

# Information for Council Staff

The Victorian Canine Association (trading as Dogs Victoria) is the member-based organisation that registers all pedigree purebred dogs in Victoria under the authority of the national administrative body, Dogs Australia (the Australian National Kennel Council).

Previously known as the Kennel Control Council, its history dates back to 1877.

## What Dogs Victoria does

Dogs Victoria is a pedigree registry body, issuing pedigree papers for qualifying dogs.

Dogs Victoria promotes the conscientious breeding of healthy purebred dogs, as well as responsible ownership for all dogs in Victoria, regardless of their parentage.

To achieve this goal, Dogs Victoria provides education and training in responsible dog ownership, canine husbandry, breeding, and canine health, directly to its members through various formats.

Dogs Victoria also provides education and assistance to its members to help them comply with their obligations as determined by State and Local Government laws and Dogs Victoria's Rules, Regulations and Codes of Ethics.

Through its affiliated, community-based, obedience and training clubs located across the state, Dogs Victoria provides access to inexpensive training programs where all Victorian dog owners can learn about responsible pet ownership, training and behaviour.

Many affiliated clubs also offer a variety of sanctioned competitive events for members and their dogs – from conformation showing to obedience and dogs sports such as agility, herding, tracking and search, to retrieving and field trials.

Members of Dogs Victoria who have qualified for a Breeder 'Prefix' (through education and examination), become authorised to breed under the auspices of Dogs Victoria and to register their progeny as pedigree dogs.

Dogs Victoria registered breeders aim to produce healthy, happy puppies that are true to their breed standard in physical appearance and temperament, fit for the purpose they were originally bred for. They are committed to preserving the unique heritage of their chosen breeds.

They do this through careful selection of breeding stock, comprehensive health testing and screening for known breed conditions, and maintenance of genetic diversity through sharing of genetic material with like-minded breeders from around the country and the world.

As a peak body, Dogs Victoria also has an active role in advocating for the rights of its members and all dog owners within the state of Victoria.

It aims to protect members' interests and lobby for straightforward, fair and enforceable legislation that protects the welfare of all dogs in this state whilst supporting responsible breeding and pet ownership within the community.

## What Dogs Victoria does NOT do

Dogs Victoria does not register dog ownership in the same 'location-based' way that councils do.

Instead, Dogs Victoria manages a registry of purebred dogs whelped or imported into the state by our members.

Our registry primarily relates to pedigrees (the 'genetic' heritage of the dog, rather than the dog itself). This means that a pedigree dog that is 'owned' by a Dogs Victoria member on the National Pedigree Register may not be physically retained by the member, or housed at their premises.

Often dogs are sold to non-members, who may decide not to transfer the pedigree to their name.

### Note:

*Regardless of the ownership listed on the pedigree papers, the dog should be registered with the local council where it physically resides and with the person who is responsible for its care.*

Dogs Victoria does not register ineligible dogs for pedigree papers. Only eligible purebred dogs, bred and registered by an authorised breeder member of Dogs Victoria (or an equivalent interstate kennel club) can be registered for pedigree papers.

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Dogs Victoria's Rules and Regulations prohibit the breeding of non-pedigree or cross-bred dogs or the cross-breeding of pedigree dogs. Depending on the circumstances, existing Dogs Victoria members who contravene these regulations may be suspended or expelled.

Dogs Victoria does offer registration of non-pedigree and cross-bred dogs for the purposes of competing in sanctioned dog sports, but these dogs are not eligible for breeding purposes and, in most cases, must be desexed prior to registration.

## Dogs Victoria is an Applicable Organisation

Dogs Victoria is one of only three canine bodies approved by the Victorian Government as an 'Applicable Organisation' under provisions in the ***Domestic Animals Act 1994***.

Applicable Organisation status acknowledges that Dogs Victoria has Rules, Regulations and Codes of Ethics that meet or exceed the standards outlined under legislation, and that Dogs Victoria regulates its own members.

Approval as an Applicable Organisation is the legislative instrument that recognises our members as ***Recreational Breeders*** and provides them with some important exemptions from the requirements of the Act.

Benefits of Applicable Organisation status include:

- Members are exempt from mandatory council desexing orders;
- Members are entitled to discounted council registration fees;
- Members with up to 10 fertile bitches are exempt from registering with council as a Domestic Animal Business; and
- Members are exempt from the ***Code of Practice of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014*** and instead are governed by the Dogs Victoria Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

To qualify for these Exemptions:

- The person must be a **FULL** member of Dogs Victoria evidenced by the production of a current membership card. (Companion Members do not qualify)
- The dog (or dogs) must be registered with Dogs Victoria
- To qualify as a **Recreational Breeder**, the member must hold a Dogs Victoria 'Breeder Prefix' – which will be shown on the membership card, and their dogs must be listed on the MAIN register (Blue Pedigree Papers).

## What Dogs Victoria field officers do

Qualifying for, and maintaining, Applicable Organisation status involves assuring the Victorian Government that our members are complying with our Constitution, Rules and Regulations through several measures including communication, education and field inspections.

Dogs Victoria Field Officers conduct inspections of members' premises across the state and advise and support Dogs Victoria members on meeting their welfare and record-keeping obligations under the Dogs Victoria Rules and State and Local Government laws and regulations.

It is important to note that Dogs Victoria Field Officers are not Authorised Officers under legislation and cannot conduct a field visit to members without prior notification. However, they can attend a premises at any time if requested to accompany a local government, or other relevant authority Authorised Officer.

Dogs Victoria Field Officers also provide a Council Liaison service, acting as intermediaries between Dogs Victoria and local government/authorised officers should the need arise. They should be the first point of contact should any Council staff have questions relating to a Dogs Victoria Member.

### CONTACT US

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