



Northern  
Territory  
Government

**NORTHERN TERRITORY  
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE AND  
WELFARE OF ANIMALS IN  
RETAIL PET SHOPS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice sets the standard expected of retail pet shops for the care, management and trade of companion animals.

This Code of Practice was developed in consultation with the Pet Industry Association of Australia and the Northern Territory Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Business owners, managers and members and their staff should be conversant with and compliant to all aspects of this Code of Practice relevant to their business.

Furthermore it is the responsibility of every business operator to be fully conversant with and compliant to all relevant Territory and Federal statutory rules and regulations impacting on their pet industry operation including wildlife regulations.

This Code of Practice may be revised by the Northern Territory Government.

## 2. THE PROPRIETOR

Proprietors have the responsibility of providing for the needs of animals under the control and ownership of the business. Specifically:

- The provision of housing and equipment that suits the physical, behavioural and social requirements of the animals kept on the premises.
- The protection of the animals from people – children in particular, other animals and adverse environmental conditions.
- Sufficient space for the animals to stand, move around, stretch and rest.
- Appropriate fresh food and water to maintain good health.
- Protection from disease, distress or injury.
- Clean and hygienic conditions in the business environment.
- Ensure that no item or product is offered for sale that does not conform to Territory and Federal regulations or that may endanger the safety of the user or animals.

## 3. STAFF

Proprietors must train or employ experienced staff to handle and manage animals in their care and ensure that:

- All staff are aware of their responsibilities towards animals and are competent to meet these responsibilities.
- All staff are aware of their obligations under this Code of Practice.
- Formal training is undertaken, if available, such as an accredited qualification in Animal Care & Management (Companion Animal Services).
- Staff members are knowledgeable and experienced in the care of each species of animal kept or are receiving appropriate training.
- Staff have a good knowledge of the different diets required for the species of animals under their control.
- Staff are knowledgeable in the use of medications to treat animals under their control and seek professional veterinary advice when appropriate.

- Staff are trained to provide appropriate food and accessories specific to the companion animal at the time of sale of a new pet.
- Staff are appointed not only on their technical knowledge but also on their demonstrated compassionate attitude to animals.
- Having Certificated First Aid trained staff members is highly recommended for all businesses. Businesses with 25+ staff are required by law to have certified staff as well as a designated First Aid kit on site at all times.

#### **4. NON-LIVESTOCK RETAIL OPERATIONS**

As an indication of their commitment to responsible pet ownership and to ensure that the appropriate service, advice and products are provided to their customers, all businesses should ensure that they and their staff members are familiar with all aspects of this Code of Practice.

#### **5. HOUSING**

Businesses holding livestock must be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that is likely to stress or injure animals.

##### **Animal Enclosures**

Housing for all animals must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury, disease, theft or escape.

All surfaces of cages, containers or pens must be constructed of impervious, non-toxic, washable materials to facilitate ease of cleaning and disinfection.

Housing must be designed and constructed in such a way, so as to prevent the excessive handling by customers and other non-staff visitors.

Enclosures must be designed and constructed for ease of cleaning, feeding, watering and the regular inspection of animals.

##### **Cage Sizes (refer appendices I and II for minimum cage/pen sizes)**

Animals must have sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, swim, fly or move freely about as appropriate to the species.

Special provision must be made to prevent the young of any species being overlain by larger individuals in the same enclosure

Animals require adequate sleeping area.

##### **Temperature**

Premises in which caged animals are kept must be maintained at temperatures and humidity levels that minimise stress.

The room temperature may not exceed 30 degrees Celsius and may not fall below 15 degrees Celsius.

Animals must not be removed from the premises when the outside temperature exceeds 36 degrees Celsius.

Heating and/or cooling should be provided for young animals as necessary.

### **Ventilation**

The premises must provide adequate exchange of air to ensure that the atmosphere is constantly fresh and clean, avoiding dampness and minimising noxious odours and the potential increased disease risk.

Caged animals must be protected from strong draughts.

Animals must not be housed behind glass windows where they will be exposed to direct sunlight.

### **Lighting**

The duration and intensity of internal lighting should be as close as possible to natural conditions.

Lighting must be sufficient to enable thorough inspection of animals. Daylight tubes would be appropriate.

Artificial lighting must not generate excess heat.

Enclosures must be protected from excessive light at night, when shop lights must be subdued or turned off.

### **Noise**

Loud or sudden noise which may distress animals must be avoided.

