## OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS

### COMPANION ANIMALS BREEDING STANDARDS

#### ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS
Regulated under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA)

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) Breeding Code covers various issues, including: breeding and rearing, animal housing, food and water, cleaning, animal health, veterinary care. It requires that breeding females have no more than two litters in any two year period, unless with written approval of a veterinary practitioner.

The Breeding Code requires that pups not be separated from their litter or lactating mother until they are seven weeks old, and that they not be re-homed before they are eight weeks.

Review currently underway by Animal Welfare Advisory Council into:
- Breeding practices,
- Staff to animal ratios,
- Mandatory desexing for retired breeding animals, and
- The need for breeders to be trained and qualified.

POCTA Pet Shop Code applies to pups sold through pet stores and sets out other requirements, including transport, animal housing, hygiene and animal health.

Review currently underway by Animal Welfare Advisory Council into:
- Animal rehoming targets for rescue and shelter-sourced dogs and cats,
- Limits on the hours when animals can be displayed in stores, or out of hours,
- Training requirements for pet store staff,
- Accrediting pet retail association/s in order to capture standalone retailers, and
- Examining the costs and benefits of a standalone pet shop licensing system.

POCTA sets out strict animal welfare standards for all animals, including cruelty, failure to feed and shelter requirements. Fines of up to $110,000 or two years imprisonment apply for the mistreatment of animals.

#### TRACING, IDENTIFICATION STANDARDS
Regulated under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA)

**REGISTERED BREEDING FEMALE DOG/CAT**

Adult dogs and cats (with limited exceptions*) registered with local councils.

* If you own a cat born before 1 July 1999 and ownership has not changed, or a greyhound currently registered under the Greyhound Racing Act 2009.

**LITTERS OF PUPS/KITTENS**

Registering and microchipping will be completed in a single step. Pups and kittens must be microchipped and registered by 12 weeks of age or when sold or given away, whichever happens first. A range of information is collected including owner information, whether the animal is desexed, and location of animal.

**PUPS/KITTENS SOLD OR KEPT BY OWNER**

POCTA sets out strict animal welfare standards for all animals, including cruelty, failure to feed and shelter requirements. Fines of up to $110,000 or two years imprisonment apply for the mistreatment of animals.

**ADULT DOGS/CATS**

It is the ongoing responsibility of the current owners to maintain details on the registry, including whether the animal has died, been sold or transferred to a new owner.

#### IMPROVEMENTS

Greater information sharing.

Ability for individuals to change their details and check breeder details.

Registering and microchipping will be upgraded into a single step process. The online capture of data will include more information about the origin of an animal.

Requirements under legislation to display an identification number when selling animals by any medium, for tracing purposes.

Increased resources for RSPCA and AWL NSW for targeted compliance activities and education utilising new data available.

Future online automatic reminders to update details.
## TOUGH STANDARDS

**Breeding Code and Pet Shop Code**
- Under PDOTA, a Breeding Code applies to anyone that is breeding dogs or cats for sale, with mandated standards.
- The Breeding Code and Pet Shop Code set out many requirements including breeding and rearing, animal housing, food and water, cleaning, animal health, veterinary care, humane destruction.

- It requires that breeding females not have more than two litters in any two year period, unless with written approval of a veterinary practitioner.
- The Code requires that puppies not be separated from their litter or lactating mother until they are seven weeks, and that they not be re-homed before they are eight weeks.
- All dogs re-homed must be microchipped prior to release.

## EXPERT ADVICE

**Animal Welfare Advisory Council**
- AWAC provides expert advice on matters affecting animal welfare to the Government.
- The Council is comprised of an independent chair and 11 member positions including representatives from industry, government and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League NSW.
- Tasked with reviewing breeding and pet shop standards, with results to be provided to the Minister.

**Responsible Pet Ownership Reference Group**
- Provides advice to the Minister for Local Government on cat and dog management issues, including current responsible pet ownership policy, legislative development, and best practice for managing cats and dogs in NSW.

## COMPLIANCE

**Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA)**
- Provides for prevention of animal cruelty and for welfare of animals.
- The Act is administered by the Minister for Primary Industries and DPI. Under the Act, fines of up to $110,000 or two years imprisonment apply for the mistreatment of animals.
- Enforced by RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and NSW Police.
- People that suspect or witness cruelty can report to authorities.

**Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA)**
- Administered by the Minister for Local Government and Office of Local Government and enforced by Local Councils and NSW Police.
- Includes the Register of Companion Animals for microchipping and registration of dogs and cats and Companion Animals Fund.
- Dogs and cats must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or when sold or given away, whichever happens first. Maximum penalty of $880.
- Currently dogs and cats must also be registered by six months of age — maximum penalty $5500. A registration fee is payable and information and location details must be collected.

## SUPPORTING ENFORCEMENT

**Funding**
- A $200,000 investment for targeted compliance and education of animal welfare standards within the pet breeding industry.
- Funding targeted enforcement of animal welfare regulations through RSPCA and Animal Welfare League.
- NSW Government provides RSPCA NSW with $424,000 annually and has committed another $2 million over four years for their education centre. This equates to $3,696,000 over 4 years.

- Animal Welfare League NSW, NSW Government provides AWL NSW with $75,000 annually.