

Standards

Standards describe the specific actions needed to achieve acceptable animal welfare levels. They are considered minimum standards that need to be met in order to ensure adequate animal welfare.

They are identified in the text by the heading 'Standards' and use the word 'must'. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

It should be noted that proposed standards will become legally enforceable in Tasmania if prescribed in Regulations made under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

Guidelines

Guidelines describe recommended practice agreed at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience.

In some cases, the guidelines describe a recommended method of meeting a standard. For example, a standard may specify that reasonable action must be taken to protect a dog from a transmissible disease and the guideline may provide that vaccination is the recommended method of complying with the standard.

A guideline may be a higher standard of care than minimum standards. Guidelines will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided by a minimum standard. Guidelines are also appropriate where it is difficult to determine an assessable standard.

Guidelines are identified by a heading 'Guidelines'.

Definitions

Bitch means a female animal of the species *Canis familiaris*.

Breeding means the breeding of litters of puppies.

Crate means a roofed enclosure used to temporarily confine a dog (other than for transport) that:

- does not meet the minimum enclosure size in Table 1;
- is large enough for the dog to turn around and lie on its side with its legs outstretched; and
- is large enough for the dog to sit and stand without its head touching the roof.

Date of whelping means the date on which the first pup of a litter is born.

Domestic animal establishment in relation to these standards and guidelines means:

- an animal shelter, pound or pet shop; or
- a dog rearing, training or boarding enterprise that is run for profit and accommodates dogs overnight; or
- A dog breeding enterprise which has three or more undesexed females over six months of age and sells dogs (whether a profit is made or not) other than:
 - working dogs or hunting dogs (as defined in the *Dog Control Act 2000*); or
 - dogs registered with an approved organisation, where the establishment is compliant with an approved quality assurance program and has produced no more than 4 litters in the preceding 18 months; or
 - greyhounds registered with Tasracing.

Disposal of an animal refers to any means by which a person no longer has custody of an animal. It includes transfer of custody, transfer of ownership, euthanasia or death of the animal.

Dog means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris*.

Dog housing includes a kennel, cage, module, colony pen or other enclosure used to contain dogs; or garages, carports, sheds, commercially sold dog kennels or any material, and any room forming part of a house, flat, apartment or town house used for human habitation.

Environmental enrichment means the provision of stimuli that promote appropriate physical and mental activities, resulting in healthier and more active animals.

Facility means any premises used by a domestic animal establishment for the accommodation, shelter, holding or breeding of dogs.

Incompatible animals are animals which, when in each other's presence, interact in a manner that causes injury, fear or distress to one or both of the animals.

Isolation area means a secure area in which individual dogs are kept separate from other animals.

Microchip means a subcutaneous full duplex electronic radio transponder that complies with the relevant ISO standard.

Operating procedures means procedures for the management and operation of a facility for the accommodation and shelter of dogs required under these standards and guidelines.

Opportunity to exercise means:

- allowing the dog access to an exercise area in which it can run freely; or
- by walking the dog on a lead.

Tethering does not constitute an opportunity to exercise.

Parvovirus means canine parvovirus which causes intestinal inflammation in infected dogs, for which symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, high fever, and dehydration.

Person in charge of an animal means the person who has care or charge of an animal under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and is responsible for meeting the welfare needs of the animal, and may include a person who:

- is the owner of the animal; or
- has control, possession or custody of the animal; or
- is the operator or manager of the premises where the animal is held for commercial purposes; or
- is the owner, operator or manager of the land where the animal is being kept, unless there is a written agreement to the contrary between the owner of the land and the owner of the animal; or
- has a share in the business in which the animal is owned; or
- is the chief executive officer or manager (by whatever title known), or a director, of a body corporate that owns the animal.

One or more persons may have the care or charge of an animal.

Person in charge of the facility includes the owner of the facility or the manager of the facility.

Registration number means the registration number for the dog's registration under the *Dog Control Act 2000 (Tas)*.

Rehome means the process of providing an animal with a new owner and a new place to live.

Sale means the transfer of ownership of an animal or animals, including causing, permitting or suffering an animal to be sold by auction, barter, exchange or other supply, and also includes the attempt to sell or offer to sell, expose, supply, possess or receive animals.

Significant infectious disease means a disease caused by a transmissible agent that is likely to cause illness or death in susceptible animals that become infected. Common examples include: canine cough; parvovirus; canine infectious hepatitis; and distemper.

Spoiled food means food that is not fit for consumption by a dog and includes food that has decomposed.

Staff includes the person in charge, manager, employees and volunteers that work in the facility, whether working full or part time and whether or not working for fee or reward.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES: DOMESTIC ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS

I. Responsibilities and skills of persons caring for dogs

Standards

- 1.1. A person in charge of a facility is responsible for the facility complying with these standards.
- 1.2. A person must attend the facility each day to meet the requirements of these standards, and must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills to provide for:
 - the care and welfare of dogs;
 - the feeding and watering of dogs;
 - the reasonable protection of dogs from distress and injury;
 - cleaning and proper hygiene in the facility; and
 - identification of signs of ill health and common diseases of dogs.
- 1.3. A person caring for dogs in the facility who does not meet the requirements of Standard 1.2 must work under the supervision of a person who is experienced in the care of dogs in accordance with Standard 1.2 and who provides instruction where required.

Guidelines

- G1.1 Where staff are employed and will have care or charge of the animals; they should be appropriately trained and, where possible, have formal qualifications in animal care and management, which should be recorded in a register of staff training. Where appropriate, staff should be re-trained on a biennial basis. Training should include:
- current animal behaviour and social needs;
 - the receipt and release of dogs;
 - the housing of dogs;
 - animal husbandry;
 - the handling and control of dogs;
 - moving, transporting and capture of dogs;
 - identifying signs of health and ill health in dogs, including identifying

symptoms of stress or when prompt veterinary care is required;

- procedures for the care of sick and injured dogs;
- special requirements of old or young dogs;
- disease and parasite control and prevention;
- emergency management and evacuation procedures;
- the keeping of records.

G1.3 A staff to animal ratio of 1:20 should be maintained during normal business hours (where a litter is considered as a single unit and therefore a dam and litter count as 2 animals).

