

MODEL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

A condition of Applicable Organisation status is that Dogs Victoria's Codes of Practice comply with requirements set by the Victorian Government. Breeders maintaining a Health Management Plan is one of these. This requirement is documented in Dogs Victoria's **Code of Practice 20.8.5.1**.

Dogs Victoria has developed this Plan for its breeder members, so they do not need to develop their own. The topics covered can be modified if required, to suit the individual requirements of each breeding set up, and there is ample space to outline specific procedures or variations to those outlined in this document. This Plan has been developed and endorsed by a veterinarian. If the plan is used without modification, except to delete sections that are not relevant or to add further detail, then it may be used without further endorsement by the member's own veterinarian.

The Plan supplements the health requirements that are documented in Dogs Victoria's Rules, Regulations, and Codes of Practice. Where these clear expectations, this plan does not duplicate these. It must therefore be read in conjunction with these.

Members have the option to develop their own plan rather than adopt this document. In that case, their plan must meet the content requirement that is detailed in the Dogs Victoria **Code of Practice 20.8.5.2**, and the plan must be developed in consultation with a veterinarian and reviewed annually.



Dogs Victoria

Model Health Management Plan for Breeders

Version 2: June 2018

Breeder Name[s]:	
Breeder Prefix:	
Breed[s]:	
Date Completed:	

What is a Model Health Management Plan and why do I need one?

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Dogs Victoria has developed this Plan for its breeder members, so they do not need to develop their own. The topics covered can be modified if required, to suit the individual requirements of each breeding set up, and there is ample space to outline specific procedures or variations to those outlined in this document. This Plan has been developed and endorsed by a veterinarian. If the plan is used without modification, except to delete sections that are not relevant or to add further detail, then it may be used without further endorsement by the member's own veterinarian.

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Members have the option to develop their own plan rather than adopt this document. In that case, their plan must meet the content requirement that is detailed in the Dogs Victoria Code of Practice 20.8.5.2, and the plan must be developed in consultation with a veterinarian, and reviewed annually.

How to use this Plan

1. Read each section.
2. Cross out anything listed under "Plan Essentials" that does not apply to your specific breed of dogs, or breeding set up. For example, under Grooming – if you have a hairless or short coated dog, you may delete the requirement to ensure your dogs' coats are free of mats, major knots etc.
3. Include any additional information that you do for your specific breed of dogs or breeding set up under "My Enhanced Plan".
4. If your modifications have substantively varied the content, then make an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss these. A record of this consultation needs to be attached to this Plan.
5. Keep the Plan on file with your breeding records.

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Assessment of Stud Dogs and Breeding Bitches

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of my dogs who are used for breeding are healthy and fit to breed at the time of mating. • I seek advice from my veterinarian[s] about the health of my dogs and bitches. • I keep detailed records of the health of my dogs and bitches. • My breeding plans minimise the propagation of heritable defects. • Assessment of suitability for breeding takes place prior to identifying a potential dog or bitch for inclusion in breeding plans • All potential stud dogs and breeding bitches have attributes that will benefit my breed such as breed type, working ability, temperament, and health and distinctive pedigree. They have passed a general veterinary health check and been deemed suitable for breeding, attained adequate maturity for breeding, and been tested for known heritable disease status (where such tests exist) in accordance with Dogs Victoria Code of Practice 20.3. • Prior to any breeding of a dog or bitch, aside from their veterinary health checks defined in Dogs Victoria Code of Practice 20.8, an assessment is also undertaken of the known health status of any offspring, as well as consideration of any difficulties encountered with breeding and/or whelping of prior litters, and in the case of a bitch, her maternal behaviour.
Plan Essentials	<p>My assessment protocol for admission into my breeding program & for determining suitability for further breeding aims to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I breed for the purpose of improving or preserving the standard of my breed[s]. 2. Only healthy, reproductively fit dogs and bitches, with a known status for hereditary disorders, as far as is practicable, are bred. 3. A veterinary practitioner has confirmed that the dog/s are healthy at particular life stages including prior to first mating, within 8 weeks post-partum for bitches, whenever there are health concerns, or whenever recommended by my veterinarian in accordance with Dogs Victoria Code of Practice 20.8. 4. Dogs or bitches that are not suited to breeding due to age, health, behaviour, or reproductive disorders are not bred from and are retired from breeding 5. Dogs or bitches that have produced offspring with heritable diseases/defects are managed in accordance with Dogs Victoria's Code of Practice 20.1.16 and 20.3. 6. All test results for hereditary disease, vet records, mating records, litters and litter outcomes are recorded in the dog's individual health record.
My Enhanced Plan	