## **6. SECURITY**

Outside animal enclosures must be fitted with secure doors or gates.

All external openings must be screened to prevent escape of animals and minimise the entry of insects.

All animal enclosures must be able to be securely fastened or locked.

Appropriate fire fighting equipment must be readily available and staff trained and practiced in its use. **WARNING: some fire retardants may be toxic to animals.**

Formal procedures must be in place, to ensure, where practical, the swift and safe evacuation of animals from the premises in the case of fire or other emergencies.

The proprietor should provide the local RSPCA/POLICE with up-to-date emergency contact details, including a nominated veterinarian.

## **7. HYGIENE**

Premises must be kept clean and hygienic at all times.

All cages and pens holding animals must be cleaned on a regular basis.

All cages, pens and containers must be disinfected at least once every week.

Before new animals are introduced, vacant enclosures must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Animal enclosures must be managed to minimise the risk of cross-infection.

Cleaning and disinfection chemicals and materials must be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness and must only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

It is important that all surfaces and utensils are thoroughly rinsed after disinfecting to avoid a potential for poisoning.

All organic waste products including disposable bedding and dead animals must be disposed of promptly and hygienically, and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority.

## **8. STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Some hazards exist with certain species of animals that are known to harbour disease-causing organisms that can be transmitted to humans (zoonotics). Personal hygiene procedures must be such that transmission cannot occur. The following safeguards are recommended:

- Adequate hand washing facilities are provided.
- Staff should be immunised against tetanus.
- All personnel working with cats, especially females of childbearing age are made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.
- All personnel working with birds, particularly parrots are made aware of the risk of contracting psittacosis, if good personal hygiene rules are not adhered to.
- At least one member of staff has a current Certificate in First Aid. This is a recommendation only, but is a requirement of businesses with 25+ staff.

## **9. PEST CONTROL**

Pests including flees, flies, lice, mosquitoes and wild rodents are all a potential health hazard to livestock and staff and must be controlled.

Specialist advice must be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of staff and livestock.

Chemicals used for pest control must be approved by the relevant government authority and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## **10. ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Care of Animals**

Animals must be protected from distress or injury from other animals, particularly larger or predatory species or from excessive handling or interference from adult customers and children.

Different animal species (except those that are fully compatible) should not be housed together.

Animals that may be distressed by the presence of other animals should be housed in a way that prevents or minimises visual and/or olfactory contact.

All equipment used with animals must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of stress, illness or injury.

Any animal that has become stressed by excessive viewing or handling must be removed from public view/access and monitored.

Procedures must be in place to ensure that all dogs and cats receive the appropriate level of daily attention/inspection, feed and exercise over weekends and public holidays.

Animals in view of the public must be removed from pens in shop windows after hours. Alternatively, the pens must be covered with opaque screens to exclude artificial light and visibility from the public.

Staff handling puppies and kittens should avoid cross-contamination by washing and disinfecting hands prior to handling animals.

### **Record Keeping**

Appropriate records must be kept for:

- The acquisition and disposal of animals.
- Illness and death of animals.
- Veterinary treatment.
- Trading in animals and birds that are subject to regulatory control.

### **Animal Attendants**

Animal attendants are responsible for:

- Daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals, noting the general appearance and behaviour of livestock.
- Reporting of sick or injured animals and any observed unusual animal behaviour, to the Manager.

## 11. ANIMAL HEALTH

### Health Checks

All animals must be carefully inspected a minimum of once a day to monitor their health and well-being.

Wherever possible, newly introduced animals should not be mixed with existing stock until they have been health checked by a veterinarian.

The person checking animals must note if each animal is:

- Eating
- Drinking
- Defecating
- Urinating
- Behaving normally
- Showing any obvious signs of illness or distress
- Able to move about freely

### Sick and Injured Animals

The manager and staff must be familiar with the signs of common diseases for the species kept.

Any changes in health status must be promptly reported to the person responsible for taking the appropriate action.

No animal known to be or suspected of being sick, injured or diseased is to be sold.

When signs of disease or injury are observed, action must be promptly taken to ensure the animal's well-being and prevent the spread of disease.

Prompt and appropriate veterinary care must be provided for sick or injured animals.

Any sick animal (and those in the same enclosure), or injured animal must be isolated in an area away from public contact and from other animals until fully recovered.

