



**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 1992**

**DETERMINATION NO. 30 OF 1997**

**CODE OF PRACTICE - APPROVAL**

Pursuant to section 22 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, I approve the document entitled the **Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT** as a Code of Practice

Dated this *15<sup>th</sup> January 1997* day of ~~December 1996~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Humphries'.

**GARY HUMPHRIES**  
Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning

The purpose of the Code is to specify the requirements for the welfare of dogs within the Australian Capital Territory.

The Code details the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate for dogs.

**Section 2** details the general requirements of responsible dog ownership including registration, identification and desexing. It also identifies requirements for dangerous dogs, security dogs and guide dogs

**Section 3** outlines the nutritional requirements of dogs

**Section 4** details the general requirements for accommodation, both inside and outside, and quantifies the minimum space accepted per kilo weight of dog in external enclosures

**Section 5** describes the requirements in relation exercise and encourages training of dogs.

**Section 6** outlines hygiene requirements relating to utensils, bedding, enclosures and parasite control.

**Section 7** discusses health issues such as vaccinations, worming and parasites

**Section 8** details requirements in relation to the transport of dogs including water, food and exercise requirements and the use of tranquillisers

**Section 9** outlines responsible breeding practices as well as dealing with issues such as tail docking in puppies.

**Section 10** describes avenues available to people with unwanted dogs

**Section 11** details avenues available to people with lost dogs

**Appendix 1** contains contact addresses for relevant government sections that are concerning with dog management as well as contact addresses for the refuge, breeders, obedience and training clubs

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF DOGS IN THE A.C.T.

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For further information  
please contact:

The Animal Welfare Authority  
PO Box 1119  
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901  
telephone: (06) 207 2249

## **1. Introduction**

This Code of Practice for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has been prepared by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to provide guidelines for the welfare of dogs, including minimum standards of accommodation, management and care.

Since humans can alter or control an animal's environment, animal welfare includes the concept that people have duties and responsibilities towards animals. The greater the level of interference with, or control of, an animal's environment, the greater our responsibility.

Animal welfare considerations are becoming increasingly important in the keeping of animals. This Code is based on established experience and current scientific knowledge, and is open to future review as appropriate. Practices once considered acceptable are now being reassessed and modified according to new knowledge and changing attitudes.

Dog owners should familiarise themselves with relevant legislation. Under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, the owner of a dog has a legal liability to ensure that the dog receives appropriate and adequate food, water, shelter and exercise.

Owners should be aware of related Codes:

- *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Greyhounds in the ACT;*
- *Code of Practice for Animal Boarding Establishments;*
- *Code of Practice for Pet Grooming Establishments;* and
- *Code of Practice for the Handling of Companion Animals in Pounds and Shelters in the ACT.*

Legislative controls concerning the ownership and behaviour of dogs in public places have increased in recent years. This is an indication of the problems which can arise with increasing urbanisation of the dog owning population and the problems created in urban situations with large numbers of unowned and stray dogs. Within the ACT, there is the *Dog Control Act 1975*, and parts of the *Animal Nuisance Act 1975* apply to dogs.

## **2. Responsible Ownership**

### **2.1 General**

The owner of a dog must provide for its physical, emotional and behavioural needs. Dogs must be under the control of the owner at all times. Humans and other animals, such as other dogs, cats, wildlife and farm animals, may be affected or endangered by uncontrolled dog behaviour. Owners should take reasonable precautions to prevent escape of a dog from their premises or vehicle. A good fence is necessary to prevent escape over, under or through.

Dogs in public places must be on a lead, except when in an approved dog exercise area, where the dog must remain under effective control; for example, a dog should respond by the second call of its keeper. Information on dog exercise areas is available from Dog Control Unit, Government shopfronts and public libraries. Exercise requirements are detailed in section 5. Obedience training is a useful tool in adjusting dogs to the urban environment.

