

DOGS QUEENSLAND



CODE of PRACTICE

for

Financial Members

Effective from 30 October 2015

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Preparatory Message: the administration of pedigreed registered dogs in Queensland has a history which can be traced back to the early 1920's. During those very early years the task of monitoring the breeding and "sporting" activities of members and their pure bred dogs was left up to the discretion of three Kennel Clubs or Councils. (Two of those organisations still exist today in the form of fully affiliated All Breeds Clubs namely Queensland Kennel Council and the Kennel Association of Qld).

In late 2012 the CCC(Q) (trading as Dogs Queensland) underwent the most significant change in it's 60 year history – the organisation moved from being an operating affiliate of the Royal National Association of Qld to a fully fledged Company limited by guarantee. The newly created CCCQ Ltd has as it's cornerstone a democratically elected Board of Directors drawn from eligible members across the state of Queensland. This is a dramatic change from what was the previous structure which saw suitably qualified "Councillors" appointed by the sitting Council of the day.

The transition to a Company also brings with it many formal responsibilities. Those responsibilities are many and varied but fundamental to the organisation is the ongoing commitment to the continuous development, promotion and improvement of pure bred pedigreed dogs.

It is fair to suggest that in recent years our organisation and its members have become the subject of more and more close scrutiny. This scrutiny comes not only from the General Public but from all levels of Government and the various Animal Welfare Organisations. Despite having more than 300 enforceable rules and a Code of Ethics our organisation had nothing which explained the minimum standards expected of our members in respect of owning and managing the dogs in their care.

This "Code of Practice for Financial Members" fills the void that existed – it offers both new and long serving members a comprehensive reference tool by clearly stating the Standards expected and recommended Guidelines to be followed by all Dogs Queensland financial members. The document does not replace existing rules but is designed to complement them. Nor does the Code of Practice seek to outweigh existing Federal, State or Local Law in respect of dogs but once again it is designed to complement those Laws in such a way as to ensure that our members do not operate in contravention of those Laws.

The Dogs Queensland "Code of Practice for Financial Members" is designed to be a live document and as such will be periodically reviewed to ensure currency and ease of compliance. The Board of Directors of CCC(Q) Ltd commends this document to its members in the belief that it's adoption further strengthens the already high regard in which our Organisation is held by Government and Welfare Group decision makers.

Mark Sheppard
Dogs Queensland – Government & Agency Liaison Officer
Chairperson – Dogs Queensland Code of Practice Project Team

Abbreviations and Acronyms: Glossary & Definitions

Assistance dogs are those kept specifically to help people in areas such as eyesight, hearing, mobility or other need. Such dogs are recognised in State legislation.

Bitch means female dog

Breeder means someone who owns or keeps an animal with which they intend to use for reproduction.

Carer means a person having the custody or control of the animal

Container means an enclosed, escape-proof cage, crate or other receptacle with appropriate ventilation that can hold an animal safely (see Crate below).

Crate is word used to describe a cage or container specifically designed to safely and comfortably transport or restrict the movement of a dog for short periods of time. Crates may be constructed of wire (in the case of a C Crate folding design) or a reinforced plastic type Vari Kennel. Irrespective of brand or design a crate must be safe, secure well ventilated and allow sufficient room for the dog to easily turn around. A crate should never be used as a permanent “kennel” for a dog – doing so would contravene State and Local Animal Welfare legislation.

De-sex means to render permanently infertile by surgical removal of part of the reproductive system (Surgical castration in the case of male dogs and Speying in the case of bitches)

Dog means *Canis familiaris*-(domestic dog) and the term applies to either sex

Dingo means *Canis lupus* (wolf) dingo¹

Enclosure means an area surrounded by a fence or wall in which an animal is contained

Euthanasia means killing an animal in a kind and compassionate manner

Faeces means waste matter discharged from the anus

Harness means a set of straps fitted securely to an animal to attach to a leash or car seat belt

Heat means the period during which a female animal is sexually attractive

Humane means kind, compassionate, with a minimum of pain and mental suffering

Kennel means a structure designed to safely and comfortable house one or more dogs

Leash means a lead for an animal attached to a collar or harness to be held by a person

Luring with live animals means the use of live animals to encourage a dog to chase that animal

Nuisance means:

damage to property owned by a person other than the carer or;

excessive disturbance to a person other than the carer because of noise or;

danger to the health of an animal or a person other than the carer.

Owner means a person to whom the animal belongs

Pen means a structure designed to house and contain an animal

Potable means (water) suitable for drinking because it is clean and uncontaminated

Registration (with Local Government) is compulsory under State Law (see Animal management Act 2008). Every dog having reached 3 months of age must be registered with the Local Government body (Local Council) where the dog resides. This registration is in effect for 12 months and usually falls due on or about 30th June each year. Many Local Councils offer discount registration fees to current financial members of Dogs Queensland.

Registration (with Dogs Queensland) means that pedigree details of a pedigreed dog or bitch have been entered into the database records of Dogs Queensland. Registration is required of every living puppy of a litter bred by a Dogs Qld member breeder. Dogs Qld registration is also required where a member imports a dog from a “recognised” overseas country or from Interstate (if within Australia). Registration of frozen semen is also required and is dealt with in the same way as would a live animal.

Run means a similar structure to a pen as described above

Season means the period during which a female animal is sexually receptive and ready to be mated

Sentient means capable of feeling and perception “a sentient animal is one that has the capacity to have feelings and to experience suffering and pleasure. Sentience implies a level of conscious awareness” The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (P 7) DAFF 2005

Tether means a rope or chain attached to an animal and attached, directly or indirectly, to a fixed object that limits the animal's access/movement.

Weaned means no longer reliant on mother for milk and care

Preface

Aims & Purpose

This document aims to inform all current and prospective Dogs Queensland financial members of their roles and responsibilities when owning and looking after a dog.

The Code of Practice document has been prepared as part of an overarching Dogs Qld Strategy and the standards and guidelines are intended to be consistently mandated and enforced. The overall aim is to produce standards that reflect contemporary scientific knowledge and community expectations, and are maintained and enforced in a consistent, cost-effective manner.

The standards and guidelines contained in this document are consistent with current Dogs Queensland rules and the accompanying Code of Ethics which applies (and forms a prerequisite) to all members of Canine Control Council (Qld) Ltd. (trading as Dogs Qld).

This document aims to:

- specify the agreed standards of management and husbandry required to maintain the welfare of dogs in Australia and more specifically in Queensland.
- provide recommended operating guidelines for dog owners and those who care for or work with dogs beyond the acceptable standards, to assist them to minimise threats and risks to the welfare of dogs in all types of dog usage
- inform all those responsible for the care and management of dogs about their responsibilities.