2. Quality Management Systems

Standards

- 2.1. The following information must be recorded in relation to each dog housed at a facility except where the facility is a pound or animal shelter and the information cannot be reasonably ascertained:
- The name of the dog or an individual identifier;
 - sex (including whether desexed);
 - breed type, colour and distinguishing features;
 - the date of birth (or approximate age if it is not possible to ascertain the date of birth);
 - the microchip number of the dog unless an exemption under section 15A of the *Dog Control Act 2000* applies, in which case the council registration number of the dog must be recorded;
 - in relation to puppies which are to be rehomed, the microchip number of the dam unless;
 - the name, address and telephone number of the owner or lessee of the dog;
 - vaccination status (including if unknown) ;
 - details of any known special medical and dietary requirements;
 - the date of acquisition/arrival at the facility; and
 - if a dog is no longer housed at the facility, the details of the dog's death or departure. This must include the date and, in the case of departure, the dog's destination and the name of the person who assumed care or charge of the dog.
- 2.2. If a litter of pups is bred, the person with care or charge of the dam at the time of whelping must keep a record of the following:
- the name of the dam;
 - the council registration number of the dam;
 - the owner of the dam;
 - the microchip number of the dam (unless an exemption under section 15A of the *Dog Control Act 2000* applies);
 - the date of whelping; and
 - identification details of each animal in the litter, including any abnormalities or deaths.

- 2.3. Records must be retained for no less than three years at the facility, and the person in charge must be able to produce the records on the request of an officer authorised under the Act.
- 2.3. Each facility must have a documented plan for the appropriate management of the animals in event of an emergency, including fire. This document must be kept at the facility and all staff must have access to it and be familiar with its contents.

Guidelines

- G2.1 The facility should have a documented program in place to control insects, ectoparasites and vertebrate pests. This document should be kept at the facility and all staff should have access to it and be familiar with its content.
- G2.2 Details of preventative and veterinary treatment of dogs, including routine husbandry procedures such as worming and parasite control, should be recorded in relation to each dog.
- G2.3 Records kept in relation to animals at the facility should include notes or observations regarding individual animals made during time at the facility, including any significant alterations in the animal's condition or behaviour since arrival.
- G2.4 Each facility should have a documented procedure for swift removal of animals from the facility in the event of an emergency. This document should be kept at the facility and all staff should have access to it and be familiar with its content.
- G2.5 Procedural documents should be annually reviewed and approved by the person in charge.
- G2.6 In relation to each litter bred, the information recorded should also include: the name and microchip number of the sire; and the date of mating(s).
- G2.7 In relation to leased dogs or boarding dogs, the information recorded should include the name and contact telephone number of the veterinary surgeon who normally attends the animal.

3. Animal Housing

Standards

- 3.1. Housing must provide each dog with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight, extremes of temperature or other adverse weather conditions.
- 3.2. Enclosures in which dogs are ordinarily housed must be of a height and area that provide for:
 - the dogs' freedom of movement,
 - the reasonable expression of normal behaviour,
 - ease of cleaning; and
 - adequate ventilation.
- 3.3. Dogs must not be confined in a crate with the door closed unless:
 - the dog has been or is being trained to accept confinement in a crate; and
 - the period of such confinement does not exceed a total of 10 hours a day.
- 3.5. Dogs must not be housed in contact with wet floors without access to a dry place to lie.
- 3.6. Dogs must be provided with a clean, dry sleeping area which:
 - is appropriate to the breed;
 - is sufficient for the number of animals held; and
 - provides protection from thermal and other physical discomfort.
- 3.7. In dog housing that is enclosed and forced ventilation is the only means of ventilation the following is required:
 - an air change rate of 8-12 changes per hour;
 - even distribution of fresh air to all areas holding dogs;
 - the air temperature must be maintained in a range that provides for thermal comfort;
 - in the case of air recirculation, effective air cleaning and filtration units to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals; and
 - an operational and effective back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation or temperature control.
- 3.8. Dog housing must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the dogs held.

- 3.9. All potential poisons and substances that are harmful to dogs, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of dogs.
- 3.10. Incompatible dogs must not be housed in an enclosure together.
- 3.11. Dogs must not be tethered for periods exceeding 30 minutes unless:
- the dog has been trained to accept tethering;
 - the dog is provided with additional supervision;
 - water and weatherproof shelter are available and within the dog's reach at all times;
 - the tether is fitted with a swivel and is checked daily; and
 - the dog is provided with daily exercise off the tether in accordance with provision 4.6 and 4.7.
- 3.12. Dogs less than four months old, bitches in season and bitches about to whelp must not be tethered.
- 3.13. Dogs must not be tethered to a moveable object or adjacent to a fence in a manner that places them at danger of death by hanging.
- 3.14. Dogs in the care or charge of a domestic animal establishment must not be tethered continuously for a period exceeding 3 hours.
- 3.15. Enclosed dog housing must be provided with ventilation that is sufficient to maintain the health and thermal comfort of the animals and keep the area free of noxious odours and dampness.
- 3.16. Facilities must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that:
- provides for the good health and welfare of the dogs;
 - minimises the risks of transmission of infectious disease agents;
 - minimises the risk of injury to animals.
 - prevents the escape of dogs; and
 - enables it to be reasonably secured to prevent access to the facility by unauthorised people.
- 3.17. Facilities must have a water supply, adequate to meet the daily requirements of the dogs housed at the facility.
- 3.18. Facilities must have an isolation area available either at the facility or at a veterinary clinic to which the domestic animal establishment has reasonable access, and must have demonstrable biosecurity measures in place.
- 3.19. The duration and intensity of artificial lighting, where used in an area used to house dogs within a facility, must be as close as is reasonable to conditions that occur naturally.

3.20. A light source must be available in a facility, sufficient to allow inspection and observation of dogs.

Table 1: Recommended minimum enclosure sizes

Height of dog at shoulder	Min floor area (m ²)*	Min height (cm)**	Min width (cm)	Maximum number of dogs	Increased floor area for each additional dog (m ²)
Dogs over 16 weeks or up to 4 puppies under 16 weeks					
<40cm	1.5	180	90	1	1.0
40-60cm	2.4	180	100	1	1.2
>60cm	3.5	180	120	1	1.7
	Min floor area (m ²)*	Min height (cm)**	Min width (cm)		Increased floor area for each pup 8-16 weeks (m ²)
Bitch with pups up to 8 weeks of age	3.5	180	120		0.4

*Minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding.