### **2.2 Registration**

All dogs in the ACT must be registered at the age of three months with registration being renewed every twelve months. The registration tag must be attached to the dog's collar unless the registration number allotted has been tattooed on one of its ears. A significant reduction in registration fees is available if a dog owner has been responsible in ways that include desexing, obedience training, and membership with an approved club. A person wishing to keep more than three dogs needs to apply for a keeper's licence. The contact for registration and keeper's licensing is the ACT Dog Control Unit (see Appendix 1).

### **2.3 Identification**

In case of the dog's escape, a dog should wear a collar showing contact telephone numbers so that the dog can be reunited with its owner. The Dog Control Unit must be notified of a change of address. Collars should not be too restrictive nor too loose.

Microchipping by a veterinarian is an additional method of identification which can be checked by veterinarians, animal welfare shelters or the Government Dog Pound if a collar has been lost or removed.

## **2.4 Desexing**

Dogs not intended for breeding should be desexed as early as veterinary advice allows. Desexing of both male and female dogs is essential to reduce the number of neglected or abandoned dogs. Desexing may also improve behaviour and helps to reduce reproductive health problems later in life. Female dogs do not need to produce a litter for full physical and emotional development.

Owners of undesexed dogs are risking unplanned pregnancies and should be certain they can provide adequate care for puppies and nursing bitches, and that they can provide appropriate homes for all puppies born.

The *Dog Control Act* provides for imposition of a penalty on the keeper of a female dog on heat in a public place, and for significant reduction in registration fees for desexed dogs.

## **2.5 Special Dogs**

### **2.5.1 Dangerous Dogs**

Dangerous dogs are a significant source of concern to the wider ACT community and, therefore, warrant particular control. A dangerous dog may be defined as one which threatens the safety of people and other animals by showing aggression with little or no provocation; it is based on behaviour not breed.

Under the *Dog Control Act*, the owner of a dog which is designated as dangerous must apply for a dangerous dog licence. An owner of such a dog is responsible for its behaviour and may be the subject of legal action

All designated dangerous dogs should be desexed to prevent further breeding of aggressive animals.

Any designated dangerous dog must be maintained on its owner's property or other premises as agreed by the owner of that premises and the Registrar of Dogs in an escape proof enclosure or indoors except when being exercised or transported. The enclosure must be double gated, of adequate size to provide the opportunity to exercise and should contain appropriate shelter, protection and accommodation. The enclosure should be sited near the owner's house to enable both easy access and visual supervision of the dog from the house. A fluorescent sign as provided by the ACT Dog Control Unit must be displayed alerting people that there is a dangerous dog contained on the property.

Designated dangerous dogs exercised in public places or being transported should be under effective control via an appropriate leash. They are also required under legislation to wear an approved muzzle.

### **2.5.2 Security Dogs**

Security dogs are dogs used to protect premises, goods kept on premises, or a person or persons guarding premises or goods. If a security dog is a designated dangerous dog, Section 2.5.1 applies. Security dogs are subject to the welfare requirements of this code.

### **2.5.3 Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs**

A person accompanied by a guide dog or a hearing dog has the same right of access to, and the same entitlement to the use of, a public place (as defined in the *Dog Control Act*) as that person would have if not accompanied by a dog. These dogs are also subject to the welfare requirements of this code.

## **3. Nutrition**

Dogs require a healthy, well-balanced diet. Dogs benefit from a range of foods which should contain all the proteins, fats, carbohydrates, fibres, vitamins and minerals to maintain good health. This may be provided by complete commercial dog food. A home prepared diet consisting of a variety of fresh food including meat, vegetables and rice or a similar carbohydrate is likely to require vitamin and mineral supplementation and should be discussed with a veterinarian. If a commercial dog food is used, it should be complete containing all the essential ingredients for a healthy diet and fed according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Dogs may be fed a vegetarian diet; however, veterinary advice should be sought to ensure that the diet is complete.

