

Frequently asked questions

Changes to requirements for dog breeders in NSW

12 December 2025

What is changing for dog breeders in NSW?

On **1 December 2025** new laws came into place to strengthen puppy and dog welfare across the state by implementing a range of measures to ban puppy farming.

To find out more about the changes to legislation, and read frequently asked questions, refer to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development websites:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dogwelfare

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dogbreedingfaq

What is changing with breeder identification numbers?

- All breeder identification numbers (BINs) will be updated to include two eligibility subclasses:
 - dog breeder
 - cat breeder.
- BINs issued **after 1 December 2025** will be issued with:
 - Active cat breeder eligibility
 - Active dog breeder eligibility
- BINs issued **prior to 1 December 2025** will not be cancelled or reissued. They will be updated with:
 - Active cat breeder eligibility
 - Inactive dog breeder eligibility
- Dog breeders must have an active dog breeder eligibility status to continue breeding dogs in NSW.
- Breeders should only have one BIN and one NSW Pet Registry account. Breeders who are using more than one NSW Pet Registry account should contact pets@olg.nsw.gov.au
- Breeders will receive an automatic notification from the NSW Pet Registry confirming their BIN and breeder eligibility status once the BIN application/ activation process is complete.

When is a BIN mandatory?

Anyone who is responsible for a dog that becomes pregnant, must have a breeder identification number (BIN) with active dog breeder eligibility.

When a dog becomes accidentally pregnant, the person in charge of the dog must apply for a BIN:

- within 14 days after becoming aware of the pregnancy, or
- 7 days after the dog gives birth.

Do cat breeders need a BIN?

BINs are not mandatory for cat breeders. However, cat breeders who manage their litters online through the NSW Pet Registry, will be issued a BIN.

Do rehoming organisations require a BIN?

Designated rehoming organisations

A BIN is required when a **designated rehoming organisation** (who has a rehoming organisation number (RON) issued by OLG) **intentionally breeds dogs**.

A BIN is not required when:

- A pregnant dog enters the organisation's custody.
- A dog that has been seized or surrendered becomes pregnant accidentally while in the organisation's care.

Non-designated rehoming organisations

Rehoming organisations not designated under section 88B of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* can apply for a breeder identification number (BIN) to meet the new legislative requirements.

When is it necessary to use a breeder identification number?

- Dog breeders must include both **the dog's microchip number and a breeder identification number** when advertising the sale or transfer of **puppies born after 1 December 2025**.
- Dog breeders must also share their BIN and the litter mother's microchip number with vets and authorised identifiers when microchipping litters.
- To assist members of the public when buying dogs, they can use a BIN to verify a breeder's eligibility using the [NSW Pet Registry Buyer Search](#).

Requirements for advertising unmicrochipped litters

When advertising unmicrochipped dog litters, the mother's microchip number must be displayed and be clearly identified as the litter mother.

Puppies and kittens can only be sold after they're 8 weeks old. The law regarding when to microchip cats and dogs has not changed: they must be microchipped before being sold or given away.

Can breeders continue to use their recognised breeder association member number when advertising puppies?

Breeders will no longer be able to use their membership number from their dog breeding association as identification when advertising dogs and puppies for sale.

Activating a BIN

Breeders with a NSW Pet Registry account

Breeders with an existing NSW Pet Registry and BIN can activate their dog breeder eligibility status online:

1. Log into the [NSW Pet Registry](#)
2. Follow the prompt to activate dog breeder eligibility.
3. Read and accept the NSW breeding laws and standards
4. Submit the form to complete activation.

Legacy BIN holders

Breeders who have BINs issued prior to 1 December 2025 but do not have a NSW Pet Registry account can either apply for a new BIN or update their existing BIN.

An existing BIN will link to a breeder's NSW Pet Registry account if their MyServiceNSW account details exactly matches their old NSW Pet Registry account:

- Legal first and name
- DOB
- Email address **or** mobile number.

If the account information doesn't match, the BIN provided will not link. In this case, the breeder will need to apply for a new BIN as part of creating their account.

Will pets automatically link to a new Pet Registry account?

Pets will automatically transfer if the user's MyServiceNSW account details (first name, last name, and email address or mobile number) match the information on a pet's microchip. If they do not link, users can 'link my pet' to add them to their new account.

How to use 'link my pet'?

For linking to be successful, the user's account details must match the owner details on the pet's record (legal first and last name, and email address, or mobile number).

1. Log in to the NSW Pet Registry
2. Enter a pet's microchip number.
3. If a different email address or mobile number was used in the past, users can update their contact details when using 'link my pet'.

Legal names cannot be changed online. Change of name requests must be made at council with accompanying documentation.

Apply for a BIN or activate dog breeder eligibility offline

Breeders who are unable to create a NSW Pet Registry account online should:

1. Download an [application form](#)
2. Present the completed form at your local council office, along with two forms of identification.
3. A council officer must check your identification and complete the verification section of the form.
4. Email the completed form to the Office of Local Government at pets@olg.nsw.gov.au

Applications take up to 20 business days to process. Users will be notified of the outcome via email. Incomplete applications may result in processing delays.

Contact Us

NSW Pet Registry Helpline

Email: pets@olg.nsw.gov.au

Call: [1300 134 460](tel:1300134460)

Our dedicated team is available Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.