

Australian Capital Territory

# Animal Welfare (Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023

Disallowable instrument DI2023–255

made under the

**Animal Welfare Act 1992, Section 22 (Approved code of practice) and Section 23 (Mandatory code of practice)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Summary

The *Animal Welfare (Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023* (the Code) requires all those responsible for the welfare of animals in a temporary housing facility to adopt the highest standards of husbandry, care and handling, and to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

The Code replaces the *Animal Welfare (Handling of Companion Animals in Pounds and Shelters Code of Practice) Approval 1995* (DI1995-97). It was determined that the previous Code of Practice required considerable updating and as a result was redrafted.

The Code is made under section 23 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, which allows the Minister to approve a Code of Practice, part or all of which has mandatory force. Failure to comply with the mandatory standards in the Code is an offence. It is also an offence to fail to follow a direction to comply with this Code.

This Code of Practice includes mandatory standards and guidelines that are considered essential for meeting the requirements specified under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*. This Code of Practice also includes guidelines that are considered essential for meeting the requirements specified under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*.

### Scope

The Code aims to ensure that all animals receive proper treatment consistent with the need to maintain their comfort, security, physical and mental well-being at all times.

The purpose of this Code is to provide information to the owners and persons in charge of animals in a temporary housing facility on the mandatory standards they must achieve to meet their obligations under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.

The Code also includes guidelines that are considered essential for meeting the requirements specified under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*.

### **Development of the Code**

The Code was developed in consultation with pound, shelter and rescue establishments located within the ACT.