Core Viral Disease Prevention in Adult Dogs

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canine Distemper virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus are three serious canine viral disease agents that are easily preventable. • Prevention of these diseases occurs when the dog's immune system is prepared to combat infection, should a dog be exposed to the virus. • Immunity in dogs can be established early in life by vaccination, and maintained throughout adult life either through a recognised vaccination protocol, <u>or</u> by confirming the presence of immunity with antibody titre testing.
Plan Essentials:	<p>I ensure my adult dogs are immune to Canine Distemper virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus by undertaking one of the following:</p> <p>Vaccination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Core' vaccines for dogs (Canine Distemper virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus) are administered every three years or via an alternative recommended protocol. 2. At the time of vaccine dosing, the following information is recorded and retained in my dogs' health record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - date of vaccination - identity of person administering the vaccine - vaccine name, batch number and expiry date - Vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required, and a record of who administered the treatment, signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination will be kept in the individual's health record. 3. Vaccination against 'Non-core' diseases may also be required and will be administered as advised by my veterinarian. <p>Titre Testing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration of protective antibodies (as measured by serum antibody titres) for Canine Distemper Virus and Canine Parvovirus instead of vaccination for these viruses. 2. Repeat titres are measured every 3 years 3. Results of titre testing and the recommended date of next test are recorded in the individual dog's health record 4. Until such time as there a validated antibody titre test in Australia for Canine Adenovirus, I will arrange for this test to be completed overseas, or follow the protocol outlined for <i>Vaccination</i>.
My Enhanced Plan	

Core Viral Disease Prevention in Puppies

Principles

- Canine Distemper virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus are three serious canine viral disease agents that are easily preventable
- Prevention of these diseases occurs when the dog's immune system is prepared to combat infection, should a dog be exposed to a virus
- Immunity in dogs can be established and maintained through vaccination
- It is important that steps are taken to ensure immunity is established early in life.

Plan Essentials

- I ensure my puppies are immune to Canine Distemper virus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Parvovirus by undertaking the following:
1. Vaccination of puppies will not commence prior to 6 weeks, (unless otherwise recommended by my veterinarian)
 2. Revaccination, regardless of the type of vaccine used, will not occur more often than every 2 weeks during the period from 6–16 weeks of age.
 3. A standard vaccination protocol for puppies will be developed with my veterinarian and may consist 2 or more doses of vaccine depending on the protocol and the vaccine used. Where an alternative (non-standard) vaccination programme is developed for pups in higher risk environments or where vaccination commences after 16 weeks, this should be documented by the veterinarian.
 4. At the time of vaccine administration, the following information is recorded and retained in my dogs' health record:
 - date of vaccination
 - identity of person administering the vaccine
 - vaccine name, batch number and expiry date
 - Vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required, and a record of who administered the treatment, signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination will be kept in the individual's health record.

My Enhanced Plan

Emergency Management Plan

Principles

- I have in place an emergency management plan to cover both humans and animals that may be present on my property.
- The emergency management plan includes a documented evacuation procedure for both humans and animals including designated meeting point.
- My emergency management plan includes preparedness strategies at times of high risk – e.g. on days of extreme fire risk.

Plan Essentials

1. I have considered the foreseeable emergencies that may affect my property – e.g. fire, flood, chemical spill, disrupted access to my property.
2. I have developed a written plan that includes both the humans and animals that may be present on my property (including visitors) at the time of an emergency, and all people regularly at my premises are aware of the plan. This is documented under “My Enhanced Plan” and includes an evacuation plan including how, when and to where I will evacuate.
3. Where a full evacuation is not possible, I have considered other strategies that reduce the risk of harm to any animals that may have to remain on the premises.

My Enhanced Plan

Euthanasia

Principles

- Should euthanasia of a dog be deemed necessary, it will be performed in a humane manner, which means the dog is rendered immediately unconscious and does not regain consciousness prior to death.
- Euthanasia will be performed by a registered veterinarian unless in an emergency situation where advice is sought.

Plan Essentials

- I manage any dogs requiring euthanasia to deliver the following outcomes:
1. If deemed necessary, any euthanasia will be performed by a registered veterinarian.
 2. In emergency situations, I carry out euthanasia under the direction of a veterinary practitioner only. In an emergency I will contact (by phone) my veterinary practitioner and request advice. If the veterinary practitioner is unable to attend within a reasonable amount of time, or provide suggestions with respect to alternative care, and both the veterinary practitioner and I agree that immediate euthanasia is required, I will carry out that euthanasia in a manner agreed to by the veterinary practitioner. In such a situation, I will request written certification of this from my veterinarian following this event, and retain this in my records.
 3. I will not permit any euthanasia procedure to be performed in view of any other animals.
 4. I will ensure that the body of any euthanised (or deceased) dog is disposed of in an appropriate manner.