**Minimum height applies if the enclosure is roofed.

Guidelines

- G3.1 Enclosures in which dogs are ordinarily permanently housed should meet the minimum enclosure sizes shown in Table 1 above.
- G3.2 Vehicles and caravans (other than those used as a residence), portable crates and the crawl space under a dwelling should not be used as permanent housing for dogs.
- G3.3 Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with noise regulations and occupational health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials that reduce noise;
 - care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal;
 - limiting external stimulation, e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens;
 - holding dogs in compatible pairs; or
 - taking care to exercise dogs away from the sight of kennelled

animals.

Table 2: Recommended minimum puppy enclosure sizes for pet shops

Puppies (8 – 16 weeks)	Min floor area (cm²)	Min height (cm)	Min width (cm)	Max number pups*	Increased floor area per additional pup (cm²)
Under 3kg	6000	60	50	4	1500
Over 3 kg	6000	60	50	2	3000

*This is the maximum number of pups that may be housed in an enclosure with the minimum floor area.

- G3.4 Double barriers are recommended to assist in preventing the escape of dogs.
- G3.5 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to dogs including the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals if necessary. Particular attention should be given to protection for brachycephalic (short-faced) breeds against heat.
- G3.6 Enclosures housing puppies (between 8 and 16 weeks of age) in pet shops should conform to the recommended minimum enclosure sizes shown in Table 2 below.
- G3.7 All facilities should be sewered or on a septic system, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities; or have some other adequate and acceptable method for disposal of faeces and liquid wastes.
- G3.8 The biosecurity measures for a facility (including its isolation area) should be documented.
- G3.9 Unauthorised people should not have access to dog holding areas in a facility except under the supervision of a staff member.
- G3.10 Any security methods used should allow for ready access to dogs and ready exit for staff and animals from a facility in the event of an emergency.

Animal Management

4. Animal Management - Animal Care

Standards

- 4.1. Each weaned dog must be individually identified.
- 4.2. Each unweaned pup must be individually identified at with respect to the identity of its dam.
- 4.3. Measures must be implemented to protect dogs from distress or injury caused by other animals.
- 4.4. Undesexed dogs must be housed securely such that an entire male dog does not have access to a female in season (or vice versa) unless the person or persons with care or charge can demonstrate that it was their intention to breed the dogs.
- 4.5. Dogs over 6 months of age must be provided with the opportunity to exercise for no less than 10 minutes at least twice daily and for no less than 60 minutes in total each day.
- 4.6. Exercise requirements in provisions 4.5 and 4.6 do not apply if:
 - there is written advice from a veterinary surgeon that the dog should not undertake such exercise; or
 - the person with care or charge of the dog can satisfactorily demonstrate that the dog has an injury or illness which requires the dog to be rested and the period without exercise has not exceeded 3 days; or
 - the dog is being held at a pound under the *Dog Control Act 2000* and for a period not exceeding 7 days.
- 4.7. Dogs must not be exercised in any way that poses an unreasonable risk of serious injury. Prohibited methods include exercising a dog attached to a motor vehicle, or unsupervised exercise on a treadmill.
- 4.8. Exercise areas at a facility must be supervised to the extent required to ensure that dogs contained within it are not incompatible.
- 4.9. Dogs must be maintained as required to ensure that dogs' coats are not left matted or tangled unless it is a recognised characteristic of the breed and the condition of the coat does not promote disease or cause physical discomfort or injury.

Guidelines

- G4.1 Dogs should receive environmental enrichment, appropriate to their physiological status, age and breed, to promote good psychological health.
- G4.2 Dogs that should be housed singly in a quiet, warm dry area away from other animals include:
- dogs with dependent young;
 - dogs about to give birth; and
 - sick or injured dogs.
- G4.3 Dogs that may be distressed by the presence of other dogs or other animals should be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces olfactory contact.
- G4.4 When grooming a dog, particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, nails, and teeth.
- G4.5 Dogs that are excessively nervous, aggressive, or that cannot live in harmony with other animals should not be used for breeding.

NOTES

- Positive efforts should be made to socialise animals to humans and other animals. Positive socialisation experiences in pups between 3 and 12 weeks of age promote both normal development and the prevention of aggressive or abnormal behaviour.
- The people in charge of a dog during exercise are reminded of the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* which specify minimum responsibilities when a dog is in a public.

5. Animal Management - Food and Water

Standards

- 5.1. Clean water must be provided to all dogs at a temperature, quantity and quality that meet the physiological needs of the dog. Water must be checked daily and appropriate action taken to ensure water is provided in accordance with this standard.
- 5.2. Dogs must be fed at least once daily.
- 5.3. Dogs must receive a diet of a quality, in sufficient quantity, and supplied at a frequency, that:
 - meets the nutritional requirements of the dog, taking into account its age, breed and physiological status; and
 - maintains a healthy body condition and, if appropriate, allows for growth and reproduction.
- 5.4. Puppies under four months of age must be fed at least three times daily from three weeks of age. Puppies must be fed such that they are not without food for more than 12 hours.
- 5.5. Dogs that are co-housed with other animals must be monitored during feeding to ensure that each dog is able to eat sufficient food to meet their physiological needs.
- 5.6. Food and water containers must be removed, cleaned and replaced immediately if noticed to be contaminated or spoiled such that the quality of the food or water is significantly affected. Contaminants that significantly affect the quality of food or water include (but are not limited to) urine, faeces and vomitus.
- 5.7. Food provided to dogs must be prepared and stored hygienically and must not be served in a way that is likely to cause injury or disease to the dogs.
- 5.8. Puppies from four to six months of age must be fed at least twice daily.

Guidelines

- G5.1 Bitches in the latter stages of pregnancy and lactating bitches should be provided with additional food and water to ensure their physiological needs are met.
- G5.2 Food and water containers should be readily accessible to dogs, and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.

- G5.3 Food and water containers should be stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned and disinfected.
- G5.4 Food intended for dogs should be stored to prevent its deterioration or contamination.
- G5.5 For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual animal.

