

Certificate for animals unsuitable for rehoming

Section 54E of the *Animal Research Act 1985*

Section 54C of the *Animal Research Act 1985* requires authorised persons (accredited research establishments or the holders of animal research authorities) to take all reasonable steps to rehome a dog or cat kept for use in research with a suitable individual or an animal rescue organisation. If an animal is certified as unsuitable for rehoming under section 54E, the authorised person is not required to comply with section 54C of the *Animal Research Act 1985*:

54E Animals unsuitable for rehoming

- (1) *If a relevant animal is certified by a veterinary practitioner registered under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 to be unsuitable for rehoming, the authorised person is not required to comply with section 54C.*
- (2) *A certificate given under subsection (1) must include the reasons the animal is unsuitable for rehoming.*
- (3) *A veterinary practitioner who gives a certificate under subsection (1) must —*
 - (a) *be independent of the authorised person to whom the certificate is given, and*
 - (b) *have expertise in the welfare of animals of the species of the relevant animal.*

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's and Animal Research Review Panel's *Guideline for compliance with the Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Act 2022* outlines additional recommendations regarding certifying animals as unsuitable for rehoming.

This form is a template that can be completed as a record that an animal has been certified as unsuitable for rehoming, in accordance with section 54E of the *Animal Research Act 1985*. The form contains both the required information under section 54E of the *Animal Research Act 1985*, and additional recommended information. A separate form should be completed for each animal certified as unsuitable for rehoming.

Authorised persons must ensure that records are kept of any certificates issued under section 54E of the *Animal Research Act 1985*, in accordance with section 54F(d). It is recommended that all records are kept for 7 years.

1. Veterinary practitioner details

1.1 Full name

1.2 NSW veterinary registration number (*under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003*)

1.3 Contact details (*phone, email and address*)

1.4 Independence from the authorised person* (*please tick the option that applies*)

	YES	NO
I am a current or former employee of the authorised person*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am a current or former member of the authorised person's* Animal Care and Ethics Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am currently or have formerly been involved in the use of the animal** in research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have another current or former personal, business or financial relationship with the authorised person* or their representatives that could be considered an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*The person or company identified in part 2 of this form.

**The animal identified in part 3 of this form.

1.4.1 If YES was answered to any of the above, provide further information for each instance (*including details of the position or relationship, and justification as to how independence from the authorised person* has been maintained*)

1.5 Statement of expertise in the welfare of the species of animal being certified as unsuitable for rehoming *(including a summary of qualifications and experience)*

2. Authorised person details

2.1 Full name of authorised person *(company or business name if the authorised person is an accredited research establishment)*

2.2 Contact details for authorised person *(phone, email & address)*

2.3 Full name of authorised person's representative *(i.e., contact person who arranged the assessment of suitability for rehoming)*

3. Animal details

3.1 Species ☐ Dog ☐ Cat

3.2 Name/identifier

3.3 Microchip number

3.4 Sex ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Desexed

3.5 Date of birth or estimated age

3.6 Breed

--

3.7 Description (colour, markings, tattoos, etc)

--

4. Suitability for rehoming

4.1 Date, time, and location of the examination and assessment of the animal for suitability for rehoming *(if carried out across multiple dates/locations, list all that apply)*

--

4.2 Summary of the findings of the physical examination

--

4.3 Summary of the findings of a temperament and behavioural assessment

--

4.4 Summary of other relevant findings (e.g., from review of the animal's records, diagnostic imaging, pathology results, etc)

4.5 Reason/s the animal is unsuitable for rehoming (please tick all that apply and describe in detail below) ☐ Medical ☐ Behavioural ☐ Other _____

4.6 Summary of any measures that have been attempted or considered to improve suitability for rehoming, and why these were unsuccessful or not possible (e.g., additional training or conditioning, veterinary care, medications, etc)

5. Declaration

I certify that the following animal, _____ *[name/identifier of the animal]*, being the animal described in part 3 of this form, is **UNSUITABLE FOR REHOMING** in accordance with section 54E of the *Animal Research Act 1985*.

I also declare the following *(tick each box if applicable)*:

- ☐ I am a veterinary practitioner registered in NSW under the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*.
- ☐ I am independent of the authorised person described in part 2 of this form.
- ☐ I have expertise in the welfare of the species of animal described in part 3 of this form.
- ☐ I examined the animal described in part 3 at the date, time and location provided in question 4.1 of this form.
- ☐ The authorised person described in part 2 of this form has provided me with sufficient access to the animal, relevant staff and any necessary records and information to enable this assessment.
- ☐ I have considered the additional guidance on suitability for rehoming in the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's and Animal Research Review Panel's *Guideline for compliance with the Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Act 2022*.
- ☐ I have completed this form with true and accurate information to the best of my knowledge.

<u>Veterinary Practitioner</u>	<u>Witness</u>
.....
Print full name	Print full name
.....
Signature	Signature
.....
Date	Date