some disinfectants are toxic to some species, e.g. some common disinfectants containing coal and wood products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxynols are toxic to cats. Tea tree oil is toxic to both dogs and cats. Staff must be familiar with

these matters and avoid the use of inappropriate products. Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth) and only used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Record Keeping

Standards

All business and animal records must be kept for a minimum of 5 years with at least the previous 12 months' records (or the Statute of Limitations under the Prevention of Cruelty Animals legislation in the relevant state or territory or other local, state or commonwealth laws) kept on site). The person in charge of the facility/establishment must be able to produce these records within 24 hours.

Business Records

Must include the following:

- Domestic animal business registration.
- Registration certificate for each animal over 12 weeks of age if required by local or state legislation.
- Human resources records for each individual working the facility/establishment and must include name, address, contact number, emergency contact details, qualifications, position descriptions, training, vaccination status and any specific health issues e.g. diabetic.
- Staff shifts and rosters.
- A copy of the emergency evacuation plan including site maps.
- The health management plan.
- Copy of the agreement between the facility/establishment and a veterinary practitioner and contact details.
- All company contracts, insurance policies, registrations.
- The facility/establishment parasite management plan and inspection reports.
- Records relating to the purchase or acquisition of animals into the business with details of the previous owners, microchip details, transfer of ownership papers, health records and vaccination status at the time of entry into the facility/establishment.
- Records relating to the sale of animals to and from the business.
- A complete copy of the health guarantee statement given to new owners.
- Literature to accompany animals sold from the facility/establishment giving advice to new owners on the care and management of their new animal.
- A copy of all standard operating procedures and company policies.
- Animal inventories and stock control documents and reports including deceased and euthanased animals.

Animal Records

Animals under 12 weeks of age:

- Animal records must be established at birth for each individual animal and maintained until the animal changes hands or the animal is deceased and must include the following:
 - Name or other identification
 - Microchip number (when implanted)
 - Sex
 - Breed

- Birth date or date the animal was purchased from another breeder or private person.
 - If no birth date known an approximate age is required based on a veterinary practitioner's advice.
 - Colour and distinguishing features.
 - A complete health and veterinary history including vaccination records, internal and external parasite control and heartworm records for dogs.
- Disposal records of deceased animals including date reason for death and copies of supporting documentation where applicable

Animals over 12 weeks of age:

- For each animal 12 weeks of age and over held in the facility/establishment the following records must include:
 - Council registration certificate.
 - Name.
 - Microchip number.
 - Sex (including whether de-sexed).
 - Breed.
 - Birth date or when unknown an approximate age based on advice from a veterinary practitioner.
 - Distinguishing features, colour.
 - Home pen/enclosure location at the facility/establishment (number and details).
 - Dam breed and sire breed, birth dates and microchip details for both including details of any previous owner if applicable.
 - Animal acquisition date and details of previous owner.
 - For leased dogs and cats the name and contact telephone of the veterinary practitioner who normally attends the animals.
 - A complete health care and veterinary history and routine husbandry including vaccination records, internal and external parasite control, heartworm records (dogs only).

Breeding Status:

- Complete breeding history for each fertile female, including dates of mating and birthing, number of offspring born for each litter, weeks gestation at birth, number of offspring born alive, number of offspring born dead, any birth complications and a record of treatment administered. Number of offspring alive at 8 weeks of age, microchip number for all offspring at 8 weeks of age and any veterinary treatment provided post birthing and /or during lactation.
- Complete breeding history for each entire fertile male including dates of mating and identification of female mated with.
- Disposal records including date and mode of disposal and the name and address of new owners.
- Return records including date of return and copies of supporting documentation if applicable.

Individual Animal Identification

- The name, description, breed, sex and microchip number of each animal in a pen/enclosure/cage must be displayed clearly on each pen/enclosure/cage in the form of an identification card.

- Each identification card must indicate whether the animals are receiving additional care and the type of care and for females, the number, birthdate, sex and details of offspring.

Guidelines

- The use of stock books, enclosure labels and cards, daily cleaning/feeding/watering health observation record sheets is encouraged.
- Procedural documents should be periodically reviewed and approved by the person in charge. The period from the last review and approval of procedures should not exceed two (2) years.
- Records kept should have space for notes or observations regarding the individual animal and made during the animal's time at the facility/establishment, including any significant alteration in the animal's condition or behaviour since arrival at the facility/establishment.

Transport of Animals

Standards

- Where more than one animal is to be transported, vehicles used for the transport of animals must have provision for non-compatible animals.
- Non-compatible animals must be physically separated and restrained or individually enclosed by compartment or cage.
- The design of the compartment/cage must be both escape-proof and prevent the protrusion of head and/or limbs of any animal carried.
- Constructed of impervious materials and a design that allows for effective cleaning and disinfection.
- Weatherproof and adequately ventilated when the vehicle is both in motion and stationary.
- The animal area must maintain a temperature range between 10 and 32 degrees at all times.
- Cats must be individually caged with the exception of queens with kittens who may be caged together where the cage is sufficiently large enough for all the cats to lie comfortably.
- No animal may be transported in the boot of a sedan.
- Dogs must not be transported in the cabin of an animal transport vehicle.
- The only exception is for working dogs when they are working with stock. When dogs are working owners must adhere to the Prevention of Cruelty Act in their state or territory.
- Business animal transport vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after each delivery of animals.
- On road trips of more than two (2) hours duration, adequate stops should be made to allow dogs and cats the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defecate where appropriate and for enclosures to be cleaned where necessary.
- Animals transported by air must comply with IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR) the worldwide standard for transporting live animals by commercial airlines. The objective of the LAR is to ensure all animals are transported safely and humanely by air. The 41st edition of the regulations came into effect on 1 January 2015

Guidelines

- Containers used for dog and cat transport should provide adequate light and ventilation.
- Containers regularly used for transporting dogs and cats should:
 - Protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area.
 - Have non-slip floors.
 - Provide easy access and safe access for handlers.
 - Be air conditioned to protect against extremes of temperature when stationary.
 - Protect against unauthorised release or escape of the animals.
 - Be easy to clean and disinfect.
 - Be fitted with an operational air conditioning system to the section of the vehicle where the animals are held

Note: The driver of the transport vehicle is the person in charge and therefore responsible for the welfare of the animals in the vehicle during transportation.

