

# Dogs Victoria Regulations Part 20 Codes - 20.1 Code of Practice

## 20.1 CODE OF PRACTICE

(amended 15/02/24, 15/03/23, 15/09/22, 15/08/22, 15/10/21, 15/09/19, 15/08/18)

Each member, upon being admitted or re-admitted to membership of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. shall be bound by the Victorian Canine Association Inc. (hereinafter 'Dogs Victoria') Code of Practice.

### Ethics

- 20.1.1 A member shall not knowingly or recklessly misrepresent the ANKC or Dogs Victoria.
- 20.1.2 A member shall not engage in any behaviour that is contrary to the standards accepted by the community.
- 20.1.3 A member shall display good sportsmanship and conduct at all times so as to reflect credit upon themselves, the ANKC and Dogs Victoria.
- 20.1.4 Members shall constantly strive to improve their knowledge of their chosen breed or breeds, and their knowledge of the requirements for the care, welfare and betterment of dogs.
- 20.1.5 Members shall ensure proper care for all dogs under their control, whereby
- 20.1.5.1 Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality; it must be canine appropriate and nutritionally balanced to meet the daily requirements for the condition, activities, age and size of the each dog. All dogs shall have access, in their housing area, at all times, to a sufficient supply of fresh, clean, water daily. Food and water utensils shall be kept clean;
- 20.1.5.2 Dogs shall be housed in a safe and secure manner that is suitable for the size and containment requirements of the dog and provides protection from adverse environmental conditions and climatic extremes. Adequate ventilation and sufficient space must be provided for dogs to stand. The flooring area of pens/cages shall not be made from uncovered suspended wire. Each dog older than 16 weeks of age shall have access to a separate bed or sufficient bedding material that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time;
- 20.1.5.3 Dog sleeping, housing and exercise areas shall be kept clean and at a good standard of hygiene by cleaning any faeces, wasted food, and soiled bedding daily. Where pens and kennels are cleaned by hosing, material on floors (toys, bedding, food, faeces etc) shall be removed prior. Hard surfaces in pens and kennels should be disinfected weekly or more often if required. Veterinary advice shall be sought for managing the cleaning of premises and management of isolation if a contagious illness occurs in dogs;
- 20.1.5.4 All dogs of all age and breeding status shall be provided with an appropriate amount of daily exercise, social contact and enrichment suitable to the individual needs of the dog;
- 20.1.5.5 Where dogs are tethered, they shall be tethered in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and Regulations. Pregnant bitches of more than 7 weeks gestation, whelping bitches and lactating bitches with puppies shall not be tethered. Puppies under 16 weeks of age shall not be tethered.
- 20.1.5.6 Dogs shall be transported in a safe and secure manner. Dogs shall not be transported in the boot of a sedan type car. When on the back of a ute or trailer, dogs must be appropriately tethered or caged. Sealed transport containers shall have multiple ventilation holes.
- 20.1.5.7 Veterinary care is provided as required in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Dogs. Additional veterinary requirements for breeding dogs is described in Section 20.8 Code of Practice for Breeding Animal Health Management.

- 20.1.6 A member who leaves a dog owned by them in the care of another person shall remain responsible for that dog.
- 20.1.7 A member shall take all appropriate lawful measures to assist a dog in distress.
- 20.1.8 A member shall positively enhance the reputation of dog breeders and owners by ensuring that dogs owned by the member are not a danger or nuisance to the community.
- 20.1.9 A member shall not participate in nor support any activity in that involves cruelty or damage to animals, excluding legal hunting activities.
- 20.1.9.1 Dogs shall not be trained or worked beyond their willingness and capabilities. All training methods used shall be humane and not cause undue fear, distress or pain.
- 20.1.9.2 Dog Collars  
The use of dog collars incorporating protrusions designed to puncture or bruise the dog's skin, or electronic collars designed to deliver an electric shock to the dog is prohibited at any VCA sanctioned event, training activities, or any activity which may reasonably be seen to be in connection with the VCA. (15/09/19)
- 20.1.10 A member shall make every effort to rehome any dog no longer required by that member to a suitable home. A member shall not dispose of dogs owned or bred by the member to a pound or animal refuge except in exceptional circumstances and following notification in writing to Dogs Victoria. In this instance, depending on circumstances Dogs Victoria may request that any breeder prefix also be suspended or surrendered.