Development process

Standards are based on references identified through a review of relevant literature plus first-hand knowledge taken from highly experienced Dogs Queensland members. Much of the document format has been designed to reflect usually accepted Government layout and as such the Code of Practice will be readily understood by Government decision makers at all levels should the need arise.

Related documents

This document is secondary to any existing Queensland Animal Welfare and / or Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Advice about legislation and the management and welfare of dogs is available from State, Territory and Local Government, which often produce alternate welfare documents such as Charters and Codes of Practice. Assistance with specific management or disease control problems is available from Dogs Queensland, from Veterinarians in private practice and various other animal welfare and advisory organisations.

How to use this document

Each numbered section of the document covers a particular topic (water, food, etc.) and contains the following information:

- *Animal welfare objective*—explains the desired outcome from implementation of the standards and guidelines.
- *Standards*—these are the acceptable requirements that are usually incorporated into State Legislation and Local Government Laws. The standards are intended to be clear, essential and verifiable statements; however not all issues are able to be well defined by scientific research or are able to be quantified. Standards are designed to be mandatory and use the word 'must'. They are presented in a box and are numbered, so that they stand out and are easily referenced.
- *Guidelines*—the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. The guidelines complement, clarify and support the standards. They should be used as guidance. Guidelines use the word 'should'. Noncompliance with one or more guidelines should not in itself constitute an offence under law.

As with the standards, each guideline is numbered for ease of referencing, and there is an indication of whether each guideline relates to the standards as a whole or to one or more individual standards.

Some sections may also include:

- *Notes*—these are background information on the standards and guidelines.
- *References*—these are the main information sources from the scientific literature that support the standards and guidelines.

Scope

- The Standards and Guidelines refer to all dogs, the property of Dogs Queensland financial members.
- The Standards apply to all people who are responsible for the care and management of dogs. This includes the owner and someone who is temporarily caring for or in charge of a dog, whether or not for fee or reward.
- The Standards and Guidelines relate to all sectors of the dog industry including, but not limited to: companionship, recreation, breeding, exhibition, racing and assistance. In the case of dogs owned by financial Dogs Queensland members the standards and guidelines also take into consideration those responsibilities and obligations covered by current Rules and the Code of Ethics.

Introduction and Objectives

Dogs have been associated with humans for over 10,000 years and have been developed into about 400 recognised breeds worldwide. Domestic dogs are a truly domesticated animal in that their breeding, care and feeding are more or less totally controlled by humans. The domestic dogs' habitat is now amongst humans with many dogs living in the urban environment.

In Australia, 37% of households have a pet dog and dogs are an integral part of our society. As well as being valuable companions, they are also found serving as working partners, herding dogs, substance detector dogs, guard dogs, guide dogs for the blind and in more recent times, hearing dogs and assistance dogs.

In many indigenous communities dogs also have the role of hunter, spiritual and physical protector, a source of warmth, and some have “dog dreaming” status.

Dogs are sentient beings demonstrating intelligence, complex social lives, and feelings. They are capable of physical and mental suffering and need the company of people and/or other animals for significant amounts of time every day.

The health benefits to people from pet ownership are well known. Dogs are excellent animals to keep as a pet providing valuable companionship to owners. Communities also benefit from the presence of dogs, although in households and communities the risks and possible nuisance factor of dogs also need to be managed.

Because humans are responsible for having bred all domestic animals as we currently know them, and can alter or control an animal's environment, animal welfare and wellbeing includes the concept that people have duties and responsibilities towards animals. The greater the level of interference with, or control of an animal's environment the greater our responsibility. Owners and others responsible for dogs have a duty of care to the dog to ensure its health and welfare and to provide it with a safe and stimulating environment and appropriate behavioural management. They also have a responsibility to other people and animals in their household and community to minimise risks and possible nuisance factors associated with dogs.

1. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

Objective

That owner's fulfill their responsibilities both for their dog and for the community.

Minimum Standard

- 1.1 A person in charge of a dog, whether owner or carer, is responsible for the physical and emotional health and welfare of their dog(s) and must provide both the basic necessities and a good quality of life for their dog(s).
- 1.2. A person in charge of a dog must comply with all relevant animal welfare and animal management legislation (see Dogs Queensland Code of Ethics).
- 1.3 Dogs must have access to clean, potable drinking water at all times and proper and sufficient food to maintain good health and meet their physiological requirements.
- 1.4 A dog must be maintained in a good state of health and wellbeing, and any injury or illness must be attended to promptly. Advice may be sought from an experienced Dogs Qld mentor or, in the case of a more serious injury from a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.
- 1.5 The reproduction (breeding) of dogs must be controlled; the decision to breed from a dog must be made consciously, and not just allowed to happen. In general, most dogs should be surgically de-sexed unless they are to be used for breeding and conformation exhibition. The decision to include a particular dog or bitch into a breeding program should only be done after every effort has been made to eliminate (or at the very least to determine the degree of severity) of known hereditary defects applicable to that breed.
- 1.6 All surgical procedures must be performed by a registered veterinarian using effective anaesthesia and pain relief.
- 1.7 1 Dogs must be confined to the property at all times, unless under the effective control of the owner or carer. Dogs must be provided with shelter which provides effective protection from sun, rain, wind and extremes of temperature. .
- 1.8 During transport dogs must be confined or restrained to protect them from physical injury, driving rain and extremes of temperature.
- 1.9 Dogs must be socialised and habituated to the environment, and trained using methods which are humane.
- 1.10 Owners must find a home for a dog which they can no longer keep. It is an offence to abandon dogs or puppies.
- 1.11 Euthanasia must be humane. It must be performed by a veterinarian except in emergencies when a veterinarian is not available in which case an experienced, a person licensed to terminate the life of a dog may kill the dog by gunshot to the brain.

Guidelines

Good dog welfare depends on owner and handler competency, and willingness to commit sufficient time, effort, and money. Owners need to understand and meet appropriate care, handling and management requirements for their dog. Owners must have sufficient knowledge to ensure the welfare of their dogs. Expert advice is readily available from experienced Dogs Queensland members, veterinarians, local councils and organisations such as animal welfare organisations, canine associations, breed societies and

dog obedience clubs. Having made this commitment, owners should choose a breed/type of dog most suitable to their lifestyle and circumstances, considering:

Dog Factors

- size of the adult dog
- known breed problems (e.g. breed associated genetic disorders that may develop later in life, ensure parents have been tested for such disorders where possible)
- dog type i.e. working, guard, retriever etc
- activity level of dog
- individual and breed temperament

Owner factors

- cost of care and feeding
- ability to exercise the dog to meet its needs. Different breeds/types of dogs (often corresponds to dog 'type' rather than size) may have different exercise requirements, regardless of size
- time and ability to meet grooming requirements
- time and ability to socialise and train
- arrangements for the dog when the owner is unable to care for it e.g. holidays, periods of illness or travel
- availability of suitable shelter
- a suitably fenced (dog proof) yard

Dogs should be kept on a leash at all times when off private property unless in a designated off lead area. Appropriate training, socialisation and environmental enrichment should be provided for dogs to prevent nuisance or destructive behaviours developing (such as continual barking or digging).

2. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Objective - Dog owners are aware of and fulfil their legal responsibilities.

Minimum Standards

2.1 Owners must comply with both Dogs Qld rules and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals legislation, and relevant animal management legislation e.g. Dog (and Cat) Management Acts, Domestic or Companion Animals Acts.

2.2 Dogs must be treated humanely. Dogs must not be treated cruelly or allowed to suffer.

2.3 Owners must provide their dog with appropriate and sufficient food, water, shelter and veterinary treatment.

2.4 Dogs must be microchipped where required by legislation. In Queensland microchipping is required by Law as part of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008.

2.5 Dogs must be registered with State or Local Government (Council), and identified as required by legislation. The Queensland Government keeps a register of Dangerous and Menacing dogs as part of their Legislative strategy. All Local Government authorities require that a dog is registered before that dog / puppy reaches 3 months of age. Registration is renewable every 12 months.

- 2.6 Dogs must only leave their property under the effective control of their owner or carer.
- 2.7 Dogs must be leashed in public places (as required by legislation or local laws) except in designated “off-leash” areas.
- 2.8 Dogs must not be allowed to create a nuisance problem (e.g. constant barking).
- 2.9 Requirements for dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs must be complied with.
- 2.10 Found dogs must be identified and returned to their owners as soon as possible or surrendered to a shelter or the local council where required by legislation.
- 2.11 Owners must not use dogs for fighting or use live animals to lure dogs.

Guidelines

Councils have specific local laws and orders regarding dog management and dog owners need to be aware of these and abide by them. Local laws/orders cover issues such as numbers of dogs allowed per property, requirements for leashing in public places and picking up and disposal of a dog’s faeces deposited in public areas.

All dogs should be microchipped to ensure they are permanently identified. Owner contact details need to be kept up to date with the microchip registry. Animal welfare shelters, pounds and veterinarians routinely scan all stray animals in order to identify them as rapidly as possible. A collar tag may also assist in rapid identification of lost or straying dogs.

Lost dogs:

Local councils, animal welfare shelters and local veterinarians should be contacted promptly. Posting signs in the local neighbourhood may also be worthwhile². It is important to start looking for a missing dog immediately, as *some* pounds are only required to hold stray and impounded dogs for as little as three days, after which they may be destroyed or rehoused.

Found dogs:

In some jurisdictions it is a legal requirement to hand over stray dogs as soon as possible to the local council as they are the first point of call for any owner who has lost their dog. They will check the dog for identification, such as a registration tag or microchip, which can identify the owner. Just because a dog is straying does not mean it does not have an owner or that the dog is unwanted. Veterinary attention, either at an animal welfare shelter or local veterinary clinic, should be immediately sought for any stray dog which appears to be injured or ill.

3. WATER

Objective - To ensure owners / carers understand the quality and volume of water which a dog requires daily.

Minimum Standards

3.1 Dogs must have access to fresh, clean, potable drinking water at all times.
The only exemptions are during travel or under direct veterinary supervision.

3.2 Water containers must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.

Guidelines

Water containers provided should not be easily tipped over and should be large enough or refilled often enough to provide water twenty four (24) hours a day.

Water containers should be of a design that is easily cleaned and does not cause injury to the dog. Water containers should be maintained in clean condition by emptying and physically cleaning as often as necessary.

If puppies are present, the container should not be so large or deep that they can fall in and drown.

As a general guide, adult dogs in temperate conditions which are not exercising greatly require from 40-100 ml / kg / day. Larger dogs require less water, and smaller dogs require more water per kg. See table. Additional water is required by growing puppies and by bitches during pregnancy and lactation in hot conditions and for active or working dogs.^{3 4}

Owners and carers should provide sufficient water for at least 2 days.

Body weight (kg)	Minimum water required (mls / kg / day)	Water required – temperate weather, minimal exercise (mls per day)	Water required – warm to hot weather, active or working dogs (mls per day)
2	100	200	400 - 600
5	75	375	750-1000
10	65	650	1300-1800
20	55	1100	2200 - 3000
30	50	1500	3000 - 4000
40	45	1800	3600 - 5000
50	40	2000	4000 – 6000

4. FOOD

Objective - Dogs are provided with a balanced and complete diet.

Minimum Standards

- 4.1 Dogs must be fed a nutritionally balanced diet that provides proper and sufficient food to maintain good health and meet their physiological requirements.
- 4.2 Puppies from 6 weeks to 6 months of age must be fed a minimum of 2 balanced meals daily.
- 4.3 All dogs, but especially any that may receive offal as part of their diet must be given regular treatment to control intestinal worms (including hydatid tapeworms).

Guidelines

Dogs need to be fed a well-balanced diet to maintain health; vitality and body weight in the correct range for their breed and age (see body condition categories section below and Appendix 3). Underweight and overweight dogs can have serious health and welfare problems and veterinary advice should be sought for these dogs.

The majority of dogs in the wider community are normal, healthy, non-working, non-breeding animals. These are by far the easiest to feed, having the least demanding nutrient requirements, and in general the main nutritional concern is overfeeding and obesity rather than nutrient deficiencies. These dogs still require a quality balanced diet which compliments the lifestyle of those dogs.

Appropriate nutrition will be provided by a complete commercial dog food. If a home-prepared diet is being fed a veterinarian should be consulted to ensure the dog is getting all the necessary nutrients it requires to maintain good health. Moist or semi-moist food should not be left out as it spoils easily and may attract flies and vermin.

Nutrient requirements for dogs are published by the Association of American Feed Control Officials Inc. and available on their website www.aafco.org. These standards are accepted internationally, including by Australian pet food manufacturers.

The quantity of food required is usually indicated on the food package label, expressed in relation to the dog's body weight and breed type (e.g. toy, small, medium, large or giant). Caution should be applied however as the suggested amounts may not be appropriate for every dog. Different brands and types of dog food (canned, semi-moist and dry) have different levels of nutrients so the amount of food can also alter when types or brands of food are changed.

Care should be taken when introducing a new food to ensure it provides adequate nutrition. Sudden changes in diet can upset a dog's digestive system, so new foods should be gradually introduced over a number of days. Feeding an inappropriate diet to dogs can cause metabolic disease, vomiting or diarrhoea or problems such as skin disorders. Veterinary advice should be sought where such problems are suspected.

Offal (internal organs such as heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and guts) should not be fed to dogs because of the risk of hydatid disease. Dogs which eat offal (from any source including hunting, carcasses etc) may contract the harmless tapeworm stage and then pass eggs into the environment via their faeces. As a result of ingesting these eggs humans readily contract the cystic stage (which can cause serious and potentially fatal illness).