Security

Standards

- Premises and animal enclosures must be secure against ingress of unwanted animals, persons or pests.
- The facility/establishment must have a competent person/persons living on site 24 hours per day.
- The facility/establishment must be able to be reasonably secured to prevent access to the premises outside trading hours, including outdoor cage and run areas.
- Enclosures/pens must be securely fastened outside trading hours to the extent required to avoid escape.
- All external openings must prevent escape of animals or easy removal of products or equipment without authorisation.
- Adequate security must be in place to ensure the safety of staff, the public and all animals on the premises.

Visitors:

- Visitors to the facility/establishment must report to the allocated reception area.
- Visitors must be accompanied by a staff member when inspecting animals in the facility/establishment.
- Visitors must be provided with access to hot and cold water washing facilities with soap.

Guidelines

- Every effort should be made to recover escaped animals.
- The facility/establishment should wherever possible install security systems to ensure the safety of all animals and staff.

Visitors:

- The facility/establishment should provide an enclosed 'meet and greet' area for new owners to socialise with the animal they wish to purchase.

Emergencies

Standards

- Functioning fire-fighting equipment must be readily available and staff trained and practiced in its use (Note: some fire retardants may be toxic to animals).
- Each facility/establishment must have a documented procedure for the management or swift removal of all animals from the premises in the case of emergency, where it is safe and reasonable to do so. This document must be kept in a prominent place on the premises. All staff must be able to produce the document and must be familiar with its content. Any methods detailed in the emergency plan must allow for ready access to animals and ready exit for visitors, staff, volunteers and animals from the premises in the event of an emergency.
- Emergency procedures must include a plan to deal with a situation where staff are not allowed back into the facilities for up to a week (for example in flood or fire), in particular if staff have not been able to ensure exit of all animals at the time of the initial emergency.

Guidelines

- A supply of portable enclosures/cages for use in emergencies should be held at the facility/establishment to facilitate the swift evacuation of animals in the event of an emergency. A supply of leashes should be kept for evacuation of dogs.

Dog Management

- All new dogs entering into the facility/establishment must be either held off site or in strict isolation on site for a period of no less than 20 days before being mixed with other dogs in the facility/establishment to avoid any cross contamination of infectious diseases eg. Parvovirus or Canine Cough.
- Each animal must be individually identified.
- Measures must be implemented to protect dogs from distress or injury caused by other animals.
- Dogs must be protected from distress of injury caused by interference by people.
- Dogs may be distressed by the presence of other dogs and cats and must be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces olfactory contact.
- Dogs must receive environmental enrichment recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, to ensure good psychological health.
- Dogs that are unable to feed themselves must only be kept where adequate supervision is available.

Housing

Small businesses

- A small business has 3-5 fertile adult dogs and may house up to 5 compatible dogs over 16 weeks of age together.

Large Businesses

- A large business has 6 or more fertile adult dogs and may house 4 compatible dogs together.

Working Dog Breeding Businesses

- Working dog breeding businesses may have up to 4 compatible dogs together.

Standards

This section outlines the minimum standards required for keeping dogs and puppies in breeding facilities/establishments. The accommodation, environment and security of animals should be of a standard which ensures their security, safety and wellbeing.

Vehicles, caravans, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as permanent housing for dogs.

All housing facilities must display emergency evacuation procedures in and near animal housing facilities in the facility/establishment. This may be near the front door of a place of residence or near the kennelling areas.

- Breeding facilities/establishments must have a continuous water supply, adequate to meet the daily requirements of the dogs held.
- Breeding facilities must be designed constructed serviced and maintained in a way that provides for the good health and wellbeing of the animals which prevents the transmission of infectious disease agents, the escape of animals and does not cause injury to either animals or humans.
- When dog housing is constructed outdoors the minimum height of fencing for each enclosure/pen must be no less than 1800 mm.

- When dog housing is constructed outdoors, animals must be provided with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather, conditions and must be provided with a clean dry dedicated sleeping area raised off the ground and containing soft warm bedding material.
- Materials used must be weatherproof and selected for ease of cleaning, durability and nontoxicity.
- Where dog housing is constructed indoors but not inside a place of residence (e.g. a kennel building) natural daylight during daylight hours must be provided and temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed.
- When forced ventilation is the only form of air intake and extraction the temperature must be maintained in the range of 10 to 32 degrees Celsius. The systems air reticulation units must incorporate effective air cleaning and filtration and a backup alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown. All systems must be well serviced and maintained.
- Ventilation areas must be adequate to keep animal housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts.
- Fully enclosed dog housing must have an air change rate of 8-12 changes per hour to prevent the build-up of foul odours. Ventilation devices must avoid draughts and distribute fresh air evenly to all of the housing areas.
- Where a facility/establishment houses both dogs and cats, cat housing must be a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.
- Dog housing in PIAA breeding member facilities/establishments must meet the minimum pen/enclosure sizes outlined in these Standards and Guidelines for Best Practice.
- Dogs must not be exposed to extended contact with wet floors.
- Sleeping areas for dogs must have clean, hygienic, dry, soft bedding appropriate to the species and breed. Bedding must be sufficient for the number of animals held in each enclosure and must be sufficient to insulate them from the floor.
- Sleeping areas must be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly.
- Each dog older than 16 weeks of age must be provided with a separate bed or sufficient bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

Isolation housing

- A designated isolation area within the facility/establishment must be available for dogs suspected of illness or having infectious diseases. If the facility/establishment does not have a dedicated isolation area, a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner must be in place for animals to be transferred to a veterinary hospital that can accommodate the animals.
- A documented and demonstrable biosecurity program must be in place for the isolation housing.
- Animals suspected or known to be suffering from infectious diseases must be transferred directly to the isolation housing unless a veterinary practitioner has given written assurance that it is appropriate for those animals to be housed with other animals in the facility/establishment.

MINIMUM SIZES FOR DOG PENS/ENCLOSURES

Animal/s	Height of dogs at shoulder	Min. Floor Area (m2)*	Min Height (cm)	Min Width (cm)	Incr. floor per puppy 8-16 wks (m2)
Puppy/ies (+/- bitch)					
1 dog	<40 cm	7	180	120	0.5
2 dogs	<40	14	180	120	
Socially compatible group of dogs housed in backyard or house	<40	1.5 per animal	-	-	-
1 dog	40-60 cm	10	180	180	1.0
2 dogs	40-60 cm	20	180	180	
Socially compatible group of dogs housed in backyard or house	40-60 cm	2.4 per animal	-	-	-
1 dog	>60 cm	15	180	240	1.5
2 dogs	>60 cm	30	180	240	
Socially compatible group of dogs housed in backyard or house	>60 cm	3.5 per animal			

***Minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding**

Mating

- Mating pairs must be separated from other animals.
- Mating pairs must be monitored during mating.
- Dog breeding stands must not be used.
- If the female dog is unduly harassed she must be removed and veterinary advice sought if there is risk of injury to either dog or for any other concern as to the wellbeing of the dog.

