

9 February 2023

## Statement

### Chief Animal Welfare Officer NSW DPI

#### Update

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#### Vaccine Shortage

- Due to the current feline vaccine shortage, RSPCA NSW and the Animal Welfare League NSW, enforcement agencies for the [NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments](#), have agreed that they will not be proactively enforcing the requirement for adult cats to have their annual booster vaccinations in NSW boarding facilities, until 1 April 2024.
- Biosecurity practices in boarding facilities should be enhanced to minimise the spread of contagious diseases during this time.
- To protect the welfare of cats, establishments are encouraged to take on a risk-based approach to mitigating disease outbreaks. The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) have released an article ([AVA News Article](#)), which provides additional guidance on this topic.

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#### Additional Information

- This temporary change has been communicated to the Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA), which represents Boarding facilities.
- The Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) administers but does not enforce the *NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1975* (POCTAA) and its associated Standards and Codes of Practice.
- POCTAA enforcement in NSW is carried out by authorised enforcement agencies: RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and the NSW Police.
- The [NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments](#) is designed for everyone involved in the holding and care of dogs and cats for boarding. Standard 6.1.2 of this Code states: *'For cats, vaccination against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease is required. A current vaccination certificate (certifying that vaccination was done within the preceding 12 months) must be produced for each cat before admission'*.
- Further information on the laws, regulations and Standards in place in NSW to help ensure good welfare outcomes for companion animals can be found here: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-and-welfare/other/dogs-and-cats>