From 6 - 12 weeks of age, puppies require four meals daily. From 12 weeks to 6 months of age, puppies require three meals a day. From the age of 6 months dogs should be fed at least once a day. Two small meals are often better for digestion than one large meal.

Quantities of food to be fed vary according to the age, size and activity of the dog. Food should be served at room temperature. Overfeeding of dogs should be avoided as obesity can have serious health consequences.

Fresh, clean drinking water should be available at all times.

Pregnant and lactating dogs require more food and should be fed at least twice daily. They will also require more water and the supply should be checked twice daily.

If uncertain about quantities and types of food to feed, veterinary advice should be sought.

Sick animals should be fed in accordance with veterinary advice.

Dogs should be provided with raw bones or something hard to chew to help prevent dental disease. Alternatively the teeth can be brushed at least twice a week using a special canine toothpaste to prevent the build up of tartar.

## **4. Environment and Housing**

### **4.1 General**

Dogs are social animals and particularly need the company of humans and if possible other dogs. Many undesirable habits in dogs such as continuous barking, environmental destruction and escaping can be the result of leaving the dog unattended for periods such as a day or a weekend. This can lead to neighbourhood complaints. There are various techniques and tools available to solve problem behaviours, and advice should be sought from veterinary surgeons, pet shops, the RSPCA, the Dog Control Unit or private dog trainers.

Dogs should be provided with the following basic requirements:

- human contact for a reasonable length of time each day;
- adequate exercise (see Section 5);
- accommodation designed to suit their age, anatomy and behavioural patterns;
- environmental enrichment for non-working dogs which may include obedience work, free running exercise, play, and chewing objects;
- dogs kept outdoors should have adequate protection from rain, wind, direct sunlight and extremes of temperature;
- dogs kept indoors should be provided with comfortable conditions of ventilation and lighting, and adequate bedding or sleeping quarters; and
- protection from other animals and humans if contact with them is likely to cause distress.



## **4.2 Tethering**

Tethering dogs for long periods or on a regular basis should only be used as a last resort. A suitable enclosure may be a preferred option (see Section 4.4). If long term tethering is necessary, a running chain should be used with due consideration given to safety to prevent hanging or entanglement. Puppies should not be tethered until accustomed to walking on a collar and lead. Regular exercise must also be provided.

## **4.3 Sleeping Areas**

Sleeping areas, whether indoors or outdoors, should include a dog bed or wooden pallet so that the dog is not forced to sleep on concrete. Bedding such as an old blanket or straw should be provided and kept clean and dry, being replaced as required.

For winter in the ACT, consideration should be given to the materials and consequential warmth of the kennel, with regard to the condition of the dog including age, length of coat and health. Sleeping kennels should be selected to suit the size of the dog, but allow the dog to stand, turn around and lie down. Uninsulated metal shelters or kennels are not sufficient for most breeds in Canberra winters.

## **4.4 Outdoor Enclosures**

Enclosures, whether for single or group housing, should provide at least enough space for each animal to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about and provide adequate protection from rain, wind, direct sunlight, and extremes of temperature.

Where outdoor enclosures are used more than 3 or 4 hours at a time, they should include a sleeping area and run and meet the following requirements:

One dog up to 15kg: run area 4m<sup>2</sup> with a minimum dimension (width/length) 1m, plus 0.5m<sup>2</sup> for each additional dog of similar size.

One dog 15kg to 30kg: run area 6m<sup>2</sup>, with a minimum dimension (width/length) 1.5m, plus 0.5m<sup>2</sup> for each additional dog of similar size.

One dog over 30kg: run area 8m<sup>2</sup> with a minimum dimension (width/length) of 2m, plus 1m<sup>2</sup> for each additional dog of similar size.

In certain cases, dogs may need to be housed in smaller areas, due to injury, behavioural needs, illness and age.