Rules for Hydatid tapeworms control:

- 1) Don't feed dogs offal
- 2) Don't let dogs wander (in case they find and consume a carcass)
- 3) Practice and teach good personal hygiene (clean up dog faeces regularly; wash hands after touching dogs; don't eat while playing with dogs; don't kiss dogs or let them lick the face).
- 4) Administer a product containing Praziquantel to dogs every 6 weeks in areas where hydatid tapeworm is reported.

If there is no alternative but to feed offal, it should first be well cooked (boiled for 40 minutes) or deep frozen (-10 °C for at least 7 days) to kill any parasites

Although some breeds are by nature leaner than others, dogs which are underweight are either suffering ill-health or are being inadequately fed. Either situation is a welfare problem for the dog and should be resolved as soon as possible, generally under veterinary care/guidance. Obesity is a major health and welfare problem for dogs, which is often not recognised by owners.

It is important to regularly assess whether a dog is receiving too little or too much food and exercise by its body condition and weight. Ad-lib feeding may lead to obesity in some animals. By monitoring a dog's body condition their diet can be adjusted to ensure they are maintained in good condition without becoming overweight.

Guidelines for checking if a dog is at an ideal weight Check the dog's ribs. First, stand above the dog and look down at it. Behind the ribs there should be a visible indentation (i.e. a 'waist').

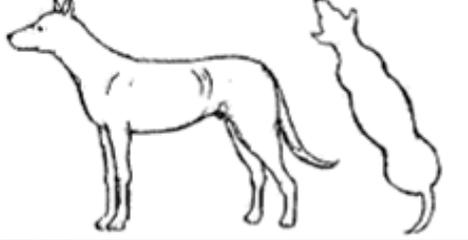
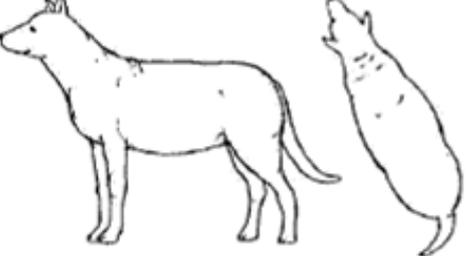
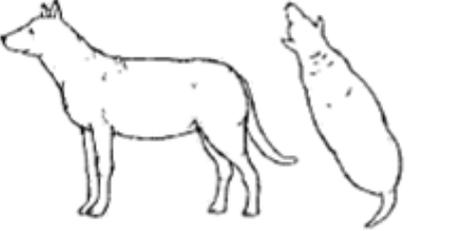
Next, place both hands either side of the chest on the dog's ribs. A person should be able to feel them but not see them (except for the last three ribs in short coated dogs).

Body condition categories

Underweight Ribs are easily felt and seen, no fat felt under the skin.

Ideal Outline of the ribs is easily felt. Dog has a waist when viewed from above, and if viewed from the side, the belly is tucked up.

Overweight Ribs cannot be easily felt. Dog has no waist when viewed from above and if viewed from the side the belly is rounded.

	<p>Condition score 1 - EMACIATED</p> <p>Ribs, spine and pelvis prominent Hollow rump Prominent waist when viewed from above Severely tucked up abdomen Neck thin and bony Sunken eyes</p>
	<p>Condition score 2 - THIN</p> <p>Ribs, spine and pelvis visible Abdomen tucked up Obvious waist when viewed from above Neck thin</p>
	<p>Condition score 3 - IDEAL</p> <p>Ribs and spine can be felt Rounded rump Dog should have a waist when viewed from above Good muscle mass</p>
	<p>Condition score 4- OVERWEIGHT</p> <p>Ribs and spine not visible but can be felt Fat deposit on tail Little or no waist when viewed from above Abdomen appears slightly rounded</p>
	<p>Condition score 5 - OBESE</p> <p>Ribs and spine not visible and difficult to feel Tail has obvious fat deposit No waist and back broadened Abdomen rounded and possibly distended Obvious fat deposits</p>

Reference: Animal Health and Disease Investigation 2nd Edition, Bob Cottam OAM, BVetMed and Janet Berry PhD, BVMS, MACVSc, page 166 (Illustrations: Tamsin Ainslie)

Weigh the dog. General weight ranges for different breeds are available through Dogs Queensland specialty breed Clubs, the internet, or breed books. These weight ranges can be used as a guide. It can be more difficult to visually monitor the weight of longhaired dogs so it is important to physically check these dogs' body condition regularly. It is easier to perform a visual check on a longhaired dog after bathing or swimming or whenever the coat is wet.

Adult dogs should be fed at least once a day. Deep-chested and large breed dogs should be fed at least two smaller meals daily to help prevent 'bloat' or 'gastric torsion'. Where dogs are fed more than once a day then individual meals need to be sufficient to ensure daily requirements are met but not exceeded, to avoid development of obesity. Factors such as size, age and life stage of the dog, activity level, medical requirements, and climate all impact on the diet required by a dog. At different life stages, or levels of activity, dogs may require food of differing nutritional value rather than just a

greater or lesser volume. For this reason it is not possible to provide simple guidelines on how much or what to feed individual dogs. Commercial diets are available for animals with specific needs such as Senior dogs (those older than 6-8 years), dogs prone to gaining excess weight, very active or working dogs, and veterinary diets are available for health problems such as food allergies, kidney disease or arthritis.

Pregnancy, lactation, feeding puppies

During pregnancy the nutritional requirements will alter and additional nutrition will be required. It is important that the body condition of the bitch is maintained within the ideal body weight range to avoid the development of metabolic diseases. Lactating bitches also have increased nutritional requirements and therefore require improved nutrition to enable them to maintain body weight while feeding pups.

Calcium requirements must be met but not exceeded during pregnancy and lactation. Requirements for calcium and all other nutrients are best met by feeding a good quality commercial puppy food to pregnant and lactating bitches. Calcium supplements are contra-indicated during pregnancy. Veterinary advice should be sought about all aspects of breeding, pregnancy and lactation including nutritional requirements.

Puppies have special feeding requirements and require more food (per kilogram of body weight) because in addition to requiring energy for maintenance and activity they need extra nutrients for growth. These needs are best met by feeding a good quality commercial puppy food. A number of small meals need to be provided daily as their daily requirement of food is greater than their stomach can accept in one feed. At weaning, puppies should be provided with 3-4 meals spread evenly throughout the day. This can be reduced to 2-3 meals per day at around 16 weeks of age and then to one to two meals at 6-9 months of age. These changes may need to occur later in large breed pups as they take longer to mature.

Owners wishing to feed home prepared diets should have detailed discussions with a veterinarian⁵. Poor nutrition during this growth stage can create health/skeletal problems in later life.

