



The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

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Member Education Series

Cat legislation and you

Laws, laws, laws. Owning cats means that there are many laws that you **MUST** be aware of. As a GCCFV member, there are many different Government legislations that will affect you, and that you therefore also need to be aware of.

As well as complying with the GCCFV Constitution, By-laws and Code of Conduct / Ethics, GCCFV members also need to be aware of their responsibilities under both State and Local laws. Whilst State and Local laws apply to all cat owners, GCCFV members are also required to comply with all of these laws as a condition of their membership and as part of GCCFV maintaining our Applicable Organisation status, as well as the individual member requirements of being a Member of an Applicable Organisation.

So what are the laws you need to be aware of?

State Legislation

All cat owners in Victoria need to comply with

- The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA) and any subsequent amendments to the Act
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA) and any subsequent amendments to the Act
- The Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Cats

These laws and your own local council laws dictate the minimum standards in keeping cats, animal welfare, prevention of cruelty, registration requirements and the number of cats you are permitted to keep.

GCCFV Breeder members

GCCFV members who are registered as a breeder with a breeding prefix have additional legislation and other items they must comply with. In addition to the above laws, they must also comply with:

- The Domestic Animals Act 1994 s5A Applicable Organisations and recognised organisations
- Code of Practice for the Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that cause Disease

The DAA was amended in 2017, with several changes which impact upon breeders. These are detailed below:

All cats / kittens born after 1 July 2020 will require a PER source number to be supplied to the implanter at the time the chip is being implanted. This number will be permanently attached to the chip records, allowing the cat to be able to be tracked back to its original breeder.

All advertisements require the quoting of the cat / kitten microchip number, the breeder / owner PER source code, and the DAB number and issuing council (if applicable). A source number must be provided irrespective whether the cat is being advertised for sale or simply free to a good home.

A PER source number will be allocated by registering online at

<https://per.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au>

with a yearly registration fee payable for the source number

In 2022, it was further amended to read that

A Recreational Breeder is a person who carried out the breeding of cats to sell who is registered with an Applicable Organisation as a breeding member, and who has no more than 10 fertile female cats all of which are registered with an applicable organisation.

Local Laws

As GCCFV is an Applicable Organisation, all members are entitled to certain exemptions and discounted fees under local laws. These are

- Discounted annual registration fees

GCCFV members who are registered with a breeding prefix and are therefore considered as breeder members are also allowed

- Exemption from mandatory desexing regulations
- Allowed up to 10 fertile females before being required to register as a DAB (note that local zoning and or planning laws for land use may place a lower cap on the number of animals and / or on breeding activity)* note that as per the change to the DAA in 2022, all such cats MUST be registered with GCCFV in order to for these exemptions to apply

As each local council or shire may have their own requirements it would be nearly impossible to list them all here – it is **your** responsibility to be familiar with your own local council / shire requirements and ensure that you comply with those.

GCCFV breeder members who do not have all breeding cats registered with GCCFV are not able to be recognised as a recreational breeder under the DAA, and will not be entitled to claim any of these benefits.

How can I find out more?

Did you know – Animal Welfare Victoria is your one stop shop for all things cat legislation, as well as many useful articles and templates.

Simply go to the following link for more information: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets>

Cat legislation items may be found at the following links:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/legal-requirements-for-cat-owners>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/puppy-farm-legislation>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/domestic-animal-businesses/breeding-and-rearing-businesses/regulations-for-cat-breeders>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/domestic-animal-businesses/breeding-and-rearing-businesses/code-of-practice-for-the-breeding-of-animals-with-heritable-defects-that-cause-disease>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/registration-legislation-and-permits/domestic-animal-legislation-and-latest-news>

On the Animal Welfare Victoria website, you will find also find toolkit items which can help you create templates for items such as health management plans, breeding clearance forms, veterinarian agreements etc