

Pet Exchange Register and New Pet Owners



Recent anti-puppy farming legislation changes have seen the introduction of a Pet Exchange Register in Victoria.

This register aims to provide **'increased traceability' and to make it easier for prospective buyers to know that their pet has come from a valid source.'**

All advertisements for puppies or kittens, adult dogs or cats, need to have both the animal's unique microchip number AND the source number listed. This applies whether they are being sold or given away.

A Source Number is required at the time of microchipping companion animals as well, meaning that the breeder's details are paired with the microchip record, regardless of whether or not the ownership changes.

Breeders are allowed to advertise that they are a breeder, or that they have a litter 'on the way' without citing a Source Number, however any advertisements for an actual puppy must have both the Source Number and the animal's individual microchip number.

So how does the Source Number work?

The Victorian state government, through Animal Welfare Victoria, runs the [Pet Exchange Register](#).

Foster Carers, Rescue Groups, Microbreeders, Recreational breeders, Domestic Animal Business (Breeding) breeders and Commercial breeders are all required to have a valid Source Number to sell (or give away) dogs or cats.

Potential pet purchasers can visit the Pet Exchange Register and check that the Source Number they have been quoted is valid.

You simply enter the number and then the details associated with that source number are displayed. This usually includes the name of the breeder (or other source) the municipality they are registered in, and in the case of a Dogs Victoria registered breeder, their Dogs Victoria membership number.

What is the format of the Source Number?

The Source Number will have two letters at the start, designating the category of the source. This will then be followed by a series of six numbers which are unique to the individual breeder.

Dogs Victoria registered breeders fall into the 'Recreational Breeder' category, so their Source Numbers begin with the letters 'RB'.

What if I find an advertisement that seems wrong?

The Pet Exchange Register allows anyone to report an advertisement that is of concern – maybe a source number seems falsified, or an advertisement is missing the required information.

If this is the case, you need to report it to the Pet Exchange Register. You can do this via their website by clicking on the **'Report an Advertisement of Concern'** button or by calling their dedicated hotline.

Important!

There have been cases where a legitimate Dogs Victoria Breeder has had their information, including their Source Number, used fraudulently by Puppy Scammers.

If the breed, location, or name associated with the Source Number does not match the person you are dealing with, please report it to the Pet Exchange Register!

Want to know more?

If you have any questions relating to the Pet Exchange Register, you can contact them directly on 136 186 or email per@agriculture.vic.gov.au

You can also visit the [Animal Welfare Victoria website](#) which has quite a bit of information, along with answers to frequently asked questions about this initiative.