6. Cleaning and Disinfection

Standards

- 6.1. Sleeping areas must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.
- 6.2. All areas used to house dogs must be cleaned and disinfected before new animals are introduced. The requirement for disinfection does not apply to:
 - dwellings in which dogs cohabit with people; and
 - grassed enclosures.
- 6.3. Areas housing dogs within a facility must be cleaned at least once daily unless they are within a human dwelling, in which case they must be maintained in a reasonably clean condition.
- 6.4. Exercise areas in a facility must be inspected and appropriate action taken to ensure that they are reasonably clean and reasonably free of faeces each day and before new dogs are introduced to the area.
- 6.5. Food preparation and storage areas, food and water containers, and utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food, must be maintained to a hygienic standard.
- 6.6. All dead animals must be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.¹
- 6.7. Pens and cages housing whelping bitches must be disinfected prior to whelping and again after the young have been removed.

Guidelines

- G6.1 All waste products such as faeces, bedding, and food wastes should be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- G6.2 Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of the animals kept.
- G6.3 Collection drains should be cleaned daily.

¹ This is a requirement under the *Animal Health Act 1995*.

NOTES

- Some disinfectants are toxic to dogs, for example, tea tree oil. Staff should be familiar with these matters and avoid the use of inappropriate products.
- Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the *Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority* under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Cth)* and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

7. Transport

Standards

- 7.1. Dogs must be transported in a manner appropriate for their size, age and physiological status.
- 7.2. Incompatible animals must be physically separated during transport to prevent injury, harm or distress.
- 7.3. Dogs must be properly tethered or restrained when on the back of a moving vehicle or trailer, in a manner that prevents the dog falling, hanging off the vehicle or being injured. The only exemption to this is a dog actively being used to move livestock.
- 7.4. During transport, dogs must be provided with ventilation and shade adequate to maintain good health and avoid distress.
- 7.5. Dogs must not be left unattended in a vehicle if there is a possibility of heat stress occurring or in situations of extreme cold.

Guidelines

- G7.1 Vehicles used extensively for the purpose of transporting dogs should be cleaned between consignments of dogs and appropriate measures taken to minimise the transmission of infectious disease agents.
- G7.2 On extended road trips, adequate stops should be made to allow dogs the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defaecate where appropriate; and for the enclosures to be cleaned where necessary.

- G7.3 All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations.
- G7.4 Containers used for dog transport should provide adequate light.
- G7.5 Dogs travelling inside a car should be kept either on the backseat in a restraining device or in the open cargo area of a wagon type vehicle behind a cargo barrier.
- G7.6 Any vehicle specifically designed or regularly used for transporting dogs should:
- protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area;
 - have non slip floors;
 - provide easy and safe access for handlers;
 - be appropriately equipped to maintain the thermal comfort of dogs and to protect against extremes of temperature, even when stationary;
 - protect against unauthorised release or escape of the dogs; and
 - be easy to clean and disinfect.

NOTES

- The driver of a transport vehicle is the person in charge, and therefore responsible for the welfare of animals in the vehicle during transportation.
- For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals

Animal Health

8. Animal Health and Veterinary Care

Standards

- 8.1. All dogs must be inspected at least once daily to monitor their health and welfare.
- 8.2. Puppies under 4 months of age, bitches in the last week of pregnancy, lactating bitches and dogs recovering from illness or injury or otherwise requiring special care must be inspected to monitor their health and welfare:
 - as often as is required to enable reasonable intervention to mitigate preventable risks to health and welfare; and
 - no less than twice daily.
- 8.3. Where there is evidence that whelping has commenced (eg straining) and there is no progress within two hours, advice must be sought from a veterinary surgeon and appropriate remedial action taken.
- 8.4. A person inspecting a dog to monitor its health and welfare must note all adverse observations. Observations must be made with respect to (but are not limited to);
 - eating;
 - drinking, including puppies drinking milk;
 - defaecation;
 - urination;
 - behaviour;
 - whether there are signs of illness or distress;
 - physical movement; and
 - coat condition.
- 8.5. Any changes in the health status of a dog must be promptly reported to the person in charge of the facility for appropriate action.
- 8.6. Appropriate veterinary treatment must be provided for sick or injured dogs.
- 8.7. Dogs at a facility that are known or suspected to be suffering from a significant infectious disease or severe injury must be taken directly to the isolation area unless:
 - Doing so will cause unreasonable pain or suffering to the dog;
 - written assurances from a registered veterinary surgeon regarding the appropriateness of housing with other animals is received; or

- there are other reasonable grounds for not doing so.
- 8.8. Reasonable measures must be taken to:
- prevent dogs from contracting distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, parvovirus,
 - protect dogs from common infectious diseases; and
 - control internal and external parasites.
- 8.9. The contact details for the veterinary surgeon or veterinary clinic must be posted in a location within the facility that enables all persons who care for dogs in the facility to see them.
- 8.10. Domestic animal establishments must have a documented health plan, approved a veterinary surgeon, which details measures taken to prevent common infectious disease and control and treat internal and external parasites.

Guidelines

- G8.1 Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary advice should be sought include but are not limited to:
- persistent runny nose;
 - runny, discharging or inflamed eyes;
 - repeated sneezing;
 - coughing;
 - persistent vomiting;
 - severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained;
 - severe or persistent lameness;
 - significant bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat);
 - inability to stand or walk;
 - loss of appetite;
 - weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden;
 - apparent pain;
 - fits, staggering or convulsions;
 - bloating of the abdomen;
 - difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate;
 - red or brown coloured urine;
 - patchy hair loss;
 - depression;
 - fever;
 - presence of external parasites;
 - any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

- G8.2 Dogs should be health checked by a veterinarian at least once every 12 months.
- G8.3 Dogs over 8 weeks of age should be vaccinated by a veterinary surgeon against distemper, infectious canine hepatitis and parvovirus in accordance with veterinary advice.
- G8.4 Dogs known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease should not be used for breeding or be accepted into a facility other than a pound or animal shelter unless under written approval from a veterinary surgeon.
- G8.5 If dogs are likely to travel outside Tasmania or be otherwise exposed to risk of heartworm transmission, advice regarding heartworm prevention for dogs should be obtained from a veterinary surgeon and complied with.
- G8.6 Dogs admitted to a facility should be effectively vaccinated by a veterinary surgeon against infectious canine cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *parainfluenza virus*) in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- G8.7 Veterinary advice should be obtained in the event of unexplained dog illness or deaths at a facility.
- G8.8 Newly acquired dogs or dogs visiting from another location should not be mixed with the permanent population of a facility for at least the first 48 hours, unless the dog shows no signs of ill health or ectoparasites and is known to be effectively immunised against infectious diseases that pose a significant risk.