### Breeding

- 20.1.11 A member shall breed primarily for the purpose of improving the quality and / or working ability of the breed in accordance with the breed standard, and not specifically or predominantly for the pet or commercial market.
- 20.1.11.1 If breeding animals are determined to be no longer suitable for breeding, or are retired and are to be rehomed, they must be prevented from further breeding by transfer to limited register, neutering, contraception, contract of agreement or other means.
- 20.1.12 A member shall not breed with a bitch unless they have reached adequate maturity for that breed as determined by Dogs Victoria, without the prior approval of Dogs Victoria. Where the Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice are otherwise silent, the minimum age for breeding a bitch shall be 12 months [see attached Minimum Breeding Age for Bitches]. (15/11/18)
- 20.1.12.1 The progeny of any matings that are not permitted by 20.1.12 will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "never to be upgraded". It will be a breach of Code 20.1.12 by the member/s who are the owners of the sire and dam of the litter constituting an offence against Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes.**
- 20.1.13 A member shall not breed a bitch causing it to whelp more than twice in eighteen months. ~~without the prior approval of Dogs Victoria.~~ (amended 15/08/22)
- 20.1.14 A member shall not breed with a bitch causing it to whelp more than five times in its lifetime (amended 15.03.17)
- 20.1.14.1 First generation breeding (i.e. father / daughter; brother / sister; mother / son) matings are not permitted.
- 20.1.14.2 The progeny of any matings **that are not permitted by 20.1.14.1** will be registered on the Limited Register and endorsed "never to be upgraded". It will be a breach of Code 20.1.14 by the member/s who are the owners of the sire and dam of the litter constituting an offence against Dogs Victoria Rules, Regulations and Codes.

- 20.1.14.3 All bitches eight years of age and over at the time of a mating must have a current veterinary certificate stating that the bitch is in good health at the time of breeding. This certificate must be presented at the time of registration of the litter resulting from this mating. A current veterinarian certificate is defined as being within three months prior to the mating. (15/08/15)
- 20.1.15 A member shall not permit any of that member's pure bred dogs to be mated to a dog of a different breed, to a cross bred dog, to an unregistered dog of the same breed, or to a dog not on the Main Register without the prior approval of Dogs Victoria.
- 20.1.15.1 A member shall not permit any of that member's unregistered dogs to be mated to any other unregistered dog, with the exception of dogs registered with a Registry Body recognised by ANKC Ltd (unless an exemption is granted by Dogs Victoria). (amended 15.03.17, 15.04.18)
- 20.1.16 A member shall take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases in accordance with the ANKC Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases and shall comply with Dogs Victoria's Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases (Code 20.3), and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986, particularly with respect to the Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that Cause Disease.
- 20.1.17 A member shall not, within Australia, sell or otherwise transfer from that member's care any puppy under eight [8] weeks of age. (amended 15.05.17)
- 20.1.18 A member shall not export a puppy under the age of eleven [11] weeks, or such greater age permitted under the livestock import requirements of the country to which the puppy is being exported.
- 20.1.19 A member shall not knowingly sell a dog to any person residing in an overseas country known to be involved in the utilisation of dogs for the meat trade without first satisfying the VCA that the purchaser is a member of an ANKC recognised canine controlling body in the overseas country. The member and purchaser must acknowledge in writing to the VCA that the intention of the sale is for the improvement of the quality of that breed in the overseas country, and not for any other purpose. ~~Further, the dog is not to be shipped until the export pedigree is approved by Dogs Victoria.~~ (Amended 15/03/23)
- 20.1.20 A member shall ensure that persons acquiring dogs from that member understand the requirements for the care, welfare and responsible ownership of the dog, and that they have the time and facilities, e.g. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter, to fulfil their responsibilities.
- 20.1.21 A breeder shall be expected to maintain reasonable contact with the purchasers of dogs from that breeder and to offer continued advice and reasonable assistance.
- 20.1.22 Record keeping requirements: (15/09/19) (15/11/11)
- 20.1.22.1 A breeder shall create a record file for each individual puppy born, and maintain until ownership changes or the animal is deceased. A breeder shall make available all records for inspection by an authorised officer or as directed by an officer of Dogs Victoria. Copies of these records must be retained by the breeder for a minimum of 3 5 years from date of last entry. (amended 15/09/22)
- 20.1.22.1.1 Records to be kept for puppies under 12 weeks of age shall include the following (copies of original documents are acceptable where originals accompany the puppy to its new owner):

