

Farm working dogs



Are you, or are you contracted by, a primary producer?

Defined as someone whose primary source of income is generated from primary production as per the land tax definition, specifically in relation to animal production.

NO

No exemptions for farm working dogs apply

Owners of working dog breeds that do not meet the primary producer and farm working dog definitions, are not eligible for legislative exemptions.

These breeders must register as a **domestic animal business** with their local council if they have 3 – 10 fertile female dogs. If they have 11-50 fertile female dogs, they must also apply for commercial dog breeder approval. They must comply with the **Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (Breeding Code of Practice)**.

Dogs Victoria members with working dogs that are not registered as farm working dogs must comply with the **Dogs Victoria Code of Practice** if they have 10 or less fertile female dogs. Dogs Victoria members with 11-50 fertile female dogs must register as a domestic animal business with the local council, comply with the **Breeding Code of Practice** and apply for commercial dog breeder approval.

From 1 July 2019, dogs will require a source number from the **Pet Exchange Register** before being advertised for sale (or free to good home) or when being microchipped. Both source and microchip numbers must be linked and included in any advertisements.

YES



Is your dog a farm working dog?

Defined as a dog usually kept on rural land, by a primary producer, or a person employed by a primary producer and primarily kept or trained for the purpose of droving, protecting, tending, or working stock on a farm.

NO

YES



Dog is registered for a reduced fee with Council, as a farm working dog

Dog not required to have an identification marker outside of premises.

Does not count towards a property's fertile female dog breeding limit.

Regardless of the number of farm working dogs registered, owners only need to abide by laws applying to breeders of 1 – 2 fertile female dogs (if breeding of farm working dogs occurs) i.e. no requirement to register as a domestic animal business NOR meet the Breeding Code of Practice.

From 1 July 2019, owners of farm working dogs will be required to apply for a source number from the **Pet Exchange Register** before advertising dogs for sale (or free to good home). Both source and microchip numbers must be included in any advertisements.

It is an offence to knowingly register a non-farm working dog as a farm working dog