Whelping

- Within 7 days of her due date a pregnant bitch that is multiple housed must be moved to a specific whelping area or be provided with private accommodation containing a whelping box.
- Exercise, socialisation, enrichment and handling for late pregnancy must remain the same as for pregnant bitches where their health and physical condition allows.
- As soon as the bitch shows signs of whelping, fresh bedding must be provided and she must be monitored until birthing is complete.
- If there are concerns regarding the welfare of the bitch or her puppies, veterinary advice must be sought.
- The bitch must be monitored every 4 hours until the puppies are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.
- The birthing area must be completely cleaned and all bedding changed within 24 hours of the completion of birthing.

Lactating

- Monitoring of lactating bitches must ensure that all puppies are feeding and that the bitch is lactating.
- Veterinary advice must be sought by the person in charge if puppies do not gain weight.
- Birth bitches must be inspected twice daily for mastitis and treated immediately upon diagnosis.
- Clean bedding must be provided on a daily basis during lactation.
- Puppies must have a health check by a staff member within 12 hours of birth.
- Daily handling must begin within 7 days of birth.
- Bitches must be exercised.

Guidelines

- The bitch should be monitored at least hourly during the birth.
- Measures should be in place to protect dogs from loud or sudden noise.
- Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with noise regulations and work, health and safety requirements. Noise may be reduced by one of more of the following methods:
 - Judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction methods which reduce noise.
 - Care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary noise e.g. dog pens/enclosures constructed so as dogs cannot see other dogs between pen/enclosure walls and doors.
- Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to cats including the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals if necessary. Particular attention should be given to protections to brachycephalic breeds**, especially against heat.
- All facilities should have an adequate water supply and should be connected to a sewer system or on a septic system in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- Faeces and waste materials should be disposed of in commercial disposal bins and not placed in the sewer or septic systems.

*****Brachycephalic means short-faced***

Exercise Areas

Standards

- Exercise areas must be constructed to ensure that no animal can escape and must include shade areas so animals are protected from extremes of temperature.
- Exercise areas must have a perimeter fence of no less than 1800 mm unless the dogs are supervised by a staff member in which case the fence must be no less than 1200 mm.
- Exercise areas must be available for all dogs in the facility/establishment and must be supervised to ensure that the animals contained within the exercise area are compatible.
- Dogs must not be exercised in any way which may pose the risk of serious injury e.g. dogs are attached to motor vehicle or unsupervised on a treadmill.
- If dogs are tethered this must be done in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in the relevant state or territory.
- Pregnant bitches of more than 7 weeks gestation, whelping bitches and lactating bitches with puppies must not be tethered.
- Puppies under 16 weeks of age must not be tethered.

Small Businesses

Separate exercise areas are not required for small businesses however daily exercise must be provided for all animals.

Large Businesses

Separate exercise areas should be available and no more than 6 dogs must be exercised together.

The minimum floor space of exercise areas must be 20 square metres for the first dog and an additional 7 square metres for each dog thereafter. Fences must be at least 1800 mm in height and have a minimum width of 5 metres. Staff ratio 1 to 18 dogs in up to 3 exercise areas.

Guidelines

- Exercise area should be constructed approximately 6 metres x 12 metres separate from animal housing. The surface area should be grass or preferably artificial grass.
- One third of the area should be covered by utilising a shade sail.
- A permanent supply of clean drinking water is to be available in each exercise area.
- Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth

Nutrition

Standards

- Dogs must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain good health and growth, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species.
- Minimum quantity and nutritional quality of food must be detailed in the health management plan.
- All meals must be served in containers that have been cleaned and washed in hot soapy water before use and disinfected once a week.
- Clean water must be available at all times at a temperature, quantity and quality to meet the physiological needs of the dog and that the dog will drink.
- Water containers must be large enough to hold sufficient water for all dogs in a pen/enclosure.
- Water containers must be large enough to hold sufficient water for all dogs to be able to drink at any one time.
- For young puppies the container must be shallow enough to prevent injury or drowning.
- All adult and adolescent dogs must be fed a minimum of once daily.
- Pregnant and lactating bitches must be fed at least twice daily or under clear instruction from a veterinary practitioner.
- Puppies 3 weeks of age to weaning must be provided with an appropriate food in a shallow food container according to the facility/establishment health management plan.
- Fully weaned puppies less than 16 weeks of age must be fed a minimum of 3 times daily and must not be left without food for a period of more than 12 hours.
- Puppies may share a food container.
- Puppies between 4 and 6 months must be fed a minimum of twice daily and must not be left without food for a period of more than 12 hours.
- Orphaned and pre-weaned puppies must be fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.
- When multiple housed, each animal must be provided with their own food container. The person in charge must ensure all animals are socially compatible to feed together and are able to eat a sufficient quantity of food without duress.
- Food must be stored in sealed containers to prevent its deterioration or contamination by vermin.
- Fresh food must be refrigerated according to manufacturer's directions.
- A minimum of 5 days food must be held by the facility/establishment at all times to ensure food is available in the case of an emergency.
- Food containers must be non-spillable and made of material that can be disinfected and must not cause injury to the animals.

Guidelines

- Feeding of raw offal is not recommended.
- Food should be prepared hygienically and served in clean containers.
- Food and water containers should be readily accessible to dogs and puppies and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- Food containers should be stable and non-toxic.

Health Care

Standards

- All dogs regardless of breeding status must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least once per year or more frequently if directed by a veterinary practitioner
- All dogs must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to their first mating.
- A veterinary health check by a veterinary practitioner for all female breeding dogs prior to each mating cycle.
- All breeding females must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner within 8 weeks postpartum.
- All health issues identified must be recorded in the animal's health record.
- All dogs must be groomed and the coat of long haired dogs must be brushed or clipped at a frequency which ensures that the dogs are not left dirty, matted, tangled or unkempt.
- All facilities/establishments must have an internal and external parasite prevention program in line with the health management plan.
- Dogs with pendulous ears must have their ears checked weekly and appropriate action taken to minimise ear infections.
- All dogs must have their toenails checked and trimmed at a frequency that prevents them from becoming overgrown.