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- a copy of the litter registration form, or alternatively:
    - name;
    - microchip number (when implanted);
    - sex;
    - breed;
    - date of birth;
    - colour and markings (if applicable); and
    - dam and sire registered names and numbers
  - health care history including vaccination records, internal and external parasite control,
  - purchase/disposal record including name and of new owner (where applicable),
  - copy of health declaration, and
  - record of return (if applicable) with supporting documentation.
- 20.1.22.1.2 Records to be kept for dogs over the age of 12 weeks acquired or retained by breeders for the purpose of breeding shall include:
- either ANKC registration certificate, or alternatively:
    - registered name and number when registration details become available; (amended 15/09/19)
    - microchip number;
    - sex;
    - breed;
    - date of birth;
    - colour and marking (if applicable); and
    - dam and sire registered name and numbers council registration certificate;
  - health care history including vaccination records or titre tests, internal and external parasite control,
  - breeding status and breeding history,
  - purchase/disposal records including name and of new owner (where applicable), and
  - record of return (if applicable) with supporting documentation.
- 20.1.22.2 Records of breeding history for dams must include dates of mating or artificial insemination, dates of whelping, number of puppies born alive, number of puppies stillborn, record of any whelping complications and resultant treatment, microchip numbers for live pups at 8 weeks, and post-partum veterinary treatment.
- 20.1.23 A member shall provide to all recipients of dogs sold or otherwise disposed of by that member, written details of:
- 20.1.23.1 The breed characteristics;
- 20.1.23.2 Vaccination record and / or requirements including the due date of the next vaccination or recommended timing for next titre;
- 20.1.23.3 Responsible dog ownership information;
- 20.1.23.4 All documentation required by Dogs Victoria
- 20.1.23.5 Records on internal and external parasite control;
- 20.1.23.6 Records of microchip number with a signed transfer of owner form;
- 20.1.23.7 A desexing certificate (if applicable); and
- 20.1.23.8 A written health declaration in accordance with 20.1.25.
- 20.1.24 A member shall not incorrectly describe nor knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of a breed.
- 20.1.25 A member shall ensure that all dogs sold or disposed of by that member are in the best possible state of health. Where any known physical abnormalities exist, a breeder health declaration shall be supplied which includes details of the known physical abnormality at the time of sale and how that abnormality may affect future health and welfare of the dog. This shall be signed in acknowledgement by the recipient. With the exception of matters disclosed in the health declaration, a member shall abide by the following as a minimum practice when selling dogs;
- 20.1.25.1 Where a dog is returned to the member within 3 days of sale, for any reason not supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner, the member must take back the animal and refund 75% of the purchase price.
- 20.1.25.2 Where a dog is returned to the member within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner that the animal is unacceptable for health reasons, the member must take back the animal and refund 100% of the purchase price.
- 20.1.25.3 If an animal is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanased from a physical defect or disease that is directly traceable to the point of sale within 3 years of purchase, the member must, subject to a second veterinary opinion, refund 100% of the purchase price where the owner of the animal provides supporting statements from a veterinary practitioner, including test results where a suitable test is available. Owners of the animal must make veterinary reports and test results available to the breeder for the breeder to obtain their own veterinary advice (second opinion), and for the purpose of informing future breeding management.
- 20.1.26 A member shall not:
- 20.1.26.1 Sell or dispose of a dog to a commercial pet wholesaler or retail pet shop.
- 20.1.26.2 Allow a dog owned by that member to be given as a prize or donation or to be auctioned.
- 20.1.26.3 Advertise in any media or other display, the sale or disposal of a dog without the inclusion of the member's Dogs Victoria membership number, source number and, ~~unless subject to written veterinary advice that the health of the dog is liable to be significantly prejudiced if it is implanted~~; each dog's full microchip number. It is mandatory that the following wording is included in any advertisements: "Please contact Dogs Victoria on email: [office@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@dogsvictoria.org.au) to verify my membership". (amended 15/08/22)
- General**
- 20.1.27 A member who provides or makes available a dog for use in a film, advertisement, promotion, or any media or public display must ensure that:
- 20.1.27.1 The dog is portrayed in a manner consistent with its breed characteristics and temperament as described in the Standard for that breed; and
- 20.1.27.2 The dog is presented in a manner that is unlikely to create a negative reaction to dogs generally or that breed in particular and that if there is any likelihood of a negative impression, this is at the same time corrected through the development of a story line that presents the dog or breed in a balanced manner.
- 20.1.28 A member shall not indulge in false or misleading advertising relating to the conformation, characteristics or performance of that member's dog.
- 20.1.29 A member shall not misrepresent nor malign the conformation, characteristics or performance of another member's dog.
- 20.1.30 A member shall not misrepresent, malign, impugn or denigrate another member or person in such a way as to bring discredit upon themselves or Dogs Victoria. (14/02/13)
- 20.1.31 A member must not at any time communicate with a judge in a way that could reasonably be interpreted as intended to influence a judge's decision. This prohibition includes conduct which could reasonably give rise to the impression that the member is attempting to influence a judge's attitude to the member, an exhibit entered at a show, trial or test, or a decision of a judge at any such event.**
- The prohibition extends to conduct of a member prior to an event but does not extend to anything contained in a paid advertisement that is published commercially. (15/02/24)**