NOTES

Parasites include fleas, lice, ticks and gastrointestinal worms.

9. Animal Health – Euthanasia

Standards

- 9.1. Euthanasia must be performed in accordance with the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.
- 9.2. Dogs and puppies must not be killed by being drowned; being placed in a refrigerator or freezer; poisoned; or gassed with motor exhaust fumes.
- 9.3. Euthanasia must be conducted in an area that is separated from animal accommodation at the facility and must not be carried out in view of the general public.

Guidelines

- G9.1 Euthanasia of dogs should be performed by a veterinary surgeon.
- G9.2 All reasonable efforts should be made to home physically healthy and behaviourally sound dogs that are without an owner or can no longer be kept by their current owner.

10. Breeding and rearing

Standards

- 10.1. Bitches must not be mated until after their first oestrous.
- 10.2. Bitches must not have more than two litters in any eighteen month period.
- 10.3. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that a dog is physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of being mated.
- 10.4. During mating, breeding pairs must be isolated from the remaining breeding population, and monitored by a suitably experienced person in charge.
- 10.5. During whelping, bitches must be isolated from the remaining breeding population, and monitored on a regular basis by a suitably experienced person in charge to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.
- 10.6. Whelping bitches must be provided with a suitable place to whelp lined with clean bedding. The bedding in a whelping area must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.
- 10.7. A puppy must not be separated from its litter or lactating mother prior to weaning, except where it is in the interests of the welfare of the puppy or its mother.
- 10.8. Puppies must be monitored to ensure that they achieve a steady weight gain every week

Guidelines

- G10.1 Litters should not be produced unless there is a reasonable expectation of finding homes for the offspring in which they will receive lifetime care that meets their welfare needs.
- G10.2 Breeding practices should ensure that both the breeding animals and the offspring they produce are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible.
- G10.3 After delivery of a litter, the mother and young should be health checked by a veterinary surgeon.
- G10.4 Any puppy that does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred for veterinary consultation.

- G10.5 Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there are screening procedures or a test for that disease the person in charge in the case of a stud dog or bitch should:
- have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog for such hereditary disease;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the dog is to be mated to an animal not owned by the person in charge of the breeding facility;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and the dam to the new owners of any puppy; and
 - endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- G10.6 Puppies should be encouraged to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area to foster the development of toileting behaviour that will make them suitable companions.
- G10.7 Solid food should be offered to puppies from three weeks of age. Puppies should be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable. If necessary, solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- G10.8 Puppies should be socialised to humans and other animals before twelve weeks of age to maximise their opportunity to develop behaviours that will make them suitable companions.
- G10.9 When dogs reach the end of their useful breeding life, or when mature potential breeding stock is found to be in some way unsuitable for breeding purposes, it is the responsibility of the owner to:
- have such dogs spayed or castrated;
 - either provide a pet home for the desexed dogs themselves, or to canvass for and select a new pet home for the animals; and
 - retain responsibility for the dog until such time as a satisfactory new home is established.

NOTES

The person in charge of the facility is reminded of the provisions of the Dog Control Act 2000 concerning dangerous dogs and restricted breeds.

11. Transfer of ownership

Standards

- 11.1. With respect to the sale of puppies, the microchip number of the dam of the puppy must be disclosed in any advertisement and at the point of sale, unless the dam is subject to an exemption under section 15A of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, in which case the council registration number of the dam and the name of the council where registered is disclosed.
- 11.2. Puppies must not be rehomed prior 8 weeks of age, except under veterinary advice.
- 11.3. A person rehoming a dog must advise the prospective owner of the vaccination status of the dog. If the prospective owner is advised that the dog is currently vaccinated, the prospective owner must be provided with a signed vaccination certificate that provides the following information:
 - the date of last vaccination;
 - the diseases against which the dog is vaccinated;
 - the date when vaccination against each disease is next due;
 - the name of the veterinary surgeon (if any) who was responsible for vaccinating the dog.
- 11.4. All puppies that are sold must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus in accordance with veterinary advice prior to rehoming.
- 11.5. A person rehoming a dog must advise the prospective owner when the dog was last health checked by a veterinary surgeon.
- 11.6. A dog suspected of being or known to be sick, injured, deformed, diseased or pregnant may not be rehomed unless of the dog's condition is fully disclosed to the prospective owner prior to any rehoming agreement being finalised.
- 11.7. Dogs that are known to be poorly socialised or aggressive or are known to have recognised behavioural problems such as excessive barking or fence jumping must not be rehomed unless a suitable prospective owner can be found to whom the dog's condition is fully disclosed prior to any rehoming agreement being finalised.
- 11.8. All dogs that are rehomed must be treated to remove gastrointestinal parasites prior to release.
- 11.9. At the time of purchase, clients must be offered accurate written information, at no charge, regarding the appropriate care of the dog purchased.

11.10. All dogs over 6 months of age, or of unknown age, which are sold, must be microchipped prior to release.²

11.11. A person must not rehome a dog to a person if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the prospective owner will not adequately provide for the dog's health and welfare (*this standard is recommended subject to OPC advise as to whether it is workable*)

Guidelines

G11.1 Information required by provision 13.8 should be developed in consultation with a veterinary surgeon and should include the following information:

- general care requirements of the breed, including housing, diet and feeding regimes;
- the minimum requirements for exercise and social contact;
- usual life span of breed and the expected behaviours of the breed, for example digging or scratching;
- that there are legal requirements for pet ownership with respect to welfare and control of their dog
- routine veterinary treatment which may be required, for example vaccination or parasite control
- the value of establishing a relationship with a veterinary surgeon, animal behaviourist and other experienced persons;
- how to identify when veterinary advice or treatment should be sought, and procedures for seeking emergency treatment for the dog,
- the estimated costs associated with providing food and shelter for the dog;
- maximum time a dog can be left unattended;
- the desirability and advantages of desexing dogs;
- that they have legal responsibilities under the *Animal welfare Act 1993* and *Dog Control Act 2000*;
- that there will be costs associated with registering the dog and that they should contact their local council regarding registration requirements;
- other information which is reasonable that the purchaser should be made aware of.