Vaccinations and parasite control in puppies under 12 weeks of age

- Puppies must be vaccinated for the following by a veterinary practitioner:
 - Canine Distemper
 - Infectious Canine Hepatitis
 - Canine Parvovirus
 - Canine Cough (parainfluenza Type 2 and Bordetella bronchiseptica). (Not required for puppies but adult dogs must be vaccinated for canine cough)
 - Heartworm
 - Internal and external parasites e.g. fleas and ticks

First treatment/vaccine must be given before 10 weeks of age. Vaccination certificates including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination.

Vaccinations and parasite control in dogs 12 weeks of age and older

- All dogs 12 weeks of age and older in the facility/establishment must have current vaccination against and treatment for the following by a veterinary practitioner:
 - Canine Distemper
 - Infectious Canine Hepatitis
 - Canine Parvovirus
 - Canine Cough (parainfluenza Type 2 and Bordetella bronchiseptica)
 - Heartworm
 - Internal and external parasites e.g. fleas and ticks

Guidelines

Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary treatment should be sought include but are not limited to:

- Runny nose
- Runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- Repeated sneezing
- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- Lameness
- Bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat)
- Inability to stand or walk
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden
- Apparent pain
- Fits, staggering or convulsions
- Patchy hair loss
- Bloating of the abdomen
- Difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate
- Red or brown coloured urine
- Depression
- Fever
- Any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality

Bitches in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected by animal attendants at regular intervals.

Breeding and Rearing

Standards

- Bitches must not be mated during their first oestrous cycle.
- A dog must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of being mated.
- All dogs must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to their first mating. Veterinary practitioners must provide a certificate to state that, at the time of examination, the dog is suitable to breed.
- All female dogs must have a pre-mating check with a veterinary practitioner prior to each mating cycle.
- All breeding females must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner within 8 weeks post-partum, or an annual health check whichever is more frequent.
- A dog must only be mated for up to seven (7) years after which time he must be retired, de-sexed, given basic training and socialisation in preparation for re-homing.
- During mating breeding pairs must be isolated from the remaining breeding population and monitored by the person in charge on a regular basis to ensure the mating proceeds in a normal manner.
- Mothers in the latter stages of pregnancy must be provided with additional access to food and water provided at frequent intervals.
- Whelping bitches must be provided with a suitable whelping box lined with clean bedding changed daily.
- Animals that are isolated from the remaining breeding population must be provided with additional attention and socialisation by animal carers.
- Bitches must not have more than five (5) litters in total. After that time she must be retired, de-sexed, given basic training and socialisation in preparation for re-homing.
- Lactating mothers must be provided with additional food and water.
- Lactating mothers must be housed in such a manner that they are able to escape their young.
- Puppies must not be separated from their litter or their lactating mother until they are seven (7) weeks of age to facilitate socialisation, except in the best interests of the puppy or their mother.
- Solid food must be offered to puppies from three (3) weeks of age. Puppies must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.
If necessary solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- Puppies must be observed to ensure that they achieve a steady weight gain every week.

Guidelines

- Breeding practices should ensure that both breeding animals and the offspring they produce are physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible. Dog breeders have a responsibility to ensure that their breeding animals maintain the best quality of life possible and litters should only be produced with a reasonable expectation of finding homes where they are both wanted and appreciated and are offered a similarly good quality of life.
- Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there is screening procedures or a test for that disease, the person in charge in the case of a stud dog or bitch should:
 - Have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog for such hereditary disease.

- Provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the dog is to be mated to an animal not owned by the breeding facility/establishment.
 - Provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and dam to the new owners of any puppy.
 - Endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both the sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- Breeding dogs should be selected to eliminate negative behavioural traits e.g. poor mothering ability or aggressiveness.
 - It is desirable to encourage puppies to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area. It is easier for dogs to learn this behaviour at a young age and animals with good toileting practices may make better pets
 - Dogs which are well socialised to human adults and children and with other animals will become well-adjusted companions. The best opportunity to socialise puppies to humans and other animals is before twelve (12) weeks of age.
 - Before any dog or puppy is sold the prospective owner should be advised that the breeder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is physically and behaviourally healthy.
 - Breeders should consider the welfare of their breeding sires and dams when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding their animals.
 - When dogs reach the end of their useful breeding life or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purpose it is the responsibility of the owner to:
 - Have such dogs spayed or castrated.
 - Settle the dogs into their new conditions.
 - Either provide a pet home for the de-sexed dogs themselves or to canvass for and carefully select a new pet home for the animals.
 - Exercise patience and retain responsibility for the dog until such a time as a satisfactory new home is established.
 - After delivery of a litter the mother and young should be health checked by a veterinary practitioner and the birthing area should be cleaned and disinfected.
 - Any puppy which does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinary practitioner.
 - The correct paper work, including mating dates, sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms, should be supplied to the owner/lessee of the bitch when she is collected after the mating or on payment of an agreed fee.

Note

The person in charge of the facility/establishment is reminded of the provisions of local and state legislation and codes of practice concerning dangerous dogs and restricted breeds.

Exercise, Socialisation and Environmental Enrichment

Standards

- All dogs and puppies in the facility/establishment must be given sufficient daily exercise in line with their age, health and breeding status which must be detailed in facility's/establishment's health management plan.
- Dogs must receive socialisation and environmental enrichment, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species to ensure good psychological health.
- All dogs of all age and breeding status in both small and large facility/establishments must be provided with a minimum amount of daily exercise and enrichment.
- The minimum exercise time in an exercise enclosure or on a leash must be for one (1) hour two (2) times per day. Should the dog's normal enclosure/pen size exceed ten (10) times the PIAA size for enclosures/pens the minimum time in an exercise enclosure must be thirty (30) minutes two (2) times per day.
- All dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment whilst in the exercise enclosure for stimulation. All socialisation and enrichment sessions must be supervised by staff at all times.
- The number of animals to be socialised must be limited so as to allow sufficient one to one play time and handling with staff and the other animals during the session.
- An exercise and enrichment management plan must be established as part of the facility/establishment's health management plan specific to each breed/type of dog maintained at the business, including retired animals, taking into consideration climatic extremes.
- All activities must be monitored.
- Socialisation and environmental enrichment must include walking on a lead, basic obedience training (using positive reinforcement), retrieving, throwing a ball and allowing play with safe and hygienic play toys.
- Where dogs are housed continuously indoors dogs must be given one full exercise session per day in an outdoor exercise area weather permitting.
- Enrichment programs must include rotation of activities and must not be limited to only periods of exercise and handling.
- Dogs and puppies injured, ill or recovering from an ailment must be exercised under guidance of a veterinary practitioner.