Where treatment to restore the health of an animal is impractical or unsuccessful, the animal should be humanely destroyed (euthanased). Euthanasia of dogs and cats must only be performed by a veterinarian.

Veterinary advice should be obtained (possible autopsy) in the event of an unexplained illness or death.

### Veterinary Care

Written agreement(s) should be sought with a Veterinarian(s) with the knowledge and experience to attend the various species of animals in the care of businesses.

Dogs and cats must be vaccinated against specific diseases prior to sale or admittance to kennels.

## **Parasite Control**

Suitable treatment for the control of external and internal parasites must be provided. In an effort to protect our environment, the use of "eco-friendly" products that will not adversely affect our waterways is strongly recommended.

## **12. FOOD AND WATER**

Animals must receive appropriate and sufficient food to maintain good health and growth, recognising the special needs of differing ages and species.

Care must be taken to ensure that each animal receives the required amount of food.

Food must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination and deterioration. Dry foods must be kept rodent-free. Fresh meat must be refrigerated.

Food and water containers must be stable, non-toxic and easily cleaned and disinfected.

Containers must be readily accessible to animals and positioned to avoid spillage or contamination.

Spoiled food must be removed and suitably disposed of.

All diets must be prepared hygienically.

Fresh water must be available in sufficient quantity and for sufficient time from ceramic, glass, plastic, aluminium, stainless steel or galvanised iron containers, as appropriate to the species and type of housing.

Mature animals must be fed a maintenance diet at least once daily.

Puppies and kittens should be fed twice daily or more frequently on veterinary advice on suitable growth formulations.

Healthy immature animals of other species should be fed twice a day or more frequently if specific requirements dictate this.

Sick animals must be fed in accordance with veterinary advice.

## **13. SALE OF ANIMALS**

### **Consumer protection & guarantees**

Retailers need to ensure that their suppliers of livestock are fully compliant to all relevant territory and federal regulations and codes relating to the breeding and sale of companion animals. Pet shops are strongly encouraged to incorporate policies on animal sales such as:

- If within 7 days an animal is not acceptable to the purchaser due to health reasons excluding accidental injury and the complaint is supported by a veterinarian, the pet shop proprietor will

take the animal back and refund all monies or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

- If an animal is returned for reasons other than health, the retailer will observe local consumer protection law but make the animal's welfare the primary focus when resolving any consumer conflict.
- If an animal dies or is euthanased as a result of a disease that is traceable to the point of sale, the pet shop proprietor will refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

### **Transfer of relevant information**

At the time of purchase, the purchaser will receive appropriate written information concerning the care and husbandry of the animal being purchased. This information should cover matters such as:

- The appropriate diet for the animal, or a diet sheet.
- The need for follow up vaccinations.
- The general care, housing and management of the animal.
- Advice on parasite control, common diseases, their prevention and management.
- The desirability and advantages of desexing both male and female dogs and cats acquired as pets only.
- The responsibilities inherent in companion animal ownership.
- Any regulatory requirements related to the animal including registration, microchip identification, wildlife licensing etc.

### **Impulse purchases of animals**

Policies, procedures and staff training must ensure that impulse sales of livestock or sales to inappropriate purchasers do not occur.

### **The sale of only healthy animals**

No animal suspected of being sick, injured or diseased may be sold under any circumstances and veterinary advice must be sought immediately.

### **Age of animals for sale**

All animals sold must be able to independently sustain themselves if suitable food and water are provided at the appropriate times. The minimum age of animals offered for sale must be:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Dogs            | 8 weeks                                       |
| Cats            | 8 weeks                                       |
| Rabbits         | 6 weeks                                       |
| Guinea Pigs     | 4 weeks                                       |
| Pet Mice & Rats | 4 weeks                                       |
| Birds           | must not be sold until they are fully weaned. |

### **Intake of immature animals/birds**

Unweaned animals/birds must not be sold and may only be accepted by a pet retailer where adequate facilities and expertise exist for the animal's care and feeding.

Baby birds require special formulas to be fed at the correct temperature. Therefore, only highly competent staff must feed immature birds during hand-raising.

## **14. TRANSPORT**

**NOTE:** transportation distresses some animals and should be minimised

### **Security & protection**

All animals sold should be boxed, caged or suitably restrained to ensure their security and protection whilst in transit.

Transport cages must permit an animal to turn around, but otherwise is of an appropriate size to avoid trauma during transport.

Animals must be protected from extremes of temperature during transport.