Dental care:

Dental disease is common in dogs and leads to suffering (pain and ill health). While most dogs chew too little, some dogs chew on inappropriate items and suffer excessive wear or break their teeth. Inappropriate chewing may be due to a disease, pain or anxiety problem and should receive veterinary attention. Dental disease can often be prevented by providing the dog with sufficient and suitable material to chew on and encouraging the dog to chew from an early age. In addition, special dental diet foods and dental treats, drinking water additives and daily tooth brushing are all helpful. Standard dog foods including dry food do not help to keep dogs' teeth clean. Owners should check their dogs' teeth regularly and seek veterinary advice if they notice staining, tartar, odour or red gums.

Suitable things to chew on include commercial dental aids or toys, chew sticks and bones. Bones for dogs must always be raw – cooked bones may splinter or cause severe constipation. They should be whole (not split or cut into pieces), and smaller softer bones are generally safer than larger harder bones. Bones must be large enough to require chewing; they must not be able to be swallowed whole. It should be noted that bones are not recommended by some authorities because of the risks of tooth breakage and gut blockage or penetration by splinters. For this reason raw fresh brisket bones are preferred over other common types of dog bones – large marrow bones can be the cause of tooth breakage and should be avoided.

A separate food bowl should be provided for each dog and be maintained in a clean condition.

Care should always be taken when approaching feeding dogs as they can be protective of their food.

If there is any doubt about the appropriate feeding of a dog, advice should be obtained from a Dogs Queensland Specialty Breed Club and experienced Dogs Queensland member or a Veterinarian.

5. HEALTH and DISEASE

Objective – Ensure that the dog is kept in good health and disease free.

5.1 A dog must be maintained in a good state of health and wellbeing.

5.2 A dog's health and welfare must be checked daily.

5.3 Veterinary treatment to relieve the condition must be promptly sought for dogs showing signs of injury, ill health or distress. Dogs must not be left to suffer.

5.4 Dogs must be treated regularly for internal and external parasites and vaccinated against common diseases.

Minimum Standards

Guidelines

A daily health check should include examining the dog's physical condition, checking for signs of ill health and that the dog is eating, drinking, urinating and defecating and behaving normally. (Refer 'indicators of health' checklist in Appendix 2 for details). It is important to present sick or unwell animals for examination early in the course of a disease as this gives the veterinarian the best opportunity to quickly return the pet to good health.

Dogs can appear quite resilient to pain and may just go quiet or hide as a response to injury or disease. This does not mean that they are not in pain or injured. Abnormal behaviours can indicate underlying health problems. Seek advice from a veterinarian where such behaviours are identified.

Dogs should receive an annual health check by a veterinarian. More frequent checks may be needed for older dogs or those with health/welfare problems.

Regular vaccinations for the control of contagious diseases plus preventative treatments for internal (worms) and external (ticks / fleas) parasites, need to be provided to safeguard the general health of dogs. Frequency of treatment depends on the product used and life stage of the dog. Some animal diseases and parasites are transferable to humans (zoonosis) so it is important that those handling dogs practice good personal hygiene as well as practising regular parasite control.

Puppies should be vaccinated (at least 8 days prior to rehoming), wormed and permanently identified by microchip before going to a new home. They require a course of vaccinations from 7 weeks of age. Puppies also need more frequent worming than adults, starting at around 2 weeks of age. Veterinary advice should be sought regarding vaccination and worming regimes.

Dogs' teeth should be checked regularly for staining, tartar, broken teeth or odour. Raw bones or other appropriate chewing / teeth cleaning substitutes may be fed under advice from your breed mentor or Veterinary surgeon. Special dental diets, regular tooth brushing and other measures may also help to keep dog's teeth healthy. Dogs with signs of dental disease need veterinary care.

All dogs need regular grooming. Short coated dogs should be brushed periodically with a curry groomer or other suitable brush. Dogs with a long or thick coat need more regular and intense grooming including brushing to remove knots, mats and vegetable material. A slicker or other suitable brush should be used. Dogs may be bathed with a suitable dog shampoo or flea / tick rinse as required to clean and deodorise the coat – over-bathing is not recommended.

Clipping generally reduces the intensity of care required, and assists with temperature control and the prevention of grass seed retention. Severe matting of the coat is not acceptable and may require a veterinarian or experienced groomer to deal with this.

Dog's claws should be maintained at a reasonable length and may need to be trimmed.

Flea allergies, mange and other skin disorders do need special treatment. Early diagnosis and treatment by a veterinarian, or a designated breed mentor or animal health officer if a veterinarian is not available is important for dogs suffering these problems.

Keep any poisons or chemicals used in the house, garden or work place stored away from any areas which a dog may have access to as these can be attractive to dogs. Most common poisonings of dogs are a result of them having access to snail or rodent poisons.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080 poisoning so extra care should be taken to confine dogs to properties and away from areas where poisoning programs for pest animals are occurring. Human medicines should not be given to dogs except on veterinary advice as they can be harmful.

Dogs with white hair, or white or non-pigmented nose, eyelids or ears can be prone to sunburn and skin cancers. Keep dogs indoors or in shaded areas during the heat of the day

6. BREEDING and REPRODUCTION (Members should refer to the Dogs Queensland Code of Practice for Member Breeders for more specific information).

Objective: animals are healthy, meet or exceed the recognised breed standard and bred only as required to improve the overall quality of that specific breed of pedigreed dog.

Minimum Standards

- 6.1 The decision to breed from a dog must be made consciously, and not just allowed to happen
- 6.2 Dogs not intended for breeding should be de-sexed at an appropriate age.
- 6.3 Dogs intended for breeding must be of good temperament/personality (and behave confidently and appropriately around people and other dogs)
- 6.4 A breeding dog must be fit, healthy and free of disease.
- 6.5 Dogs with a known history of physical or genetic defects (that will affect the dog or its progeny's quality of life) must not be used for breeding except under extraordinary circumstances.
- 6.6 Females must not be bred in contravention to ANKC rules – the age at which a bitch is considered suitable for breeding varies by breed and approved ages should be checked by referring to the ANKC website.
- 6.7 Veterinary advice must be sought promptly if there are concerns about a pregnancy or labour.
- 6.8 Puppies must not be separated from the mother before 7 weeks of age and not be sold or transferred until 8 weeks of age or older.
- 6.9 Puppies must be vaccinated and microchipped by the breeder prior to acquisition by a new owner as required by legislation and in accordance with Dogs Qld rules. Vaccination and Microchipping can only be carried out by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon (or registered PPID implanter) under Queensland Law.
- 6.10 Every surviving puppy of a litter **MUST** be registered with Dogs Queensland to allow specific details of that dog / puppy to be added to the pedigree database.