Working Dog Breeding Businesses

- All working and guardian dogs must be provided with a minimum of two (2) 30 minute exercise sessions per day (at least two days apart), when the dog is not working/guarding livestock or training.
- On days when dogs are working/guarding livestock, there are no exercise or enrichment requirements.

Guidelines

- Toys, sand pits and other obstacles should be provided as part of the enrichment program and playing with staff can be considered part of daily handling.
- Toys and washable enrichment items should be washed with hot soapy water when soiled and disinfected when being transferred between pens/enclosures/exercise areas.

- Dishwashers are suitable for disinfection at a temperature of 65 degrees C or above using the appropriate dishwashing detergent in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Working Dog Breeding Businesses

- Puppies and lactating bitches that are not being used for working livestock should be provided with gentle exercise and enrichment twice a day.

Cat Management

- Each animal must be individually identified.
- Measures must be implemented to protect cats from distress or injury caused by other animals.
- Cats must be protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people.
- Cats may be distressed by the presence of other cats and dogs and must be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces olfactory contact.
- Cats must receive environmental enrichment recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species, to ensure good psychological health.

Housing

Standards

This section outlines the minimum standards required for keeping cats and kittens in breeding facilities/establishments. The accommodation, environment and security of animals should be of a standard which ensures their security, safety and wellbeing.

Vehicles, caravans, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as permanent housing for cats.

All housing facilities must display emergency evacuation procedures in and near animal housing facilities in the facility/establishment. This may be near the front door of a place of residence or near the kennelling areas.

- Breeding facilities/establishments must have a continuous water supply, adequate to meet the daily requirements of the cats held.
- Breeding facilities must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that provides for the good health and wellbeing of the animals and which prevents the transmission of infectious disease agents, the escape of animals and does not cause injury to either animals or humans.
- Where a facility/establishment houses both dogs and cats, cat housing must be a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.
- Cat housing in PIAA breeding member facilities/establishments must meet the minimum pen/enclosure sizes outlined in these Standards and Guidelines for Best Practice.
- Cats must not be exposed to extended contact with wet floors.
- Each cat must be provided with a suitable enclosed area where it can 'hide' from other animals and sleep.
- Sleeping areas for cats must have clean, hygienic, dry, soft bedding appropriate to the breed. Bedding must be sufficient for the number of animals held in each enclosure and must be sufficient to insulate them from the floor.
- Each cat must be provided with a litter tray which is at least 1.2 times the length of the cat. The tray must contain a sufficient depth of material e.g. commercial cat litter, sand, shredded paper, sawdust or shavings.
- Sleeping areas must be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly.
- Each cat must be provided with a separate bed or sufficient bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

Isolation housing

- A designated isolation area within the facility/establishment must be available for cats suspected of illness or having infectious diseases. If the facility/establishment does not have a dedicated isolation area, a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner must be in place for animals to be transferred to a veterinary hospital that can accommodate the animals.
- A documented and demonstrable biosecurity program must be in place for the isolation housing.
- Animals suspected or known to be suffering from infectious diseases must be transferred directly to the isolation housing unless a veterinary practitioner has given written assurance that it is appropriate for those animals to be housed with other animals in the facility/establishment.
- Cat isolation housing must be a sufficient distance or otherwise located away from dog enclosures to minimise the stress created by the sound sight or smell of dogs.

MINIMUM SIZES FOR CAT ENCLOSURES

Animal/s	Min. Floor Area (m2)	Min Height (cm)	Min. Width (cm)
Kittens* (+/- queen)	0.8	210*	60
Single Cat	0.8	210*	60
Cats (max 2)	0.8	210*	60
Socially compatible group housed in backyard or house	0.8 per animal with provisions made for vertical space		

***The module must contain at least 2 levels incorporating raised sleeping quarters. Access to all levels must be available through the provision of ramps, poles, steps or the like.**

Breeding Areas

- Cat breeding area must be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure the animals.
- Noise from stud cats or calling queens must be managed to comply with noise regulations and work, health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
 - Providing lockable soundproof quarters in which the stud is held at night in compliance with noise regulations.
 - Locating the stud house inside another building or by taking advantage of as much shielding by existing walls and buildings as possible.
 - Providing the stud with companion cats, a more interesting run or more companionship such as relocations to where people, other cats and other animals can be regularly seen.

- Removing a calling queen from an outside pen and placing indoors in a pen which can also be further covered over at night.
- Taking the queen promptly to the stud (the stud being either entire or vasectomised).

Guidelines

Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to cats including the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals if necessary. Particular attention should be given to protections to brachycephalic breeds**, especially against heat.

****Brachycephalic means short-faced**

Nutrition

Standards

- Cats must receive a balanced and complete diet which allows them to maintain good health and growth, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages.
- Minimum quantity and nutritional quality of food must be detailed in the health management plan.
- All meals must be served in containers that have been cleaned and washed in hot soapy water before use and disinfected once a week.
- Clean water must be available at all times at a temperature, quantity and quality to meet the physiological needs of the cat and that the cat will drink.
- Water containers must be wide and shallow enough to hold sufficient water for all cats in their enclosure.
- For young kittens the container must be shallow enough to prevent injury or drowning.
- When multiple housed each cat must be provided with sufficient water and food containers to ensure all cats can feed and drink at one time should they choose to.
- The person in charge must ensure that all cats multiple housed are socially compatible to feed together and are able to eat a sufficient quantity of food without duress.
- All adult and adolescent cats must be fed a minimum of once daily.
- Pregnant and lactating queens must be fed at least twice daily or under clear instruction from a veterinary practitioner.
- Kittens 3 weeks of age to weaning must be provided with an appropriate food in a shallow food container according to the facility/establishment health management plan.
- Fully weaned kittens less than 16 weeks of age must be fed a minimum of 3 times daily and must not be left without food for a period of more than 12 hours.
- Kittens may share a food container.
- Kittens between 4 and 6 months must be fed a minimum of twice daily and must not be left without food for a period of more than 12 hours.
- Orphaned and pre-weaned kittens must be fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.
- When multiple housed each animal must be provided with their own food container. The person in charge must ensure all animals are socially compatible to feed together and are able to eat a sufficient quantity of food without duress.
- Food must be stored in sealed containers to prevent its deterioration or contamination by vermin.