G11.2 Puppies should not be rehomed before they are 8 weeks of age.

² This is a requirement for most dogs under the *Dog Control Act 2000* (Tas).

- G11.3 Dogs should not be rehomed to people less than 18 years of age.
- G11.4 Puppies should receive their first vaccination no less than 14 days prior to being rehomed.
- G11.5 Desexing of dogs not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES: DOGS OTHER THAN THOSE IN THE CARE OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS

I. Animal Housing

Standards

- 1.1. Housing must provide each dog with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight, extremes of temperature or other adverse weather conditions.
- 1.2. Enclosures in which dogs are ordinarily housed must be of a height and area that provide for:
 - the dogs' freedom of movement,
 - the reasonable expression of normal behaviour,
 - ease of cleaning; and
 - adequate ventilation.
- 1.3. Dogs must not be confined in a crate with the door closed unless:
 - the dog has been or is being trained to accept confinement in a crate; and
 - the period of such confinement does not exceed a total of 10 hours a day.
- 1.5. Incompatible dogs must not be housed in an enclosure together.
- 1.6. Dogs must not be housed in contact with wet floors without access to a dry place to lie.
- 1.7. Dogs must be provided with a clean, dry sleeping area which:
 - is appropriate to the breed;
 - is sufficient for the number of animals held; and
 - provides protection from thermal and other physical discomfort.
- 1.8. In dog housing that is enclosed and forced ventilation is the only means of ventilation the following is required:
 - an air change rate of 8-12 changes per hour;
 - even distribution of fresh air to all areas holding dogs;
 - the air temperature must be maintained in a range that provides for thermal comfort;
 - in the case of air recirculation, effective air cleaning and filtration units to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals;

and

- an operational and effective back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation or temperature control.

1.9. Dog housing must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the dogs held.

1.10. Dogs must not be tethered for periods exceeding 30 minutes unless:

- the dog has been trained to accept tethering;
- the dog is provided with additional supervision;
- water and weatherproof shelter are available and within the dog's reach at all times;
- the tether is fitted with a swivel and is checked daily; and
- the dog is provided with daily exercise off the tether in accordance with standards 2.5 and 2.6.

1.11. Dogs less than four months old, bitches in season and bitches about to whelp must not be tethered.

1.12. Dogs must not be tethered to a moveable object or adjacent to a fence in a manner that places them at danger of death by hanging.

1.13. Enclosed dog housing must be provided with ventilation that is sufficient to maintain the health and thermal comfort of the animals and keep the area free of noxious odours and dampness.

1.14. Housing must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that:

- provides for the good health and welfare of the dogs;
- minimises the risks of transmission of infectious disease agents;
- minimises the risk of injury to animals; and
- prevents the escape of dogs.

1.15. All potential poisons and substances that are harmful to dogs, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of dogs.

Table I: Recommended minimum enclosure sizes

Height of dog at shoulder	Min floor area (m ²)*	Min height (cm)**	Min width (cm)	Maximum number of dogs	Increased floor area for each additional dog (m ²)
Dogs over 16 weeks or up to 4 puppies under 16 weeks					
<40cm	1.5	180	90	1	1.0
40-60cm	2.4	180	100	1	1.2
>60cm	3.5	180	120	1	1.7
	Min floor area (m ²)*	Min height (cm)**	Min width (cm)		Increased floor area for each pup 8-16 weeks (m ²)
Bitch with pups up to 8 weeks of age	3.5	180	120		0.4

*Minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding.

**Minimum height applies if the enclosure is roofed.

Guidelines

- G1.1 Vehicles and caravans (other than those used as a residence), portable crates and the crawl space under a dwelling should not be used as permanent housing for dogs.
- G1.2 Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with noise regulations and occupational health and safety requirements and may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:
- judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials that reduce noise;
 - care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal;
 - limiting external stimulation, e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens;
 - holding dogs in compatible pairs; or
 - taking care to exercise dogs away from the sight of kennelled animals.

- G1.3 Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to dogs including the provision of heating or cooling particularly for old, young and pregnant animals if necessary. Particular attention should be given to protection for brachycephalic (short-faced) breeds against heat.
- G1.4 Once a dog has been trained to accept confinement in a crate, leaving the door open when the crate is used is encouraged.
- G1.5 Where dogs are tethered for extended periods, the site should provide a minimum tether radius of three meters allowing six meters of run.

Animal Management

2. Animal management - Animal Care

Standards

- 2.1. Each weaned dog must be individually identified.
- 2.2. Each unweaned pup must be individually identified at with respect to the identity of its dam.
- 2.3. Measures must be implemented to protect dogs from distress or injury caused by other animals.
- 2.4. Undesexed dogs must be housed securely such that an entire male dog does not have access to a female in season (or vice versa) unless there is an intention to breed.
- 2.5. Each day, dogs must be provided with the opportunity to undertake adequate physical physical exercise appropriate to their breed, age and health status.
- 2.6. Weaned dogs must have the opportunity to exercise for a total of at least 60 minutes each day.
- 2.7. Provision 2.6 does not apply if:
 - there is written advice from a veterinary surgeon that the dog should not undertake such exercise; or
 - the person with care or charge of the dog can satisfactorily demonstrate that the dog has an injury or illness which requires the dog to be rested and the period without exercise has not exceeded 3 days.
- 2.8. Dogs must not be exercised in any way that poses an unreasonable risk of serious injury. Prohibited methods include exercising a dog attached to a motor vehicle, or unsupervised exercise on a treadmill.

Guidelines

- G2.1 Dogs should receive environmental enrichment, appropriate to their physiological status, age and breed, to promote good psychological health.
- G2.2 Dogs should be maintained as required to ensure that dogs' coats are not left matted, tangled or in a condition that causes physical discomfort, injury or promotes disease.