The consignor and consignee should confirm departure and arrival times of animals with the carrier. In the event of delay or cancellation, the carrier must ensure the welfare of animals in transit.

### **Food & water in transit**

Adequate and appropriate food and water must be provided, particularly during long periods of long-distance transportation.

Extra consideration must be taken in relation to the potential for dehydration in transit during the hot months of the year.

### **Animal transport containers**

The size of containers and crates for the transport of animals by air, road and rail is dictated by International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations to which Australia is a signatory.

Animal transport containers must provide adequate light and ventilation and must be strong enough to withstand handling and possible stacking.

Containers in which animals are transported must be clearly labelled. Consignor and consignee contact details including phone number(s) must be shown as well as date and time of departure.

## **15. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DIFFERENT SPECIES**

### **Dogs and Cats**

Puppies and kittens under 8 weeks of age must not be offered for sale.

Dogs must not be sold unless vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus and accompanied by a current vaccination certificate.

Cats must not be sold unless vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease (cat flu) and accompanied by a current vaccination certificate.

Signs of illness in Dogs and Cats requiring prompt action may include:

- Runny nose
- Runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- Repeated sneezing or coughing
- Severe diarrhoea
- Lameness and/or lethargy
- Bleeding or swelling of body parts
- Inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate
- Loss of appetite, vomiting or weight loss
- Apparent pain
- Staggering or convulsions
- Patchy hair loss

**NOTE:** This is not a complete list and is a guide only.

Cage floors must be lined with absorbent disposable material, which can be readily removed and replaced.

Cats must be provided with litter trays containing a sufficient depth of suitable material.

Litter trays must be checked daily, scooped and replenished or changed. All litter must be changed on a regular basis and trays must be washed and disinfected.

Bedding must be provided. It must be clean and changed frequently to maintain a comfortable enclosure.

Animals must receive appropriate, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate food according to the currently accepted requirements for the species, breed and age.

A variety of foods should be available to meet the requirements of different animals.

Adult dogs and cats must be fed daily. Pregnant and lactating animals and pups up to 6 months of age, and kittens up to 8 months of age should be fed twice daily.

Suitable feeding containers must be provided to ensure that each animal has easy access to feed.

Dogs must receive exercise of at least 10 minutes duration twice daily either in an area that allows them to run freely, or by walking them on a lead where this is a more practical option.

All personnel working with cats, especially females of childbearing age must be made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.

**NOTE:** The past practice of tail-docking for cosmetic purposes was made illegal in all states and territories of Australia in 2005.

## **Ornamental Fish and other Aquatic Animals**

Fish tanks must be protected from adverse environmental extremes.

Water changes must be adequate to maintain good water quality in relation to population density. It is recommended that 25% of the water in retail display aquariums be replaced each week.

Fish must be fed as often as required with appropriate food according to species requirements.

Fish showing signs of illness must be attended to immediately and where necessary, separated from other fish to prevent the spread of disease or molestation by healthy fish.

The use of medications in the treatment of diseased or injured aquatic animals shall be carried out as quickly as possible and in the most humane way in order to affect a cure to the species concerned. Proper prescribed medications for the relevant disease shall be used.

Any dead aquatic animal shall be disposed of in a manner that will not be the cause of a disease being released into natural waterways, e.g. in garbage used as landfill, and not via storm water.

Northern Territory legislation prohibits the dumping of unwanted aquatic life into waterways. To prevent aquatic animals from being dumped into natural waterways and therefore adversely impacting on our natural biodiversity, retailers should encourage their customers to advise them of any unwanted aquatic animals with the view to “re-home” them.

Retailers will advise and make relevant literature available to their customers to help educate them in responsible aquatic animal ownership.

Retailers shall not trade in any fish or plant species listed as noxious in the Northern Territory.

All fish nets should be disinfected after use in each aquarium.

Unless other provisions are made, tank lids or other appropriate devices must be fitted and kept in place to prevent escape of fish.

Water chemistry must be checked regularly and appropriate measures taken to correct any imbalance.

All electrical equipment such as lights and heaters must be connected to safety switches and regularly checked for correct performance and safety.

Filtration equipment must be adequate for the species and tank/pond population densities, and effective at all times.

## **Birds**

Retailers and/or their staff must be fully conversant with and compliant to the wildlife licensing system that operates within the Northern Territory.