- Fresh food must be refrigerated according to manufacturer's directions.
- A minimum of 5 days food must be held by the facility/establishment at all times to ensure food is available in the case of an emergency.
- Food containers must be non-spillable and made of material that can be disinfected and must not cause injury to the animals.

Guidelines

- Food should be prepared hygienically and served in clean containers.
- Food and water containers should be readily accessible to cats and kittens and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- Food containers should be stable and non-toxic.

Health Care

Standards

- All cats, regardless of breeding status, must have a complete health check by a veterinary practitioner at least once per year or more frequently as directed by a veterinary practitioner.
- All cats must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to their first mating.
- All breeding females must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner with 8 weeks post-partum.
- All health issues identified must be recorded in the animal's health record.
- All cats must be groomed regularly by brushing and the coat of long and medium haired cats must be brushed at a frequency sufficient to prevent coats becoming tangled or matted.
- All facilities/establishments must have an internal and external parasite prevention program in line with the health management plan.
- Cats must have their ears checked weekly and appropriate action taken to minimise ear infections.
- All cats must have their toenails checked and trimmed at a frequency that prevents them becoming overgrown.

Vaccinations and parasite control in cats under 12 weeks of age

- Puppies must be vaccinated for the following by a veterinary practitioner:
 - Infectious Feline Enteritis
 - Feline Respiratory Disease (Feline Calici virus and Feline herpes virus)
 - Internal and external parasites e.g. fleas and ticks
- First treatment/vaccine must not be given before 10 days of age.
- Vaccination certificates including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination.

Vaccinations and parasite control in cats 12 weeks of age and older

- All cats 12 weeks of age and older in the facility/establishment must have current vaccination against and treatment for the following by a veterinary practitioner:
 - Infectious Feline Enteritis

- Feline Respiratory Disease (Feline Calici virus and Feline herpes virus)
- Internal and external parasites e.g. fleas and ticks
- Vaccination certificates including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination.

Guidelines

Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary treatment should be sought include but are not limited to:

- Runny nose
- Runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- Repeated sneezing
- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- Lameness
- Bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat)
- Inability to stand or walk
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden
- Apparent pain
- Fits, staggering or convulsions
- Patchy hair loss
- Bloating of the abdomen
- Difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate
- Red or brown coloured urine
- Depression
- Fever
- Any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality

Queens in the last week of pregnancy should be inspected by animal attendants at regular intervals.

Breeding and Rearing

Standards

- Queens must not be mated during their first oestrous cycle.
- A cat must be physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of being mated.
- During mating breeding pairs must be isolated from the remaining breeding population and monitored by the person in charge on a regular basis to ensure the mating proceeds in a normal manner.
- Mothers in the latter stages of pregnancy must be provided with additional access to food and water provided at frequent intervals
- Kitting queens must be provided with a covered kitting box lined with clean bedding changed daily.
- Animals that are isolated from the remaining breeding population must be provided with additional attention and socialisation by animal carers.
- Queens must not have more than three (3) litters in any two (2) year period unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner.

- Lactating mothers must be provided with additional food and water.
 - Lactating mothers must be housed in such a manner that they are able to escape their young.
 - Kittens must not be separated from their litter or their lactating mother until they are seven (7) weeks of age to facilitate socialisation, except in the best interests of the kitten or their mother.
 - Solid food must be offered to kittens from three (3) weeks of age. Kittens must be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable.
- If necessary solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- Kittens must be observed to ensure that they achieve a steady weight gain every week.

Guidelines

- Breeding practices should ensure that both breeding animals and the offspring they produce are physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible. Cat breeders have a responsibility to ensure that their breeding animals maintain the best quality of life possible and litters should only be produced with a reasonable expectation of finding homes where they are both wanted and appreciated and are offered a similarly good quality of life.
- Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there is screening procedures or a test for that disease the person in charge in the case of a stud cat or queen should:
 - Have a current official evaluation or test result for the cat for such hereditary disease.
 - Provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the cat is to be mated to an animal not owned by the breeding facility/establishment.
 - Provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and dam to the new owners of any kitten.
 - Endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both the sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- Breeding cats should be selected to eliminate negative behavioural traits e.g. poor mothering ability or aggressiveness.
- It is desirable to encourage kittens to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area. It is easier for cats to learn this behaviour at a young age and animals with good toileting practices may make better pets.
- Cats which are well socialised to human adults and children and with other animals will become well-adjusted companions. The best opportunity to socialise kittens to humans and other animals is best achieved before seven (7) weeks of age.
- Before any cat or kitten is sold the prospective owner should be advised that the breeder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is physically and behaviourally healthy.
- Breeders should consider the welfare of their breeding sires and dams when deciding on the best time to re-breed or to cease breeding their animals.
- When cats reach the end of their useful breeding life or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes it is the responsibility of the owner to:
 - Have such cats spayed or castrated.
 - Settle the cats into their new condition (ex-stud cats require considerable patience and care put can become excellent candidates for pet homes).

- Either provide a pet home for the de-sexed cats themselves or to canvass for and carefully select a new pet home for the animals.
 - Exercise patience and retain responsibility for the cat until such a time as a satisfactory new home is established.
- When cats are housed together for the purposes of mating the animal attendants should endeavour to ensure that:
 - The queen and stud are both eating and using the litter tray.
 - The animals have separate beds and are able to get some rest.
 - The animals have actually mated.
 - The stud has an easy accessible shelf on which to jump after mating the queen to enable him to escape her claws.
- After delivery of a litter the mother and young should be health checked by a veterinary practitioner and the birthing area should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Any kitten which does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred to a veterinary practitioner.
- The correct paper work, including mating dates, sire's pedigree and any service agreements or litter registration forms, should be supplied to the owner/lessee of the queen when she is collected after the mating or on payment of an agreed fee.

Socialisation and Environmental Enrichment

Standards

- Cats must receive environmental enrichment, socialisation and handling to recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species to ensure good psychological health.
- All cats of all age and breeding status must be provided with a minimum amount of daily socialisation, handling and enrichment.
- An enrichment, socialisation and handling management plan must be established, in consultation with a veterinary practitioner, as part of the facility's/establishment's health management plan.
- Enrichment must include the provision of climbing and perching areas, scratch poles, hides, toys that they can roll and pounce on.
- Toys must be rotated weekly and made of materials that can be washed in hot soapy water and disinfected or are disposable.
- Cats and kittens must be exposed to items that stimulate their senses e.g. catnip and cat grass.
- Cats and kittens injured, ill or recovering from ailment must be under guidance of a veterinary practitioner.

