

LEGISLATIVE REFORM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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OUTLINE

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

LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

DOMESTIC ANIMALS AMENDMENT (PUPPY FARMS AND PET SHOPS) BILL 2016

- 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



LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

PUPPY FARMS AND PET SHOPS LEGISLATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



- Opportunities:
 - clarify and simplify requirements
 - improve legislation
 - fresh eyes
 - thorough stakeholder engagement
- Challenges:
 - delays
 - uncertainty for industry
 - communication during an evolving policy space

LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

- 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



CODES OF PRACTICE

CASE STUDY: GREYHOUND CODE OF PRACTICE

- 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



CODES OF PRACTICE

GREYHOUND CODE OF PRACTICE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



- Opportunities:
 - improve animal welfare outcomes for greyhounds
 - simplify and clarify requirements
 - stakeholder engagement and site visits
- Challenges:
 - workable outcomes for industry
 - meet community expectations

QUESTIONS?