Floors of enclosures should be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage. Sealed concrete is ideal or sealed brick may be acceptable. Grassed or landscaped sections may form part of large outdoor runs but should be adequately maintained to reduce the risk of parasites and disease.

Where dogs are housed together they should be compatible.

Where dogs are confined in outdoor enclosures, they must be exercised preferably for at least one hour daily. They must also be provided with human contact for a reasonable length of time each day.

## **5. Exercise**

### **5.1 General**

Dogs must have the opportunity for adequate exercise to:

- allow them to be observed for good health;
- provide mental stimulation by change of environment and interaction;
- maintain muscle tone and fitness;
- give them contact with humans.

Exercise can be provided by walking dogs on a lead for a minimum of 30 minutes once daily or 15 minutes twice daily, except for permanently confined dogs which are to be exercised for one hour daily. Very active, very old or injured dogs may require more or less exercise than the above. When it is safe for the dog, members of the public and other animals, dogs should be allowed exercise off lead in a declared dog exercise area. In particular, large or active dogs would desirably be allowed more exercise than the time stated above off lead in a safe and appropriate area. Information on dog exercise areas is available from the ACT Dog Control Unit, ACT Government shopfronts and libraries.

### **5.2 Training**

Obedience training is a major factor in sound dog management and when properly carried out, results in an improved relationship between the dogs, their keepers and the community. Obedience training is available by professional dog trainers and through obedience clubs (see Appendix 1).

Dog behaviour and safety is the responsibility of the owner. Training aids the owner to fulfil his/her obligations in managing the dog's behaviour. Positive reinforcement is the preferred training technique, for example, the use of rewards rather than punishment.

Under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, the use of devices which administer an electrical shock is prohibited unless the device is permitted by the *Animal Welfare Regulations*.

## **6. Hygiene**

Bowls should be of a texture and design which limits damage from chewing and restricts water spillage.

Food and water bowls should be maintained in a clean, fresh condition.

Bedding should be changed weekly, or more often if soiled.

The dog's environment should be maintained in a clean state. Faeces should be removed at least every second day. Cleaning and disinfecting agents for enclosures and kennels should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness.

Manufacturer's instructions for the use of cleaning, disinfecting and external parasite (eg fleas) control agents should be followed since too dilute a solution may be ineffective and too concentrated a solution may be toxic to animals.

## **7. Health Care**

### **7.1 Prevention of Disease**

It is essential for a dog's general health that a program of vaccination against canine distemper, parvovirus and infectious hepatitis be carried out. Vaccination against kennel cough is recommended for dogs that are likely to come into contact with large groups of dogs; ie, at training classes, dog shows or boarding kennels.

Puppy vaccinations should begin at six - eight weeks. Further vaccinations will be required as advised by a veterinarian. Adult dogs should be vaccinated annually or as prescribed by a veterinarian.

An effective gastrointestinal worm control program with an appropriate medication should be carried out. Puppies should be treated each fortnight up to 12 weeks of age. Unweaned puppies have special needs and veterinary advice should be sought. Dogs older than 12 weeks should be treated at three monthly intervals. Dogs should not be fed raw offal from cattle, kangaroo or sheep due to the risk of hydatids. Dogs having access to carcasses of cattle, kangaroo or sheep should be treated with an effective compound against hydatid tapeworm as recommended by a veterinarian. Heartworm prevention and/or diagnosis should also be discussed with a veterinarian.

External parasites, such as fleas, lice and ear mites, should be controlled.

If a new dog is introduced into a home or kennel where other dogs already reside, it is the responsibility of the new owner/carer to ensure that any new dog is free of contagious diseases and parasites.

Regular grooming should be carried out to maintain a healthy coat and skin and assists in detection of other problems.

Manufacturer's instructions should be followed for the use and suitable application for all medications and products associated with hygiene or health care.

## **7.2 Disease and Ill Health**

It is the responsibility of the owner/carer to monitor a dog's health. The person observing the dog should note whether it:

- is eating normally;
- is drinking normally;
- is urinating and defecating properly;
- is behaving in its usual manner;
- is able to move about freely; and
- has a normal coat.