My Enhanced Plan

Exercise, Enrichment & Socialisation

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs of all ages and breeding status require daily exercise, enrichment and socialisation. • Exercise activities should be safe, take into account the age, activity level of the dog, any climate extremes, and take place in an area separate to the dog's regular housing area if they are kept in a kennel, crate, or pen. Exercise activities should be monitored. • Enrichment programs must include rotation of age appropriate activities and must not be limited to periods of exercise and handling.
Plan Essentials	<p>I manage my dog's daily program to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All dogs receive daily handling, exercise and enrichment appropriate to their age, breeding status and health status. 2. For adult dogs I will provide 30 minutes exercise twice a day along with enrichment activities such as training sessions, interaction with toys, and/or other forms of appropriate mental stimulation. Every dog will also have daily handling and positive human interaction. Where necessary this will be modified to meet altered requirements due to age, breeding status or illness/injury, or due to climatic extremes. 3. Puppies will be provided daily enrichment activities and exercise appropriate to their age and development, along with daily individual handling. 4. Where dogs are exercised or provided enrichment activities in groups or pairs, supervision/monitoring is essential to ensure dogs are socially compatible.

My Enhanced Plan

Grooming

Principles

- Grooming is an essential part of a care regime for dogs of all breeds.
- My health plan for grooming sets the minimum standard I will achieve for health purposes. It is not intended as a guide to grooming a dog for a show.
- My grooming health plan is necessary to maintain a healthy skin, coat and nails in all of my dogs.
- Grooming includes brushing and combing, clipping, washing or bathing, nail care, skin care, and care of particular areas such as anal glands, ears, eyes, feet, etc. relevant to the individual needs of the dog and breed.

Plan Essentials

- I perform a regular routine of skin and coat care relevant to my breed(s) that delivers the following outcomes:
1. My dogs' coats are free of mats, major knots, and have minimal or no foreign material such as grass seeds, burs, bindies, or similar present.
 2. If they become wet or are bathed, my dogs are able to dry either by access to an appropriate warm and dry area, or through me drying them.
 3. Skin, eyes and ears are disease-free, or skin/ear/eye conditions are being actively treated under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner.
 4. The length of coat is appropriate and does not hinder normal function and activity of my dog(s).
 5. Any soiling of coat by vomit, faeces, mud or other contaminant is addressed promptly.
 6. There are no unpleasant odours associated with skin or coat conditions.
 7. Nails are kept at an appropriate length, and not allowed to become overgrown.

My Enhanced Plan

Health, Behaviour & Welfare Assessments

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs in my care will undergo a daily health, behaviour & welfare assessment. • Where problems/issues are identified, action should be taken immediately to address the issue, and where disease or illness is suspected, advice from a veterinarian should be sought. • All dogs, regardless of breeding status must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least once per year. • Puppies (especially those prior to weaning) require increased observation and care.
Plan Essentials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All dogs in my care will be examined/observed daily for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any changes in behaviour, that may indicate a health or welfare concern - signs of illness or disease (coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhoea etc.) - signs of pain, inflammation, or discomfort - changes to appetite - changes to activity level - changes to coat/hair (hair loss, matting, scratching, visible parasites) - presence of discharge, bleeding, or swelling - signs of oestrus - any other health or welfare concerns 2. Where a problem is detected, I will take immediate steps to address the issue, or seek the advice of my veterinary practitioner. 3. Pregnant, lactating or elderly dogs will be examined/observed more regularly. 4. Puppies will be identified in a manner that allows individual health, behaviour and welfare assessments to take place. 5. In addition to the regular observations outlined for adults, puppies under the age of 2 weeks shall be weighed at least once each day and advice from a veterinarian shall be sought for puppies not gaining weight. 6. More frequent observations are required to ensure that all puppies within a litter have adequate access to food, water and resting places, and that smaller/less robust puppies are not disadvantaged. Where a problem is detected in one or more puppies, I will take immediate steps to address the issue, or seek the advice of my veterinary practitioner 7. .Records of any concerns will be recorded in the individual dog's health record
My Enhanced Plan	

Health, Behaviour & Welfare Assessments - Puppies & Dogs for Sale

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All puppies and adult dogs will have a health and welfare assessment conducted prior to sale – this applies to puppies being sold from a litter, juvenile or adult dogs being sold, and retired breeding dogs being re-homed • All puppies and adult dogs being sold should be accompanied by full health documentation, vaccination records, microchip information and transfer information, general care and preventative health care information – along with information about any physical or behavioural abnormalities that have been detected and their likely long and short term impact on the health and welfare of the puppy or adult dog.
Plan Essentials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All puppies and adult dogs being sold or re-homed will undergo a veterinary health & welfare examination prior to sale. 2. Where puppy or adult dog has a physical, health or behavioural abnormality, or has tested positive to a known hereditary disease, information shall be recorded in their individual health record and provided to the purchaser, along with information about how that abnormality may affect the short- and long-term health and welfare of the dog. 3. Puppies and adult dogs that are sick or unwell shall not be made available for sale.

