



Responsible Breeders Policy

This Policy was approved & adopted on: 11th November 2019

A Responsible Breeder is responsible for the healthy wellbeing & upbringing of their pets by following best practices, animal welfare standards and providing a healthy diet.

Animal Care Australia (ACA) believes that non-pedigree breeders should follow the same level of care and consideration, as those of pedigree breeders. ACA supports a positive approach to all hybrid & genetically diverse and purebred pets.

Dedicated breeders should become relative experts in many areas if they wish to produce sound and healthy pets. These areas include:

- Feeding and nutrition
- Housing and enclosure requirements
- Husbandry and cleanliness
- Breeding requirements of their species
- Basic genetics
- Disease control and understanding of health requirements, including hereditary problems within the breed/species.

Responsible Breeders:

- Generally plan ahead and aim to find good homes for the animals they breed
- Provide a high standard of care and living conditions for all of their animals
- Are genuinely concerned about the welfare of their animals for their entire lives
- Are open to questions and are willing to provide some background or history of the animals, including support and information about the upkeep to potential new owners
- Make sure the buyer will suit the animal and the animal will suit the buyer
- Breed to produce happy and healthy pets
- Meet all necessary legislations and guidelines within their State/Territory.

Healthy, animals that are sound in temperament and body are the aim of all responsible breeders. The more we know of all the factors affecting our breeding stock before breeding, the better equipped we will be to find solutions to potential problems. Responsible owners and breeder will make honest attempts to decrease the incidence of any problems.

What is a sound temperament and body?

For physical soundness, is the animal able to cope with the demands of ordinary life? Does it have a good temperament or mental soundness? Different temperaments are required for different animals and areas of activity. Some pets are more suited in larger families with children whilst others are more suited to owners living alone. Some animals require a high exercise regime while others are more suited to quieter living.

Before considering breeding, you should always:

- Assess the strength of the animal, its genetic make-up, etc
- Check your capacity to look-after and house any young until new and suitable homes can be found
- Check if there is actually a need for those animals (a shortage of that species or an over-abundance)
- Ensure the animals involved are of an appropriate age and haven't been over-breeding in the one season
Females of every species should only produce a certain number of young per season. It is vital that females be allowed to recover and have breaks from pregnancy. Check Codes of Practice or best practice with Societies & Clubs. This will help maintain a healthy animal that will then produce healthy young