Veterinary advice should be sought if a dog is showing signs of ill health, such as:

- runny nose, runny or inflamed eyes;
- repeated sneezing;

- chronic coughing;
- repeated vomiting;
- severe or prolonged diarrhoea;
- lameness for more than a 24 hour period;
- inability to stand or walk;
- bleeding or swelling of body parts;
- significant weight loss or lack of appetite;
- significant increase in appetite, body weight or consumption of water;
- apparent pain;
- fits or staggering;
- straining or inability to urinate or defecate;
- wounds, irritations or inflammations;
- significant hair loss;
- repeated scratching and shaking of the head; and
- bloody saliva or a rotten smell from the mouth.

## **8. Transport**

### **8.1 Modes of Transport**

Dogs may be transported by motor vehicle, rail or air. The person or company responsible for transporting them should ensure that they are transported at all times in a way not to cause injury, escape or undue stress.

Dogs should be transported in the shortest practicable time.

At all times during transport, dogs should be protected against extreme temperatures. They should not be left in a parked car in warm weather or in a container that is exposed to direct sunlight. Very old and very young animals which are more sensitive than others to changes in temperature may require provision of heating or cooling.

Loud or sudden noise which may distress animals should be avoided.

When being transported by private motor vehicle, it is suitable for the dogs to travel in the car with the owner or handler, or in an enclosed trailer that is insulated and properly ventilated. Ventilation must be sufficient to avoid dampness and draughts, and minimise noxious odours. Dogs are not to be exposed to the vehicle's exhaust emissions. Faeces, urine and vomit should be removed promptly.

It is essential that dogs travelling on the back of utility vehicles and trucks be in a secured container or on a lead short enough to prevent their hind legs reaching either side of the truckbed. The length should not allow the dog to climb onto the cabin. If a lead is used, a swivel at both ends of the lead prevents the lead from becoming tangled. The RSPCA can provide design advice. Dogs should not be carried on the back of utility vehicles or trucks during weather extremes unless there is provision for protection from the elements.

Where cages or containers are used in transport, they should be constructed with a strong framework with joints made so that the animal cannot escape. The container should have no protuberance that could injure the dog during transport and it should provide adequate shelter. The interior walls of containers must be smooth, flat and not subject to splintering.

Where individual cages or containers are used, the whole of one end of the container should be open and covered with bars, weld mesh or smooth expanded metal securely attached to the container. Additional ventilation holes should be provided on all three of the remaining sides. The total ventilation area should provide a minimum of 16% of the total surface area of the four sides. The vehicle or trailer in which the cage is being transported should be fitted with appropriate roof ventilation.

Access to the container should be by a sliding or hinged door adequately secured to prevent accidental opening and escape.

Containers should be easy to clean and disinfect.

The container should be large enough to permit each dog contained therein to stand, turnaround and lie down.

The number of adult dogs in one container should not exceed two, and then only if the dogs are from the same household and are compatible. Sibling puppies may be transported together and the number should be related to the size and strength of the individual animals.

Unless travelling by private motor vehicle, a transport container should have both a label on the top and at least one of the four sides with the name, address and phone contact number of both the sender and receiver and a label saying LIVE ANIMALS.

Any vehicle or trailer especially designed or regularly used for transporting dogs should:

- protect the dogs from injury;
- have non slip floors;
- provide easy access and operator safety;
- protect against extremes of temperature;
- protect against unauthorised release of animals;
- be easy to clean and disinfect;
- be properly ventilated avoiding dampness, draughts and exhaust emissions, and maintaining a comfortable temperature; and
- be supplied with clean, secured cages or containers appropriate to the size of the dog being transported.

These requirements are the same whether the vehicle is moving or stationary.

For interstate commercial transport, advice should be sought from the airline or railway. International transport should follow the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service standards or requirements.