My Enhanced Plan

Long Term Management of Breeding Dogs

Principles

- All dogs and bitches who have been involved in breeding will eventually come to a point where they are no longer suitable for, or required, for future breeding plans.
- A long term management plan should be in place for all dogs and bitches retiring from breeding that maximises their ongoing health and welfare.

Plan Essentials

I manage all of my retired dogs and bitches to deliver the following outcomes are achieved:

1. All of my dogs and bitches that are no longer included in breeding plans will be kept as pets (without exceeding my allowed limits of animals that can be kept on the premises), or rehomed to a suitable home provided that their health and temperament has been assessed as suitable for rehoming. This is done in accordance with the Dogs Victoria Code of Practice 20.1.10 and 20.1.11.1.
2. In the rare case where a veterinarian has deemed a dog or bitch as unsuited to being kept as a pet or able to be rehomed due to health or behavioural issues, I may choose to have that dog euthanised by a veterinary practitioner.

My Enhanced Plan

Quarantine & Isolation Protocol & Disease Response

<p>Principles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a documented plan to minimise the risk of introducing disease to my existing dogs. • Disease outbreaks may occur within my own dogs, or may occur in my local area, state area or nationally. • I have discussed with my veterinarian ways in which to minimise disease spread should one or more of my dogs become unwell. This considers my Dogs Victoria / ANKC and other dog-related activities and the regular movements of my dogs. • I have an area for the isolation of dogs suspected of having an infectious disease, or I have an agreement with my veterinarian to provide these facilities.
<p>Plan Essentials</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I minimise the risk of introducing disease to my dogs. This risk may be from visiting dogs, my own dogs that have been off the property (such as dogs returning from a show, trial or event, dogs returning from a veterinary or boarding facility, dogs returning from stud duties), or new dogs that are being introduced. I do this by keeping my dogs away from any noticeably unwell dogs, and if contact with these dogs may have occurred, I consider separating the dogs that may have been exposed from those which have not until veterinary advice is received or possible incubation times have been exceeded. I take further care around puppies and lactating bitches including changing clothes and shoes before entering the whelping area when I have been around dogs that I do not know the health status of. 2. I have defined separate areas of housing that I can use, and have considered both human and dog movement through these areas. 3. I have an 'isolation' area that is completely separate to the housing for other dogs, and have discussed its suitability with my veterinarian. If I do not have a suitable area, I plan to move any dogs requiring isolation to my veterinarian's facility. 4. Where one or more of my dogs becomes unwell, I will immediately seek the advice of my veterinarian regarding treatment, any requirement for enhanced hygiene or disinfection practices, as well as isolation and quarantine requirements to minimise the spread of the disease to my other dogs, and the dogs of others. If there is a chance of the disease being notifiable then the relevant authorities will need to be contacted, this contact will be initiated by my veterinarian.
<p>My Enhanced Plan</p>	

Whelping Protocol

Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitches who are due to whelp require increased observation and care as the time of whelping draws near. • The first few days post whelping require increased vigilance and exceptional care and supervision to ensure that the puppies are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established. • Separate areas need to be provided for bitches who have a litter of pups. These areas need to be in a quiet, and warm place, which is able to be well lit and easily cleaned. • A whelping box helps to provide a safe, enclosed environment for the bitch and her pups, that prevents puppies from falling out or becoming separated from their mother/littermates. It should be easily cleaned and disinfected, and contain soft, absorbent bedding that can be easily cleaned or disposed of.
Plan Essentials	<p>I manage all of my whelping bitches to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All pregnant bitches are monitored closely as their due date approaches, provided a suitable area for whelping, and once whelping commences, are continually monitored until the birthing is complete. 2. All whelping areas are kept clean and disinfected, with appropriate bedding at all times. 3. Bitches and their puppies are monitored closely, and records are kept of the whelping and daily progress of each pup. If there are any abnormalities observed, or any concerns for the welfare of the bitch or puppies, veterinary advice is immediately sought. 4. Both the bitch and puppies receive adequate exercise, handling, enrichment and socialisation as determined appropriate and outlined in my <i>Exercise, Enrichment & Socialisation</i> protocol.
My Enhanced Plan	