- G2.2 Dogs that should be housed singly in a quiet, warm dry area away from other animals include:
- dogs with dependent young;
 - dogs about to give birth; and
 - sick or injured dogs.
- G2.3 Dogs that may be distressed by the presence of other dogs or other animals should be housed in a manner that prevents visual contact and minimises or reduces olfactory contact.
- G2.4 When grooming a dog, particular attention should be given to their eyes, nose, ears, breech, nails, and teeth.
- G2.5 Dogs that are excessively nervous, aggressive, or that cannot live in harmony with other animals should not be used for breeding.

NOTES

- Positive efforts should be made to socialise animals to humans and other animals. Positive socialisation experiences in pups between 3 and 12 weeks of age promote both normal development and the prevention of aggressive or abnormal behaviour.
- The people in charge of a dog during exercise are reminded of the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* which specify minimum responsibilities when a dog is in a public.

3. Animal Management - Food and Water

Standards

- 3.1. Clean water must be provided to all dogs at a temperature, quantity and quality that meet the physiological needs of the dog. Water must be checked daily and appropriate action taken to ensure water is provided in accordance with this standard.
- 3.2. Dogs must be fed at least once daily.
- 3.3. Dogs must receive a diet of a quality, in sufficient quantity, and supplied at a frequency, that:
 - meets the nutritional requirements of the dog, taking into account its age, breed and physiological status; and
 - maintains a healthy body condition and, if appropriate, allows for growth and reproduction.
- 3.4. Puppies under four months of age must be at least three times daily, from three weeks of age. Puppies must be fed such that they are not without food for more than 12 hours.
- 3.5. Dogs that are co-housed with other animals must be monitored during feeding to ensure that each dog is able to eat sufficient food to meet their physiological needs.
- 3.6. Food and water containers must be removed, cleaned and replaced immediately if noticed to be contaminated or spoiled such that the quality of the food or water is significantly affected. Contaminants that significantly affect the quality of food or water include (but are not limited to) urine, faeces and vomitus.
- 3.7. Food provided to dogs must be prepared and stored hygienically and must not be served in a way that is likely to cause injury or disease to the dogs.

Guidelines

- G3.1 Puppies from four to six months of age should be fed at least twice daily.
- G3.2 Bitches in the latter stages of pregnancy and lactating bitches should be provided with additional food and water to ensure their physiological needs are met.
- G3.2 Food and water containers should be readily accessible to dogs, and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.

- G3.3 Food and water containers should be stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned and disinfected.
- G3.4 Food intended for dogs should be stored to prevent its deterioration or contamination.
- G3.5 For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual animal.

4 Cleaning and Disinfection

Standards

- 4.1 Sleeping areas must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.
- 4.2 All dead animals must be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.³

Guidelines

- G4.1 All areas used to house dogs should be appropriately cleaned and disinfected before new animals are introduced.
- G4.2 Pens and cages housing whelping bitches should be disinfected prior to whelping and again after the young have been removed.
- G4.3 All waste products such as faeces, bedding, and food wastes should be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities.
- G4.4 Food preparation and storage areas, food and water containers, and utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food, should be maintained to a hygienic standard.
- G4.5 Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of the animals kept.

NOTES

- Some disinfectants are toxic to dogs, for example, tea tree oil.
- Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the *Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority* under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* (Cth) and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

³ This is a requirement under the *Animal Health Act 1995*.

5 Transport

Standards

- 5.1 Dogs must be transported in a manner appropriate for their size, age and physiological status.
- 5.2 Incompatible animals must be physically separated during transport to prevent injury, harm or distress.
- 5.3 Dogs must be properly tethered or restrained when on the back of a moving vehicle or trailer, in a manner that prevents the dog falling, hanging off the vehicle or being injured. The only exemption to this is a dog actively being used to move livestock.
- 5.4 During transport, dogs must be provided with ventilation and shade adequate to maintain good health and avoid distress.
- 5.5 Dogs must not be left unattended in a vehicle if there is a possibility of heat stress occurring or in situations of extreme cold.

Guidelines

- G5.1 On extended road trips, adequate stops should be made to allow dogs the opportunity to exercise, eat, drink, urinate and defaecate where appropriate; and for the enclosures to be cleaned where necessary.
- G5.2 All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations.
- G5.3 Containers used for dog transport should provide adequate light.
- G5.4 Dogs travelling inside a car should be kept either on the backseat in a restraining device or in the open cargo area of a wagon type vehicle behind a cargo barrier.

- G5.5 Any vehicle specifically designed or regularly used for transporting dogs should:
- protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp edges in the carrying area;
 - have non slip floors;
 - provide easy and safe access for handlers;
 - be appropriately equipped to maintain the thermal comfort of dogs and to protect against extremes of temperature, even when stationary;
 - protect against unauthorised release or escape of the dogs; and
 - be easy to clean and disinfect.

G5.6 Vehicles used extensively for the purpose of transporting dogs should be cleaned between consignments of dogs and appropriate measures taken to minimise the transmission of infectious disease agents.

NOTES

- The driver of a transport vehicle is the person in charge, and therefore responsible for the welfare of animals in the vehicle during transportation.
- For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals

Animal Health

6 Animal Health and Veterinary Care

Standards

- 6.1 All dogs must be inspected at least once daily to monitor their health and welfare.
- 6.2 Puppies under 4 months of age, bitches in the last week of pregnancy, lactating bitches and dogs recovering from illness or injury or otherwise requiring special care must be inspected to monitor their health and welfare:
- as often as is required to enable reasonable intervention to mitigate preventable risks to health and welfare; and
 - no less than twice daily.
- 6.3 Where there is evidence that whelping has commenced (eg straining) and there is no progress within two hours, advice must be sought from a veterinary surgeon and appropriate remedial action taken.
- 6.4 Appropriate veterinary treatment must be provided for sick or injured dogs.
- 6.5 Reasonable measures must be taken to:
- prevent dogs from contracting distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, parvovirus,
 - protect dogs from common infectious diseases; and
 - control internal and external parasites.