## **8.2 Food, Water and Exercise During Transport**

A dog should not be kept in a mode of transport for more than six hours without breaks provided. In extremes of temperature, breaks provided will need to be more frequent. A break should consist of being let out of the mode of transport for at least ten minutes and provided with drinking water. Water should be offered more frequently during warm weather. Food should be offered at least once every 24 hours.

## **8.3 Use of Tranquillisers during Transport**

Tranquillisation of dogs for transport can be dangerous to their health. Some tranquillisers can disrupt a dog's ability to regulate its body temperature. Only tranquillisers prescribed by a veterinarian should be used and their use should be discussed fully with the veterinarian.

Tranquillisation to prevent a dog from escaping during transport should not be used as an alternative to a properly constructed container .

## **9. Breeding and Ownership**

### **9.1 Breeding**

In the ACT, large numbers of unwanted dogs and puppies are destroyed at the RSPCA and the Dog Pound each year. It is the responsibility of all dog owners to avoid unwanted pups being born through indiscriminate breeding. If it is likely that suitable homes will not be found for all puppies, breeding should not occur, and the bitch preferably being desexed. Puppies not able to be rehomed should be taken to the RSPCA or euthanased by a veterinarian.

Persons planning to breed dogs should carefully assess their own lifestyles. It takes a lot of time and energy and an extensive initial outlay of money to produce, raise and find appropriate homes for every litter. If more than three dogs over the age of three months are kept, the licensing requirements under the *Dog Control Act* must be met. The following comments relate to minimum standards. Standards required by the controlling body for registered breeders may be obtained from the Canberra Kennel Association (see Appendix 1).

Puppies need extensive interaction with their carer to be emotionally stable and acceptable as part of a family.

Prior to going to their new homes, puppies should be health checked by a veterinarian. Adequate worming and vaccination as recommended in Section 7.1 should be followed. It should be noted that vaccination does not afford immediate protection.

Puppies should not be removed from their mother younger than six weeks of age, preferably eight weeks.

Some females can come into oestrus ("in season"/"on heat") as early as six months of age. At first mating a bitch should be a minimum of 12 months of age, but preferably 18 months.

Breed variation should be taken into account when deciding how often a bitch should be put into whelp. However, continuous whelping throughout the breeding life of the bitch is unacceptable. Prior to the mating, a bitch should be checked by a veterinarian for sound health.



The average gestation period for a dog is nine weeks. After 60 days, owners should provide a suitable area for the birth. The area should be clean, safe, quiet and protected from weather and other animals. If the dog experiences difficulty, veterinary advice should be sought.

Bitches in season should be kept separate from adult male dogs to prevent unplanned pregnancies. Under the *Dog Control Act*, bitches in season are not allowed to be in a public place.

Animals selected and retained for breeding should have a balanced temperament, be physically healthy, and genetically sound. The deliberate breeding of malformed dogs is unacceptable.

## **9.2 Tail Docking**

A dog's tail has many purposes including balance, assistance with toileting, and communication with other dogs and humans. Tail docking is a traditional custom of breeders carried out for cosmetic reasons. There may be some occasions where for health reasons a dog's tail does need to be amputated. This would be on an individual case basis and the case should be discussed with a veterinarian. The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* requires tail docking to be performed by a veterinarian if the procedure is done more than 10 days after birth. Tail docking is a painful procedure which can induce long term health and psychological problems and the policies of the Australian Veterinary Association and the RSPCA regard routine tail docking as unjustifiable. Purchasers of a pup are encouraged to ask the breeder to refrain from tail docking.

## **9.3 Change of Ownership**

New owners should be aware of the ongoing commitment of accepting responsibility for dog ownership, including time, emotional and financial outlay. Breeders are responsible for finding suitable homes for all puppies produced by their dogs. Puppies should remain with their mother until at least six, and preferably eight weeks of age. Breeders and a potential owner should consider the suitability of the breed with the intended environment before arranging transfer of ownership.