Guidelines

When grooming an animal particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, claws and teeth.

Sale and Transfer of Ownership of Animals

Standards

- Breeders must only sell their own puppies and kittens and not act as an agent or broker for other breeders.
- Puppies and kittens under the age of 8 weeks of age must not be sold from a breeding facility/establishment.
- All animals being sold from a breeding facility/establishment must be accompanied by a breeder health guarantee (see below).
- All animals being sold must have current vaccination status.
- All dogs and puppies, cats and kittens re-homed must be microchipped, and treated to remove gastrointestinal parasites prior to release.
- No dog, puppy, cat or kitten suspected of being sick, injured or diseased may be sold under any circumstances.
- At the time of purchase clients must be offered accurate written information at no charge which concerns the care of animals purchased. (see additional information in guidelines below*
- Purchasers of animals de-sexed prior to sale must be provided with a copy of the de-sexing certificate.

Guidelines

- *Information required to be offered at the time of purchase should include information about:
 - General care requirements of the species including appropriate diet and feeding regimes.
 - Usual life span of breed/species.
 - Minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation.
 - Minimum requirements for social contact with humans and other animals of the same species.
 - Minimum requirements for disease and parasite control/prevention.
 - How to identify and appropriately manage common diseases.
 - Procedures for seeking emergency treatment for the dog or cat and the value of establishing a relationship with a veterinary practitioner and/or animal behaviourist or other experienced person.
 - The estimated costs associated with providing food and shelter for the dog or cat.
 - Routine veterinary treatment which may be required for the animal(s) e.g. vaccination or parasite control.
 - Maximum time a dog or cat can be left unattended.
 - The expected behaviours of the species or breed e.g. digging or scratching.
 - Information about the legal requirements for pet ownership and the penalties for non-compliance.
 - The dog or cat's vaccination status and the need for ongoing vaccinations.
 - The desirability and advantages of de-sexing dogs and cats.
 - Minimum requirements for exercise.
 - Costs associated with registering the dog or cat.
 - Other information which is reasonable that the purchaser must be aware of.
- All advertisements for dogs and cats for sale should include the microchip number and the vaccination status of the animal.

- De-sexing of dogs and cats not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.
- All facilities/establishments which re-home dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.
- Policies, procedures and staff training should be implemented which ensure that prospective buyers are matched to suitable dogs and cats. Such matching should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the buyer, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal including exercise requirements and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children.
- Sick, aggressive, pregnant, unweaned, poorly socialised or deformed dogs and cats or animals with known vices such as excessive barking, fence jumping (dogs) should not be made available for re-homing.
- Important information about the individual dog or cat, such as health care history, should be provided to the new owner of any animal sold.
- New owners should be encouraged to seek advice about care, management and training issues from veterinary practitioners or other people with appropriate expertise.
- When possible breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the re-homing of surrendered dogs and cats.
- Dogs or cats should not be sold to inappropriate purchasers.

Guarantee/Return Policy

- If within 3 days a dog or cat is not acceptable to the purchaser for any reason (not supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner), the breeder is required to take the dog or cat back and refund 75% of the purchase price of the animal. The guarantee must be provided in writing to the purchaser at the point of sale.
- Where a cat or dog is returned within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner and is not acceptable to the purchaser due to health reasons, excluding injury, the establishment must take back the animal and refund 100% of the purchase price.
- The return guarantee/return policy must be displayed in a prominent position on the wall or counter of the facility.
- If an animal dies or is euthanased (within a period of no more than three (3) years of its birth) as a result of a disease that is traceable to the point of sale and is verified by a veterinary practitioner, the person in charge will refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.
- Where an animal is returned and there is a reasonable suspicion of animal abuse, the person in charge must immediately report this to the authorities.

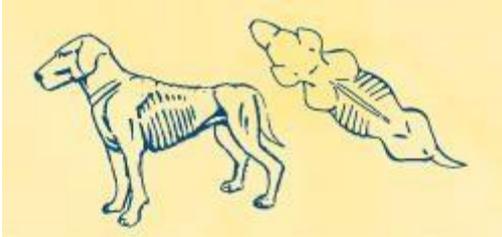
Note

The person in charge of the facility/establishment is reminded of the provisions of the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 and all other local, state and commonwealth legislation and codes of practice concerning dangerous dogs and restricted breeds concerning notification of change in registration information.

Appendix 1

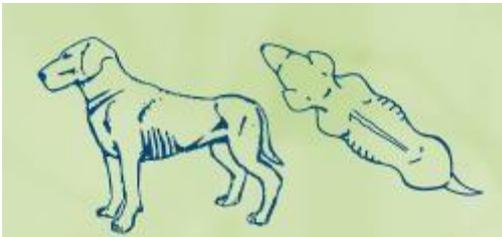
DOG CONDITION SCORE CHART

Emaciated



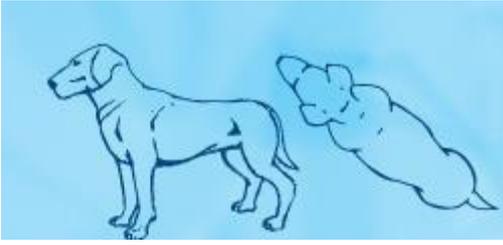
- Individual ribs, spine and pelvis prominent and evident from a distance.
 - Lack of muscle mass.
 - Little or no body fat.
 - Rump hollow.
 - Waist prominent when viewed from above.
 - Abdomen obviously tucked up.
 - Neck thin.
 - No fat on tail.
- Veterinary advice must be sought.

Thin



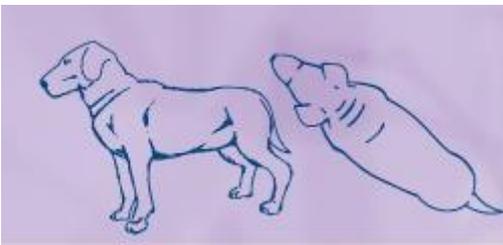
- Ribs, spine and pelvis bones visible and easily felt.
 - Little body fat.
 - Neck thin.
 - Abdomen tucked up.
 - Little fat on tail.
 - Obvious waist when viewed from above.
- Increase feeding and worm dog if not wormed recently. (ensure all-wormer used – some products do not cover all worms). Seek veterinary advice if dog remains underweight or unsure of feeding or worming regime.