Guidelines Pedigreed registered puppies bred by responsible Dogs Queensland member breeders should be the result of careful planning and in accordance with a sound and well considered breeding strategy. Whilst no breeder can ever guarantee freedom from known hereditary defects it is reasonable to expect that a responsible breeder will have assessed the degree to which their breeding stock is or may be affected by these known defects. ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) rules dictate that certain breeds are governed by Litter Registration Restrictions. These LRR's apply to specific breeds where there are reliable tests available that are known to reduce the instances of these hereditary defects from manifesting in the progeny of dogs and bitches included in a breeding programme. *(Example – it is a LRR in the Labrador Retriever that the parents of a litter must have been Hip and Elbow x-rayed and those x-rays assessed and scored by a recognised body before puppies of a litter bred from those parents will be registered by a State Controlling Body. Additionally (whilst not yet a LRR) most responsible breeders of Labrador retrievers will ensure that the parents of a litter have undergone the available DNA testing for PRCD - Progressive Rod Cone Disorder a condition which causes gradual and irreversible blindness in adult dogs).*

Responsible Dogs Queensland member breeders should recommend that puppies being sold as pets (and placed on the Dogs Qld Limited register if that puppy is deemed unsuitable for breeding or conformation showing) should be de-sexed at an appropriate age. The question of “early age de-sexing” is a contentious issue and has been the subject of heated debate over recent years. Dogs Queensland supports the findings of Dr Linda Marsten (Monash University) in her 2008 report to the Queensland Government on the likely effects of early age de-sexing. The recommendations of that report suggested that young bitch puppies should be de-sexed after their first season but before 18 months of age. Young male puppies should be de-sexed once they learn to “cock their leg” – this is a sign of developing maturity and the onset of adolescence. There is clear evidence which suggests that the hormones required to trigger the onset of a “season” in bitches and territory marking in respect of a young male dog are critical to the final structural development of the dog. Many experienced breeders will be aware that after the first season a young bitch puppy can grow in height and both sexes will “body down” as the last step in the maturation process. To interrupt this natural process by early age de-sexing risks denying the young dog of its full growth potential. It should also be noted that Marston et al recognised that early age de-sexing of young bitch puppies often resulted in the onset of cancer (mammary) and incontinence in later life

The minimum breeding age for bitches across all breeds is 12 months at the time of mating. This regulation is not intended to reduce minimum age requirements for breeding set out in the Code of Ethics of Member Bodies and the Rules of National Breed Councils and/or Breed Clubs.

A suitable warm and protected environment should be provided for the bitch to give birth. Most bitches will complete labour in around 6 hours with no more than one hour between pups. If the bitch or pups appear distressed, or there seems to be delays in the labour, contact a veterinarian promptly.

Owners inexperienced in the birthing of bitches should seek advice from their veterinarian or an experienced Dogs Queensland breeder mentor and preferably have an experienced person present.

People supplying puppies should provide new owners with written information about diet; when to de-sex and vaccinate; worming; grooming; housing; identification and general health care.

More detailed and in depth information in respect of breeding can be found in the Dogs Queensland Member Breeder Code of Practice.

7. SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Objective: All surgical procedures are carried out by a Veterinarian and only required procedures are carried out

Minimum Standards

- 7.1 All surgical procedures must be performed by a registered veterinarian using effective anaesthesia and pain relief.
- 7.2 Ear cropping and tail docking of dogs are illegal procedures and must not be done unless carried out by a registered veterinarian for therapeutic reasons.
- 7.3 Details of approved training methods to curb nuisance barking must be shown to have been unsuccessful as a prerequisite to any “voice modification” procedure.

Guidelines

Cosmetic surgery is unnecessary, unethical and inappropriate. Dogs Queensland financial members are required (under the Code of Ethics) to abide by all Federal, State or Local laws as they apply to dogs. Whether the Law is correct is immaterial – this Code of Practice requires that Laws as they currently apply to dogs must be upheld by the CCC(Q) Ltd and if a member is found guilty of a breach under Law then they are automatically in breach of Dogs Queensland rules.

8. HOUSING and CONFINEMENT

Objective: that dogs are housed and confined in a safe and secure manner

Minimum Standards – Housing

- 8.1 Dogs must be confined to the property at all times, unless under the effective control of the owner or carer, as required by legislation.
- 8.2 Secure fencing that the dog cannot get over, under or through is critically important.
- 8.3 Dogs must be provided with a weatherproof sleeping area and effective shelter from sun, wind, rain and extremes of temperature.
- 8.4 Kennels must be large enough for the dog to stand, turn around, lie and stretch comfortably.
- 8.5 Where dogs are housed in enclosures or restricted areas they must meet the minimum size requirements as listed in Appendix 4.
- 8.6 Enclosures need to allow dog(s) to move around freely, to urinate and defecate away from the sleeping and eating areas and be cleaned daily so that enclosures are free of faeces.
- 8.7 Dogs must be given daily exercise outside of enclosures, appropriate to their age, fitness and state of health.
- 8.8 Adequate ventilation to provide good quality air and control of environmental temperature must be provided if dogs are housed in buildings or other areas without natural ventilation.
- 8.9 All housing areas for dogs must be maintained in a safe, clean and hygienic condition at all times.

Guidelines - Housing

Housing should meet the dog's social, emotional psychological, behavioural and physical needs. Dogs are social animals and often the best place for the dog is in the family home, interacting with its carers.

Dogs are confined in order to protect the dog from risks such as vehicles, other dogs and other animals, and to protect the community and other animals from the dog. Confinement is a legal responsibility throughout most of Australia; wandering dogs may be impounded, and owners are liable for costs associated with their dog's actions including damage to other animals or property.

Dogs can be contained to their property by:

- Making property fences dog proof
- Building or buying a dog run which could be connected to the house
- Keeping them in the house at all times
- Enclosing verandas

Suitable accommodation and carers must be provided for dogs when owners are away i.e.: boarding kennels or ensure a responsible person is providing the necessary daily care for the dog.

Fencing of yards or enclosures should meet the following requirements:

- a minimum height of 1.8 metres (shorter fencing may be suitable for small dogs or dogs which are unable to climb or jump, however the height of the fence needs to be sufficient to contain the dogs on the property).
- where 1.8 metre height is not sufficient to contain the dogs, an inward facing overhang of 0.7 metres angled at 35 degrees to the horizontal plane can be used to prevent dogs escaping over the top of fencing.
- a minimum area as shown in Appendix 4 (at least one-third of the minimum area should be weatherproof).
- be constructed of:
 - brick, concrete, timber, iron or similar solid materials; or
 - chain mesh manufactured from 3.15 mm wire to form a uniform 50 mm mesh; or
 - weldmesh manufactured from 4 mm wire with a maximum mesh spacing of 50 mm; or
 - any combination of those materials (note: ensure materials used also comply with local council requirements).
- constructed and maintained in a manner which prevents the dog from being able to dig or otherwise escape under, over or through the perimeter of the premises or enclosure; and
- for dogs that dig or escape under fencing, concrete footings or wire buried into the ground should be used.
- designed to prevent children from climbing into the premises or enclosure.

