

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory Notes for SL 2025 No. 140

made under the

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008

General Outline

Short title

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025.

Authorising law

Sections 43V, 43W and 210 of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (the Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The purposes of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation) are to:

- Accredit dog breeders so that existing legislative powers can be utilised to ensure adequate standards of dog welfare are maintained and thereby enhance responsible dog ownership; and
- provide flexibility for individual dog breeders and dog breeder organisations in providing and maintaining breeder information, without compromising the rigour and integrity of the dog breeder system.

The amendments to the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2019* (the Regulation) will strengthen the integrity of dog breeding in Queensland. The amendments to the Regulation are an extension of the previously introduced dog breeder registration system by including two additional dog breeding organisations as approved entities.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objectives, the Amendment Regulation recognises MDBA Pty Ltd and Responsible Pty Ltd as approved entities in the dog breeder registration system.

The Amendment Regulation provides flexibility in that it enables these new approved entities to maintain specific breeder information of individual breeders who become members of their

organisation, which must be made available to the chief executive should it be requested. As an approved entity they must be willing and able to provide any other information about their accredited breeders requested by the chief executive to help monitor or enforce compliance with the Act, including in relation to puppy farms and adherence to animal welfare legislation.

The Amendment Regulation which legislates these two dog breeder organisations as new approved entities under the dog breeder accreditation system, is reasonable and appropriate. The information these approved entities are required to maintain of their membership, fulfill their obligations under the Act and meet community expectations as to how responsible dog breeders should operate.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the purposes of the Act, in that approved entities will be able to promote the responsible ownership and breeding of dogs.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

A possible alternative to implementing the Amendment Regulation is to allow dog breeder organisations to self-regulate and leave it to individual organisations as to what information they obtain and keep on their member breeders. This approach is not supported firstly because there is already a legislated accreditation system in the Regulation and secondly, the absence of any government oversight or monitoring of the dog breeding industry, apart from being contrary to law, would increase the risk to dog welfare due to potential operating inconsistencies between dog breeding organisations.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Amendment Regulation strengthens animal welfare standards by recognising MDBA Pty Ltd and Responsible Pty Ltd as approved entities. This ensures breeders of the approved entities adhere to high standards of care and comply with animal welfare legislation, reducing the likelihood of unethical practices like puppy farming. The monitoring and oversight will lead to better health and welfare outcomes for dogs, aligning with community expectations and promoting responsible dog ownership. Additionally, the requirement for approved entities to maintain breeder information and provide it to the chief executive ensures transparency and accountability, fostering trust within the community and ensuring consistent compliance across the industry.

By providing flexibility for approved entities to accredit breeders and maintain information in ways that suit their operational needs, the legislation encourages participation while maintaining the integrity of the system.

This collaborative approach benefits breeders, organisations, and the broader community. Furthermore, the legislation aligns with the objectives of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, ensuring consistency across

Queensland's legislative framework. It also addresses community expectations for government oversight in safeguarding animal welfare and promoting responsible breeding practices.

Finally, the Amendment Regulation delivers economic and social benefits by reducing the financial and emotional burden on families who may otherwise purchase dogs with health or behavioural issues caused by poor breeding practices.

The Queensland Government will incur additional costs in the support of the members of the approved entities on the Queensland Dog Breeder Register. This funding will be provided by existing animal management programs.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation has been drafted with regard to, and is consistent with, the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

The Department of Primary Industries (the department) did not undertake consultation with community stakeholders or organisations independent of government for this amendment. This is because the regulation applies exclusively to two specific entities seeking approved entity status. As such, the amendment does not have a broader impact on the community or other stakeholders.

The department engaged directly with the two applicants to ensure the amendment met the necessary requirements for their approved entity status. No further consultation was deemed necessary given the limited scope and targeted nature of the regulation.

Regulatory Impact Analysis

In accordance with the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*, a Summary Impact Analysis Statement (IAS) for the Amendment Regulation has been prepared. The key findings of the IAS were that the amendments are minor and machinery in nature. Therefore, no further regulatory impact analysis is required. The IAS was approved by the Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and the Minister for Primary Industries.