Ideal



- Ribs and spine can be felt, last few ribs may be visible.
- Dog should have a waist when viewed from above.
- Belly is tucked up when viewed from side.
- Good muscle mass.
- Rump well muscled.

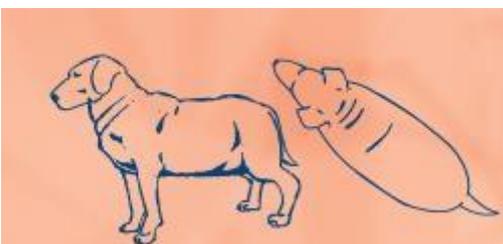
Overweight



- Ribs and spine not visible but can be felt.
- Fat deposit on tail.
- Little or no waist when viewed from above, rounded appearance, back appears broadened.
- Dog squarish along back line when viewed from side.
- Abdomen not tucked up, may appear rounded underneath.

Reduce feed intake or provide lower calorie feed. Increase exercise. Seek veterinary advice if unsure of appropriate diet or concerns over exercise regime.

Obese

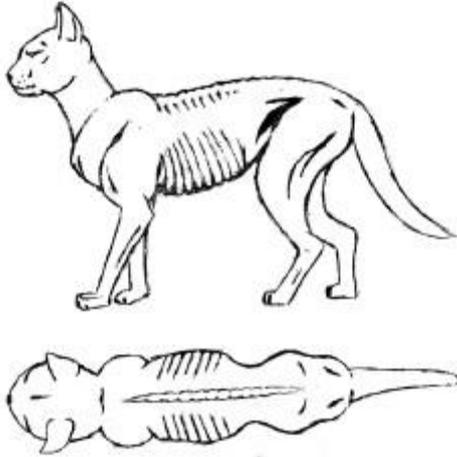


- Ribs and spine not visible and difficult to feel.
 - Tail has obvious fat deposit.
 - No waist and back broadened when viewed from above.
 - Belly obviously rounded and possibly distended.
 - Dog square or rounded up along back line when viewed from side.
- Seek veterinary advice on diet and exercise regime.

Appendix 2

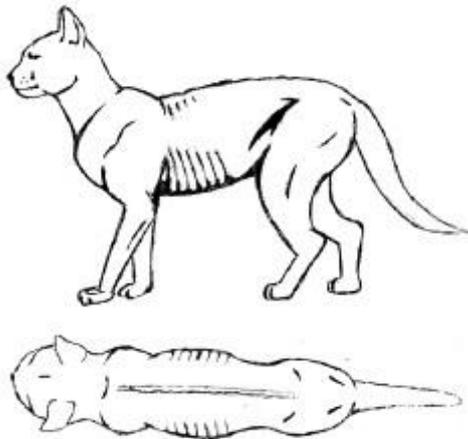
CAT CONDITION SCORE CHART

Emaciated



- Individual ribs, spine and pelvis prominent and evident from a distance
- Lack of muscle mass
- Little or no body fat
- Rump hollow
- Waist prominent when viewed from above
- Neck thin
- No flank fold (under belly), abdomen very tucked up **Veterinary advice must be sought.**

Thin



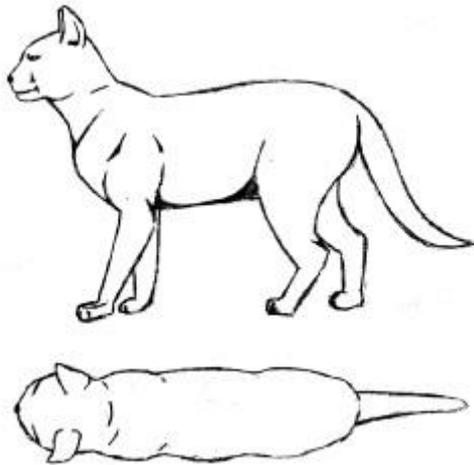
Ribs, spine and pelvis bones visible and easily felt

- Little body fat
- Neck thin

- No flank fold (under belly), abdomen tucked up
- Obvious waist when viewed from above
Increase feeding and worm cat if not wormed recently (ensure all-wormer used – some products do not cover all worms).

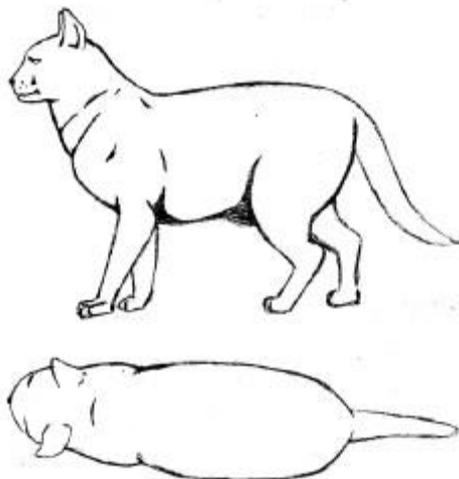
Seek veterinary advice if cat remains underweight or unsure of feeding or worming regime.

Ideal



- Ribs and spine can be felt, last few ribs may be visible
- Flank fold (under belly) may be visible from side
- Cat should have a waist when viewed from top
- Good muscle mass

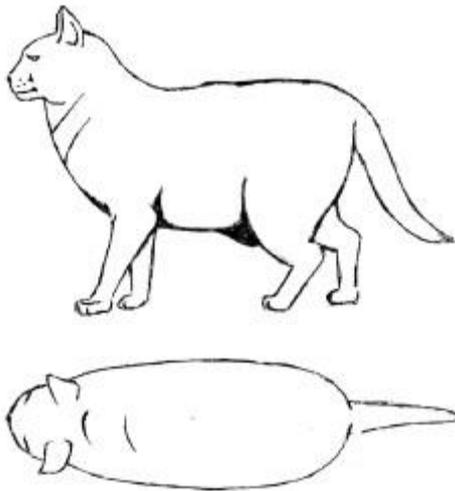
Overweight



- Ribs and spine not visible but can be felt
- Little or no waist when viewed from above, rounded appearance
- Flank fold (under belly) clearly visible and will wobble when cat moves. Belly and chest rounded
- Large ventral fat pad covering hind legs

Reduce feed intake or provide lower calorie feed. Consider options to increase exercise level of cat.

Obese



- Ribs and spine not visible and difficult to feel
- Tail has obvious fat deposit
- No waist and back broadened when viewed from above
- Flank fold (under belly) hangs down and will sway when cat moves, belly and chest very rounded **Seek veterinary advice on diet and exercise regime.**