

PET EXCHANGE REGISTER INFORMATION SHEET

On **1 July 2019**, the **Pet Exchange Register** will come into operation. This is a state-wide register set up by Animal Welfare Victoria under the *Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017*. From this date, any person or business who is advertising to sell or give away a puppy (or dog or cat or kitten) will need to be enrolled on the Pet Exchange Register. Once you have enrolled, a source number will be generated. When you advertise your puppy, you must include its microchip number and your source number in the advertisement. Also include your Dogs Victoria membership number and the statement "Please contact Dogs Victoria on email: office@dogsvictoria.org.au to verify my membership"

If you are:

- calling for "expressions of interest" in an upcoming litter,
- notifying the fact that you are a breeder (e.g. on your website or Facebook page), or
- selling puppies to people that have had dogs from you before or contacted you privately through friends etc.,

you do not require a source number at this stage; therefore, you currently do not need to register on the Pet Exchange Register.

A proposal is in place by the State Govt to update their regulations so that from **1 July 2020** a source number will be required whenever microchipping a dog or cat irrespective of whether the litter is advertised or not. However up until that date, there is no requirement for a source number if you are not advertising the puppy(s).

- The requirement for source numbers in advertisements will come into operation on 1 July 2019, however the Pet Exchange Register came online for registration on 3 June 2019.
<https://per.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au/>
- Holders of Domestic Animal Business permits will automatically be enrolled on the PER by their Council, which will have all the necessary information to enrol their business on the PER as part of their obligations to register as a DAB. This includes DV members with more than ten fertile females who must already be registered with their Council as a Domestic Animal Business.
- It is expected that the majority of registrations on the PER will be done online. You need a valid operating email address in order to complete your registration. If you cannot register online or do not have an operational email address, you can register by obtaining application papers from Dogs Victoria.

REGISTRATION

The following information will be required when Recreational Breeders self-register on the Pet Exchange Register:

- Name, address, contact phone number and email address
- The address of the premises where the breeding is carried out
- The number of Council registered dogs and cats that live at the premises; and for each of those dogs and cats:
 - their microchip number;
 - their name (call name), breed, sex, age and colour;
 - if it has been desexed; and
 - for female dogs and cats, the number of litters the animal has had and the date of birth of those litters (even if the animal is now desexed).

The information required regarding the dogs and cats kept on the property at the time of application can be regarded as a snapshot of your current dogs and cats on that day. Dogs that you have living elsewhere (“breeder’s terms”) are not to be included; only the dogs and cats that live permanently at your address, which you will have registered with the Council.

- Whether the applicant has had any conviction or finding of guilt for an offence against:
 - *Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017* or regulations under that Act;
 - *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* or regulations made under that Act;
 - a law of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth that corresponds to the laws noted above;
 - or any other order relating to animal welfare laws within Australia
- Your Dogs Victoria membership number.
- The date of the most recent inspection of the premises by a Dogs Victoria Field Officer, if applicable.
- The name of the Council where the breeding occurs
- The source number (this will only be available if this is a renewal application)
- A Commonwealth proof of identity document number e.g. passport, driver’s licence, shooter’s licence, Medicare card, birth certificate, an ImmiCard etc. If the registration is being done offline, a certified copy of one of the documents will be required. These identification details are not stored. Use of a Drivers Licence is most advisable; Medicare Card is least advisable.

Our advice is prior to commencing the online registration process, to gather all your DV dog registration certificates of the dogs that live at your place; your litter records relating to your current bitches; your current Council animal registration details and your chosen proof of identity document e.g. drivers licence, passport or Medicare card.

Animal Welfare Victoria can refuse if the applicant has a relevant conviction or order against them or has provided misleading information.

Dogs Victoria is not required to provide information relevant to the PER application, however they are required by law to advise Animal Welfare Victoria within 7 days:

- if they suspend, cancel, disqualify or not renew membership of a recreational breeder, or
- the recreational breeder resigns.

Dogs Victoria is required to inform Animal Welfare Victoria when any recreational breeder is readmitted to membership.

SOURCE NUMBER

Once registration on the Pet Exchange Register is complete, a source number will be generated, which will belong to you and will remain with you, even if your registration on the PER lapses and is later renewed. The source number belongs to the breeder, not any particular litter or dog or advertisement.

The source number must be included in all advertisements after 1 July 2019 (and may be required for microchip registration after 1 July 2020 – confirmation of this will be provided).

The registration on the PER and the source number that it generates is valid for 12 months from the date of registration. Approximately five weeks before the anniversary of your registration, you will receive a reminder. If you wish to renew, you will keep the original source number that you received.

If you do not breed a litter every year, then you may choose to register on the PER only in the year that you are breeding. You will then be registered under the same source number that was generated under your original registration.

The penalty for not providing a valid source number in an advertisement is 5 penalty units, which currently equates to just over \$800.

INSPECTION OF THE PET EXCHANGE REGISTER

- To enable the public to confirm the validity of a source number from an advertisement, when they access the PER, they will be offered a search box where they can enter the source number. If the source number is valid, as a default the following information will be provided:
 - Confirmation of validity of the source number;
 - The name of the Applicable Organisation;
 - The membership number of the person who has included the source number in an advertisement; and
 - The Council where the breeder is registered.

- When registering, the breeder will be given the option of also making public their name, telephone and email address. Nothing more will be publicly available from the PER.
- A police officer or officer of a public sector body who is investigating a relevant offence, may apply to the Department Secretary to inspect the Register.
- A council Authorised Officer, Restricted Authorised Officer or Departmental Authorised Officer acting in the course of the officer's duties, the Secretary of the Department or Nominee may inspect the PER.

If you have any questions on the PER please direct them to:

petexchangeregister@dogsvictoria.org.au

or

per@ecodev.vic.gov.au

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