



# SACAC Guidelines for Responsible Breeding of Dogs and Cats

## *The Purpose of this Guide:*

In this guide we outline some guidelines for those who breed pets. This is to help maintain standards of breeding and to ensure the welfare of the animals. It may also serve as a guide for buyers wishing to purchase pets from reputable breeders.

## The 10 Points of Responsible Pet Breeding

1. A responsible breeder must be a responsible pet owner, following the 10 points of Responsible Pet Ownership with their breeding pets even if they are past breeding age.
2. Responsible breeders are registered and involved with a recognised governing body.
3. Responsible breeders work closely with their veterinarian.
4. Responsible breeders should be knowledgeable and research the current breed standards and genetic information available in their aim to improve the breed.
5. Responsible breeders practice a high standard of kennel or cattery management as prescribed by their governing bodies.
6. Responsible breeders ensure sires and dams are at the correct breeding age, body condition and mass before breeding and between litters.
7. Responsible breeders nurture and socialise the puppies/kittens.
8. Responsible breeders place puppies/kittens wisely and only at an appropriate age.
9. Only sell/place puppies/kittens that have been examined, vaccinated and de-wormed by a veterinarian.
10. Responsible breeders educate new owners in Responsible Pet Ownership.

## *What is the South African Companion Animal Council?*

It is the only industry-wide non-profit organisation that has, as its core function, the promotion of socially Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) in South Africa.

The South African Companion Animal Council members believe in the positive experience of owning a pet and that anyone who is able and willing to responsibly care for a pet should be given

the opportunity to experience the many benefits that keeping a companion animal can bring to human beings.

## Basic Requirements of Pet Ownership

The 10 Points of Responsible Pet Ownership:

1. Make provision for the care of your pet for its entire lifespan
2. Choose your pet carefully to match your lifestyle and home environment
3. Interact positively with your pet every day
4. Provide adequate shelter and protection from harm
5. Feed a specifically prepared pet food to meet your pet's nutritional needs and provide fresh, clean drinking water
6. Take your pet to a veterinarian for a wellness examination at least once a year
7. Ensure that your pet receives regular vaccinations at your local veterinarian throughout its life
8. Always choose an registered preventative treatment against external (fleas and ticks) and internal (worms) parasites and treat your pet regularly
9. Responsible breeders register their breeding pets with a recognised breeders' association
10. All male and female pets should be sterilised if they are not intended to be bred