



THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF DOG AND CATS IN BREEDING FACILITIES

Representatives from the SA Working Sheepdog Association, the SA Yard Dog Association and Livestock SA have been working with the relevant authorities in relation to the proposed *Code of Practice for the Wellbeing of Dogs and Cats in Breeding Facilities* and the proposed changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* since November 2014.

In relation to Livestock SA, this organisation was formed in May 2013 to represent South Australian sheep, beef cattle and goat producers. Currently Livestock SA has over 2,000 members.

For many of these producers it is an important necessity to have sheep or cattle dogs as an integral part of their businesses. They are aware of the need to have well bred, well trained, and well cared for working dogs. And as many of these producers are virtually single-operators, these dogs are often an invaluable substitute to employing labour.

The proposed Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and Cats in Breeding Facilities is largely directed at the breeding dogs and cats as pets. Because of significant differences, there is the need for a separate code of practice for working dogs. We would be willing to work with the State Government, RSPCA, industry and other relevant interested parties to develop such a code.

If working dogs are to be included within the proposed code there must be some allowance for the different environment, mainly in rural South Australia where it is not possible to always have the facilities that would be required in a suburban setting or easy and ready access to various services that may be required.

If those breeding and using working dogs are going to even get near to being able to operate within the proposed code of practice, it is important that the standards and guidelines are not unrealistic and impractical, particularly within a rural and even a remote context.

To try and work within the proposed framework, attached are comments on various parts of the code. These are based on recommendations made by the SA Working Sheepdog Association, in conjunction with the SA Yard Dog Association and Livestock SA representatives.

28 May 2015