

Introduction to the Veterinary Profession

VETS30030 / VETS90122



Module – Non-production species

Dogs and cats

Topic 1 – Dogs and cats in the community

Video 2 – Regulation of pets in the community

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Outline of cats and dogs learning sessions

Dogs and cats in the community

1. Where our pets come from and why we keep them
- 2. Regulation of pets in the community**
3. Pets who need new homes – managing health in animal shelters

Happy, healthy cats

1. Common cat breeds and their characteristics
2. Welfare needs of kittens and cats
3. Health needs of kittens and cats
4. Reproduction and breeding management of cats

Happy, healthy dogs

1. Common dog breeds and their characteristics
2. Welfare needs of puppies and dogs
3. Health needs of puppies and dogs
4. Reproduction and breeding management of dogs

Intended learning outcomes – Regulation of pets in the community

Describe the systems which produce pet dogs and cats and the role of vets and regulation in maximising the welfare of animals within those systems (Section 1 – Where our pets come from and why we keep them)

Describe problems that can arise with dogs and cats in the community and management of those problems which maximise the health and welfare of both animals and humans (Section 2 - Regulation of pets in the community)

Describe the management of pets who need rehoming and how animal health and welfare is managed in shelters (Section 3 - Pets who need new homes)

Risks and problems of dogs in the community

- Dog bites - 35% of child victims bitten in public places in one study*
- Barking dogs
- Roaming dogs
- Welfare concerns for pets not adequately cared for

*Kahn A, Bauche P, Lamoureux J. Child victims of dog bites treated in emergency departments: a prospective survey. *European Journal of Pediatrics* ,2003:162;254.



<https://www.k9ofmine.com/dog-snapped-at-child/>

Risks and problems of cats in the community

- Impact on native wildlife
- Roaming and fighting
- Overpopulation
- Welfare concerns for cats not adequately cared for



Image: US Fish and wildlife Service

Domestic animal regulation in Victoria

Domestic Animals Act 1994, Domestic Animals Regulations 2015
sets out requirements such as:

- registration
- identification
- confinement
- procedures in cases of dog attacks
- declaration and requirements for keeping of dangerous, restricted and menacing dogs
- breeding legislation (already discussed)

and the powers of local councils to ensure these requirements are met.

Domestic animal regulation in Victoria

Local councils play a large role in implementing the regulations

Councils have some discretion in how they implement the requirements



<https://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/registration>

Menacing and dangerous dogs

Menacing dogs – caused minor injuries

Dangerous dogs - caused death or serious injury

Restricted breeds – Pit Bulls only significant one in Victoria



Image:sabs.com.au



Image: Dustix – Wikimedia commons



Image: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/>

Domestic animal regulation in Victoria

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act 1986

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019

Replacement legislation for this currently in development – likely to be in place by the time you graduate



<https://sitstay.com/blogs/good-dog-blog/140262087-3-ways-to-help-prevent-cruelty-to-animals>

Domestic animal regulation in Victoria

Codes of Practice for many species and organisations under these Acts e.g. Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Cats, Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops



<https://bestinau.com.au/best-pet-shops-in-sydney/>