Breeders or sellers should provide new owners with all relevant information about the care and welfare of the dog and advise that information can be obtained from the ACT Dog Control Unit, the RSPCA and the ACT Animal Welfare Unit. Dog Control must be notified of a change of ownership.

## **10. Unwanted Dogs**

It is recognised that there will be times when a person(s) will be unable to keep and/or care for their pet dog(s) any longer. These owners are encouraged to make every effort to pass their dog(s) on to a new owner as a companion animal either privately or, failing that, through an organisation such as the RSPCA. The ACT Dog Control Unit, ACT dog clubs and veterinarians may be of assistance.

Persons wishing to dispose of an unowned stray dog or puppy on their property should take it to the RSPCA or contact the ACT Dog Control Unit.

When a dog cannot be re-homed, it may be necessary to have it euthanased by a veterinary surgeon.

## **11. Lost Dogs**

Organisations which assist in reuniting lost dogs with their owners include the RSPCA, ACT Dog Control Unit (see Appendix 1), and private veterinarians in the area. The various media outlets also assist owners of lost pets by making public announcements.

Owners should personally visit the Government Dog Pound and the RSPCA refuge to avoid potential misidentification over the telephone.

Other methods for reuniting lost dogs include personal advertising in the media, veterinary clinics, dog clubs and public bulletin boards.

Lost dogs may be held by a temporary carer and can turn up after some time. Often the carer is also searching for clues about the owner before handing the dog over to the authorities. It is advisable to contact the Dog Control Unit and the RSPCA every three to four days for at least several weeks. Dogs are held by the RSPCA for seven days and then offered for resale. Dogs at the Government Pound are held for five working days and then euthanased.

**Relevant contact addresses**

**ACT Dog Control Unit**  
PO Box 1038  
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901  
telephone: (06) 207 2424  
8.30 am - 4.30 pm, Mon to Fri

**Government Dog Pound**  
Mugga Lane  
Narrabundah  
open: 8 am - 4 pm Mon to Sat

**Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

(RSPCA) (ACT)  
PO Box 3082  
WESTON ACT 2611  
telephone: (06) 288 4433

Refuge  
12 Kirkpatrick St  
Weston  
open: 9 am - 5 pm Mon to Fri  
(closed 12-1 pm)  
9 am - 4 pm weekends  
or by appointment  
Closed public holidays

The registered dog breeders' association in the ACT is

**The Canberra Kennel Association**

Natex Centre  
Flemington Road  
Mitchell  
telephone: (06) 241 4404

Obedience and Training Clubs

**Tuggeranong Dog Training Club**

Anketell Street  
Greenway  
telephone: (06) 293 4122

**Belconnen Dog Obedience Club Inc**

Darling Street  
Mitchell  
telephone: (06) 241 7999

**ACT German Shepherd Dog Association Inc**

Flemington Road  
Mitchell  
telephone: (06) 227 6084

**ACT Companion Dog Club**

Jerrabomberra Avenue  
Narrabundah  
telephone: (06) 295 7764



Gary Humphries MLA

Attorney General  
Minister for the Environment, Land  
and Planning  
Minister for Police and  
Emergency Services  
Minister for Arts and Heritage  
Minister for Consumer Affairs

**Member for Molonglo**  
Australian Capital Territory

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**Mr Denis Daly**  
Chairperson  
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee  
PO Box 1119  
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901

Dear Mr Daly

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 1996 recommending the *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT* for my approval under Section 22 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.

I note the extensive consultation involved in developing the Code and appreciate the efforts of all members of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, and the various industry and interest group representatives who assisted in finalising the document. The Code is currently in the process of being gazetted and tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

I look forward to receiving further advice from the Committee and extend my thanks to Committee members for their excellent work in producing this Code.

Yours sincerely

Gary Humphries MLA  
Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning

15/1/97

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