Under Local Government Laws electronic collar confinement systems do not meet the requirements for confinement of dogs to property and should not be used.

Where more than one dog is housed in an enclosure ensure that they are socially compatible - to avoid fights. Entire dogs should also be separated to avoid unplanned pregnancies. Each dog needs to have its own sleeping area and food bowl.

If metal or concrete kennels or sleeping areas are used, bedding needs to be provided to minimise temperature extremes and the risk of pressure sores and arthritis. Metal kennels should be placed in a shaded area or an alternative shelter provided for dogs in hot weather. Dogs should be kept out of areas with swimming pools unless supervised as they may fall or jump into a pool and drown if they are unable to climb out or get caught in a pool cover.

Where local legislation does not require confinement, such as dogs living in “off-leash” areas, or some remote communities, the local council and community should work together to establish reasonable standards and conditions for dog confinement and housing considering the needs of the community, the dogs and the environment. Wandering dogs may be a danger to people (especially children), may spread disease (e.g. by defecating) and are at risk themselves of being attacked or hit by a motor vehicle.

Minimum space requirements for housing dogs

The spatial requirements apply to the keeping of a dog older than 16 weeks of age or a breeding bitch accompanied by her progeny.

Height of dog measured at shoulder (cm)	Minimum floor area (m ²)	Minimum width (m)	Minimum height (m)	Increased floor area for each dog 8–16 weeks of age (m ²)
> 70	15	2.40	1.80	1.5
41 to 70	10	1.80	1.80	1.0
21 to 40	6	1.40	1.20	0.5
up to 20	4	1.0	1.2	0.5

Minimum Standards – Tethering

<p>8.10 Tethered dogs must be trained to accept tethering and require greater supervision and owner vigilance than other untethered animals.</p> <p>8.11 A swivel must be provided at both the collar and at the tethering point (or where the tether meets the fixed point or running line) and be checked daily</p> <p>8.12 Dogs less than four months old, bitches in season and bitches about to give birth must not be tethered.</p> <p>8.13 Water in a non-spill container (see section 3) and weatherproof shelter must be available and within the dog’s reach at all times.</p> <p>8.14 Dogs must be fed according to the standards in section 4</p> <p>8.15 Dogs must not be tethered to movable objects or adjacent to a fence in a manner that places them at danger of death by hanging.</p> <p>8.16 Dogs must be given regular daily exercise off the tether.</p>

Tethering should be a temporary method of restraint when the forms of housing described outlined under Objective 8 Housing and Confinement are not available. Tethered dogs may be subject to attack from other dogs or mistreatment by people, and tethered dogs are more likely to bite people. ⁶

Owners and carers are responsible for the health and safety of tethered dogs.

9. TRANSPORT

Objective: dogs are transported in a safe and secure manner.

Minimum Standards

9.1 The person driving the vehicle is responsible for the health and welfare of all dogs being transported.

9.2 When travelling, dogs must be provided with adequate ventilation but be protected from wind chill, driving rain and extremes of temperature.

9.3 Dogs must never be transported in the enclosed boot section of a car (sedan).

9.4 Dogs must not be left unattended in the car or in a crate/cage/dog trailer if there is a possibility of heat stress occurring or in situations of extreme cold.

9.5 Dogs must be properly tethered or restrained when on the tray of a moving vehicle or trailer, in a manner that prevents the dog falling, hanging off or being injured. The only exemption to this is a dog actively being used to move livestock.

9.6 The crate/cage must not protrude past the body or tray of the vehicle. Crates, cages or purpose built dog trailers must have multiple ventilation vents holes on at least three sides of the device.

9.7 A crate/cage/dog trailer used for transporting dogs must be easy to clean and disinfect and enable the dog to be comfortable including standing, turning around, and lying down.

9.8 Travelling crates/cages/dog trailers must not have any projections or sharp edges that could cause injury to the dog.

9.9 Travelling crates or cages must be secured or restrained in or on the vehicle.

Guidelines

If a dog is not accustomed to car travel, it should be taken for a few short drives before taking it on a long trip. If the dog is very anxious or suffers from motion sickness it may be medicated under veterinary advice. When dogs are being transported by air the International Air Transport Association regulations will apply.

Dogs should be adequately restrained when travelling inside a vehicle for the safety of both the dog and human passengers. Unrestrained dogs can cause accidents and should never be allowed in the vicinity of the driver. In the case of an accident, an unrestrained dog may become a projectile and can damage itself and/or the occupants of the vehicle.

Dogs should not be allowed to travel with their head out of the car window due to the risk of injury.

If a dog must be left in a parked car at any time, lock all doors, park in a shady area and open the car windows wide enough to provide ventilation (without enabling the dog to jump out or get its head caught). Leave water available in a container that will not tip over. Be aware of weather conditions as the interior of a car can become hot enough to cause heat stress or death very rapidly

(within minutes) even on mild days. In very cold weather, suitable bedding materials must be provided. Dogs left under these conditions must be checked frequently.

If being transported for more than short periods of time, dogs should be given regular opportunities to drink and exercise on a leash outside of the vehicle, including to urinate and defecate. This should occur whenever the driver stops for a break, or approximately every two hours. Temperature and conditions should be taken into account when determining the frequency of provision of water. Water should be offered more frequently during warm weather. Food should be offered at least once every 24 hours or more frequently for younger or debilitated dogs.

10. TRAINING, SOCIALISATION and EXERCISE

Objective: dogs are effectively and humanely trained, socialised and exercised

Minimum Standards

- 10.1 Training methods used with dogs must be humane and not cause pain or suffering.
- 10.2 Electronic dog collars must not be used except in accordance with relevant State and Territory legislation.
- 10.3 Pronged collars must not be used.
- 10.4 Dogs must not be trained to attack except in accordance with relevant State and Territory legislation.
- 10.5 Dogs must be socialised and habituated to the environment.
- 10.5 Dogs must be given regular exercise suitable to their level of health and fitness.
- 10.6 Dogs must not be exercised in any way attached to a motor vehicle due to the danger of serious injury.
- 10.7 Young children and dogs should never be left together unsupervised by an adult.

Guidelines

Dog behaviour and safety is the responsibility of the owner. All dogs should be socialised to reduce anxiety, fearful reactions to other animals, people and circumstances. All dogs should be trained both for their own safety and that of people and other animals.

Socialisation means learning to accepting the close proximity of members of your own species and other species. The most receptive period for socialisation is between 3 and 12 weeks of age, and exposure to as a wide a variety of other dogs, people and other animals during this period is ideal. However, dogs of any age can and should continue to be given opportunities for socialisation.

Exposure of a puppy outside of its home environment should only commence after permanent vaccinations have been administered usually at or after 12 weeks of age.

