LEGISLATIVE REFORM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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1. Where are we now?

2. Legislative changes and Parliamentary Inquiries
   - Puppy Farms and Pet Shops
   - Restricted Breed Dogs

3. Codes of Practice
   - Case Study: Greyhounds
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

OVERVIEW OF RECENT VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE REFORM

• Two key pieces of legislation in the last two years
  • Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 – Still before Parliament
  • Domestic Animals Amendment (Restricted Breed Dogs) Act 2017 – Came into effect on 30 September 2017

• Two parliamentary inquiries
  • Parliamentary Inquiry into the regulatory and legislative framework relating to Restricted Breed dogs – complete
  • Parliamentary Inquiry into the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 - complete

• One Code of Practice revision underway
• Significant legislative reform for domestic animals
  • October 2016: initial Bill introduced into Parliament
  • October 2016: self referral to parliamentary committee
  • December 2016: parliamentary Inquiry report tabled
  • June 2017: Government response
  • Late 2017: anticipated reintroduction to Parliament
Opportunities:

• clarify and simplify requirements
• improve legislation
• fresh eyes
• thorough stakeholder engagement

Challenges:

• delays
• uncertainty for industry
• communication during an evolving policy space
2015 Parliamentary Inquiry into the legislative and regulatory framework relating to restricted breed dogs
  - Key recommendation to change to Domestic Animals Act 1994 to allow Pit Bull Terrier registration

Legislative change occurred on 30 September 2017

Opportunities:
  - meet community expectations
  - responsible pet ownership

Challenges
  - broad parliamentary inquiry
• New Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds
• First domestic animal Code of Practice to be made under the Subordinate Legislation Act
• Department continues to consult with key stakeholders
Opportunities:
- improve animal welfare outcomes for greyhounds
- simplify and clarify requirements
- stakeholder engagement and site visits

Challenges:
- workable outcomes for industry
- meet community expectations