

# The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

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## Victoria Division

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20th April 2015

Breeding Code Public Comment 2015  
475 Mickleham Rd,  
Attwood Vic 3049

[pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:pet.welfare@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

The Australian Veterinary Association (Victorian Division) (AVA) is pleased to make a submission to the revision of the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses (The Code).

The AVA was concerned that previous revisions by the former government had weakened The Code and therefore increased the risk of poor animal welfare. Animal welfare must be placed ahead of financial shortcuts that may be of economical benefit to businesses.

### **6(3)(c) Breeding females**

The AVA supports the inclusion of "a veterinary practitioner must provide a general health check within 4 weeks prior to all subsequent mating seasons in which the owner intends to breed the female". We believe the reinstatement of this clause will ensure expert advice of the general health of the animal and its suitability for breeding.

In future amendments to The Code, we would in fact like to veterinary practitioners also providing health checks for cats within 4 weeks prior to all subsequent mating seasons. We believe this clause should also be applicable to cats.

We note that further amendments to The Code are purely administrative.

Regards

Paul Martin  
President

Susan Chandler  
Executive Officer