Guidelines

- G6.1 A person inspecting a dog to monitor its health and welfare should note all adverse observations. Observations should be made with respect to (but are not limited to);
- eating;
 - drinking, including puppies drinking milk;
 - defaecation;
 - urination;
 - behaviour;
 - whether there are signs of illness or distress;
 - physical movement; and
 - coat condition.

G6.2 Signs of illness or injury for which veterinary advice should be sought include but are not limited to:

- persistent runny nose;
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes;
- repeated sneezing;
- coughing;
- persistent vomiting;
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained;
- severe or persistent lameness;
- significant bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat);
- inability to stand, or walk;
- loss of appetite;
- weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden;
- apparent pain;
- fits, staggering or convulsions;
- bloating of the abdomen;
- difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate;
- red or brown coloured urine;
- patchy hair loss;
- depression;
- fever;
- presence of external parasites;
- any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

Dogs should be health checked by a veterinarian at least once every 12 months.

G6.3 Dogs over 8 weeks of age should be vaccinated by a veterinary surgeon against infectious diseases, including distemper, infectious canine hepatitis and parvovirus, in accordance with veterinary advice.

G6.4 If dogs are likely to travel outside Tasmania or be otherwise exposed to risk of heartworm transmission, advice regarding heartworm prevention for dogs should be obtained from a veterinary surgeon and complied with.

NOTES

- *Parasites include fleas, lice, ticks and gastrointestinal worms.*

7 Animal Health – Euthanasia

Standards

- 7.1 Euthanasia must be performed in accordance with the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.
- 7.2 Dogs and puppies must not be intentionally killed by being drowned; being placed in a refrigerator or freezer; poisoned; or gassed with motor exhaust fumes.

Guidelines

- G7.1 All reasonable efforts should be made to home physically healthy and behaviourally sound dogs that can no longer be kept by their current owner.

8 Breeding and rearing

Standards

- 8.1. Bitches must not be mated until after their first oestrous.
- 8.2. Bitches must not have more than two litters in any eighteen month period.
- 8.3. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that a dog is physically and mentally fit, healthy and free of disease at the time of being mated.
- 8.4. During whelping, bitches must be monitored to ensure that the birth proceeds in a normal manner.
- 8.5. Whelping bitches must be provided with a suitable place to whelp lined with clean bedding. The bedding in a whelping area must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.
- 8.6. A puppy must not be separated from its litter or lactating mother prior to weaning, except where it is in the interests of the welfare of the puppy or its mother.

Guidelines

- G8.1 Litters should not be produced unless there is a reasonable expectation of finding homes for the offspring in which they will receive lifetime care that meets their welfare needs.
- G8.2 Breeding practices should ensure that both the breeding animals and the offspring they produce are as physically and behaviourally sound and healthy as possible.
- G8.3 Where a heritable disease is recognised in a breed and where there are screening procedures or a test for that disease the person in charge in the case of a stud dog or bitch should:
 - have a current official evaluation or test result for the dog for such hereditary disease;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result to the owners where the dog is to be mated to an animal not owned by the person in charge of the breeding facility;
 - provide the official evaluation or test result of both the sire and the dam to the new owners of any puppy; and

- endeavour to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.
- G8.4 After delivery of a litter, the mother and young should be health checked by a veterinary surgeon.
- G8.5 Puppies should be monitored to ensure that they achieve a steady weight gain every week
- G8.6 Any puppy that does not achieve a regular weight gain should be referred for veterinary consultation.
- G8.7 Puppies should be encouraged to urinate and defecate away from the nesting area to foster the development of toileting behaviour that will make them suitable companions.
- G8.8 Solid food should be offered to puppies from three weeks of age. Puppies should be monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable. If necessary, solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability.
- G8.9 Puppies should be socialised to humans and other animals before twelve weeks of age to maximise their opportunity to develop behaviours that will make them suitable companions.

NOTES

The person in charge of the facility is reminded of the provisions of the Dog Control Act 2000 concerning dangerous dogs and restricted breeds.

9 Transfer of ownership

Standards

- 9.1. With respect to the sale of puppies, the microchip number of the dam of the puppy must be disclosed in any advertisement and at the point of sale, unless the dam is subject to an exemption under section 15A of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, in which case the council registration number of the dam and the name of the council where registered is disclosed.
- 9.2. Puppies must not be rehomed prior to 8 weeks of age, except under veterinary advice.
- 9.3. A person rehoming a dog must advise the prospective owner of the vaccination status of the dog. If advised that the dog is currently vaccinated, the prospective owner must be provided with a signed vaccination certificate that provides the following information:
 - the date of last vaccination;
 - the diseases against which the dog is vaccinated;
 - the date when vaccination against each disease is next due; and
 - the name of the veterinary surgeon (if any) who was responsible for vaccinating the dog.
- 9.4. A person rehoming a dog must advise the prospective owner of when the dog was last health checked by a veterinary surgeon.
- 9.5. A dog suspected of being or known to be sick, injured, deformed, diseased or pregnant may not be rehomed unless of the dog's condition is fully disclosed to the prospective owner prior to any rehoming agreement being finalised.
- 9.6. Dogs that are known to be poorly socialised or aggressive or are known to have recognised behavioural problems such as excessive barking or fence jumping must not be rehomed unless a suitable prospective owner can be found to whom the dog's condition is fully disclosed prior to any rehoming agreement being finalised.
- 9.7. All dogs over 6 months of age, or of unknown age, which are sold, must be microchipped prior to release.⁴

⁴ This is a requirement for most dogs under the *Dog Control Act 2000* (Tas).

Guidelines

- G9.1 Puppies should not be rehomed before they are 8 weeks of age.
- G9.2 Dogs should not be rehomed to people less than 18 years of age.
- G9.3 Puppies that are sold should be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus in accordance with veterinary advice prior to rehoming.
- G9.4 All dogs that are rehomed should be treated to remove gastrointestinal parasites prior to release.
- G9.5 Puppies should receive their first vaccination no less than 14 days prior to being rehomed.
- G9.6 Desexing of dogs not intended for breeding is strongly encouraged.
- G9.7 A person should not rehome a dog to a person if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the prospective owner will not adequately provide for the dog's health and welfare.
- G9.8 At the time of sale, the purchaser of a puppy should be offered written information, at no charge, regarding the appropriate care of the dog purchased.