Habituation means exposing the puppy in a controlled and gradual manner to a wide variety of experiences outside the home environment. Safe and pleasant exposure at this stage is important, considering the individual dog's personality. Dogs which miss out on these positive experiences may be more anxious when exposed to them in the future, resulting in distress, barking and aggression. While most dogs cope well with and enjoy such exposure, others are genetically anxious and forcing them into such experiences may make them more anxious and compromise their welfare. The advice

of a veterinarian, veterinary behaviourist or trained (preferably Certificate 4) experienced dog trainer should be sought.

Care should be taken when introducing a new puppy or dog into a household with existing dogs or cats. Introduce the new dog slowly and under supervision to reduce any conflict over territory or hierarchy.

Training:

Dogs should be trained using effective, humane methods. Veterinarians, animal behaviourists and trainers recommend positive, motivational, rewards based training rather than punishment. Training should start when pups are young and be continued throughout life. Good quality training builds the relationship between dog and owner or carer, develops confidence in the dog as well as fostering good behaviour and enabling easy control of the dog. Owners and carers are encouraged to take their puppy to "Puppy School" and to consider joining a dog club or attending other training classes.

Dogs should be trained, socialised and habituated to prevent nuisance behaviours such as excessive barking. Additionally, excessive barking may reflect anxiety or boredom and should be addressed by consulting a veterinarian or veterinary behaviourist. Uncontrolled nuisance behaviours such as barking may result in prosecution.

Aggression in dogs should be discouraged. Dogs showing aggressive tendencies should be taken to an experienced dog behaviourist or trainer who can advise and train the owner on how to better manage such behaviour problems. Teach family, friends and children how to interact with the family dog/s. This includes teaching children to leave dogs in peace when eating, sleeping or if sick or injured. Dogs should have regular and frequent contact with their owner(s), other people and dogs outside of their yard as they are social animals and human contact is important. Without such contact dogs are likely to become dull, apathetic or develop destructive or aggressive behaviours.

Use of electronic (shock) collars is illegal in many States and Territories. Where they are permitted, owners must comply with relevant legislation and ensure that their dogs are not stressed by the use of these devices. Such collars should not be used when other training methods have failed because these dogs have severe psychological and behaviour problems and the collars may increase distress and anxiety. It is an offence to train dogs to attack, except in accordance with relevant legislation. Attack trained or security dogs may automatically be declared as "Dangerous Dogs" and owners must comply with the associated legislative requirements.

Exercise

Dogs need to be regularly exercised – ideally daily. Exercise includes both physical effort and mental stimulation (sniffing, exploring, games, and social contact) and ideally outside the yard.

Dogs should always be under the effective control of their owner or carer and be on a leash in public areas unless in a designated off-leash area.

When walking a dog outside a confined property, the owner/handler should be aware of potential dangers, such as vehicles or attacks from other dogs, from which the dog may need protection

Examine dog collars regularly for fit, any sign of wear, rubbing, or injury to the dog. A collar needs to be tight enough that it cannot easily slip off but not so tight that it rubs or chokes the dog. Two fingers should fit between the collar and dog's neck.

Dogs should not be exercised if the weather is too hot, as they suffer easily from heat stress which is often fatal. Dark coloured dogs, dogs with short noses or other restrictions to their respiratory systems; elderly and overweight dogs are particularly at risk.

Dogs should not be exercised immediately before or after eating as it can cause problems such as bloat, particularly in deep-chested dogs.

Exercising of dogs from a bicycle, roller blades or similar is not recommended, as it can be dangerous for both the dog and the person on the bicycle. At any sign of fatigue in the dog, the person should stop and walk with the dog. Old dogs and growing puppies should be exercised with care as they are more easily exhausted than other dogs. Over-exercise in growing pups (up to 12 months, or 15 months in giant breeds) can cause joint problems particularly in the case of larger dog breeds.

Dogs should be provided with environmental enrichment and toys to provide mental and physical stimulation.

11. INJURY and OTHER POTENTIAL WELFARE RISKS FOR DOGS.

Objective: Protect dogs from injury and other potential welfare risks.

Minimum Standard

11.1 Injured or ill dogs must be taken promptly to a veterinarian or an animal shelter with a veterinary clinic for examination and treatment.

Guidelines

Most injuries to dogs can be avoided if they are kept confined to the owner's property. Dogs wandering at large are in danger of injuries from being hit by a car or from fights with other dogs. An injured dog should be handled carefully as it can react aggressively from fear and pain. For the dog's welfare it should be supported properly, confined and a veterinarian consulted as soon as possible. An injured dog can be muzzled temporarily for safer handling, although care needs to be taken when using a muzzle. This is best done by an experienced person.

If the dog cannot be safely handled seek local help to contact the local council, police, animal welfare association or veterinarian so the dog can be picked up and taken for treatment by experienced and trained dog handlers. Many dogs are fearful of thunderstorms and/or fireworks. Dogs should be brought inside during such times or, if this is not possible, housed or confined securely so that they cannot escape or harm themselves. If a dog is affected by this problem contact a veterinarian for advice well in advance of thunderstorm season or fireworks events.

12. WHEN A DOG CAN NO LONGER BE KEPT

Objective: dogs which cannot be kept are dealt with humanely.

Minimum Standard

12.1 Owners must find a home for a dog which they can no longer keep

12.3 If a home cannot be found, the dog must be surrendered to a shelter or pound, or be euthanized by a veterinarian.

12.3 Owners are responsible for finding suitable homes for all puppies produced by their bitches.

12.4 It is an offence to abandon dogs or puppies

Guidelines

Abandonment is illegal. It leads to suffering as a result of stress, anxiety, starvation, disease or injury.

Circumstances may arise where owners are unable to care for a dog or puppy. This includes the homing of puppies from an intended or unintended mating. Puppies should not be removed from their mother until they are weaned and ideally 8 weeks of age. Unwanted puppies should be surrendered

to a shelter, breed rescue organisation or other registered animal business for expert assessment and care. Ownership, microchip database and registration details must be transferred to the new owner.

When a new home is found, the new owner should be provided with any information about the dog including de-sexing, vaccination, and identification certificates, worming, disease status and medical records of the dog, as well as guidance about feeding and general health care.

13. EUTHANASIA

Objective: dogs are destroyed in a humane manner.

Minimum Standards

13.1 Euthanasia must be humane.

13.2 Dogs or puppies must never be killed by being drowned, poisoned or gassed.

Guidelines

Euthanasia should be done by a registered veterinary practitioner or person who is appropriately trained in humane euthanasia where allowed by legislation. The recommended method of euthanasia is by lethal injection administered by a veterinarian.

In an emergency, a gun shot at close range into the brain by a person licensed to euthanize by firearm.

Gassing using car exhaust fumes is inhumane, because the exhaust fumes are hot and contain various irritant compounds.

Drowning and poisoning are not humane methods of euthanasia