Cage size, shape and construction must provide security to birds and avoid unnecessary stress or potential for injury. Cages must be large enough to ensure that the bird(s) can fully extend and flap their wings.

Where possible, birds should be housed in a bird room that is in a separate part of the shop with an extraction fan system. This is to remove as much feather dander and dust as possible from the premises and thus reducing the potential for the zoonotic disease psittacosis or avian clamidiosis.

Hand reared birds must be fully weaned and self sufficient before sale.

All personnel working with birds particularly parrots must be aware of the risk of contracting psittacosis (avian clamidiosis). Although the risk is small, staff should also make the disease known to first time owners of birds.

Retailers must be fully conversant with Government regulations in the Northern Territory pertaining to the welfare of captive birds.

Sufficient perches, roosting areas and feed/water stations must be provided to meet the needs of all birds in a cage or aviary.

Perches must be of a diameter, construction and material appropriate to the species held, and must be placed to ensure the well being of the birds and the prevention of food and water contamination.

To maintain hygiene standards where cages and aviaries have solid floors, they should be covered with a suitable non-toxic disposable material.

All species of birds must have access to food and water at all times.

Except where it is a species requirement, birds must be fed out of suitable containers and not directly off the floor.

Fresh fruit, greens or seeding grasses should be supplied where appropriate to provide variety and nutrient supplementation.

Grit and other vitamin/mineral supplements should be available to reduce the potential for nutrient deficiencies.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, pools and ponds should be avoided in sales cages/aviaries.

A heated hospital cage should be provided for the isolation and treatment of sick or injured birds away from view to minimise stress.

Birds must be monitored for health. Signs of illness include:

- Change in appearance of droppings
- Change in food and/or water consumption
- Change in appearance or posture
- Weight-loss
- Enlargements or swellings

- Vomiting, injury or bleeding
- Discharge from nostrils, eyes or beak
- Excessive feather loss
- Lameness or sores on feet
- Overgrown beak or nails
- Stains or scabs around eyes or nostrils

### **Rabbits, Rats, Mice and Guinea Pigs**

Cages and pens must be designed to ensure the well being of the animals, to prevent escape and prevent access by unauthorised persons.

Cages and pens must be designed to minimise draughts, disease transmission, stress and exposure to bright lights.

Suitable cages or enclosures must be used enabling animals on display plenty of room to move about and areas to rest without disturbance.

Nesting boxes should be provided for breeding females.

Litters under one week of age should be disturbed as little as possible and kept in special maternity cages.

Suitable non-toxic bedding must be provided and replaced frequently.

Wooden gnawing blocks should be provided.

Animals should be fed a cubed or pelleted ration supplemented by fresh greens.

Water must be constantly available and supplied in suitable containers. When using bottles with a nipple drinker the tip must not come into contact with bedding or food.

Animals must be checked at least once daily for any signs of illness or disease and should be wormed before being sold.

### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

Reptiles cannot be assumed to all have the same requirements for heat, light, food, water and shelter. Each species has different requirements. At least one rostered-on staff member must be knowledgeable and experienced in the care of each species kept.

Retailers must be fully conversant and compliant with all aspects of the wildlife licensing system operating within the Northern Territory.

Appropriate care sheets containing information prepared by a specialist herpetologist relating to the specific reptile should be provided with each animal sold. The care sheets must contain specific information regarding feeding, heating, lighting, housing requirements of the species. It should also suggest appropriate sources of information for clients to expand their knowledge.

Reptiles must be transported in cages that are non-crushable, ventilated and heated if necessary. The containers must be compatible with the species being transported.

#### Housing:

Reptiles are very sensitive to vibration. Housing and hospital cages must be positioned to minimise floor vibration.

Display cages must be constructed to minimise vibration and disturbance by the activities in the animal sales area.

Reptile cages must be lockable and tamper proof. Animals must be screened from excessive noise and vibration and buffered from the public by barriers and signage eg 'Quiet please' or 'Do not tap on glass'.

Cage size will vary with the species, age and number of animals housed. Refer to Appendix I.

#### Heating:

All reptiles require external sources of heat to maintain their body temperature. The temperature requirements vary between species and the time of day and the stage of digestion of food.

Either basking heat or ground heat must be provided depending on the species. Basking heat is used for reptiles spending time on branches or high in the cage. An overhead heat source such as a ceramic heater, basking lamp or an infrared lamp should be provided. Lamps are placed to provide a basking hot spot as well as general cage heat.

Heaters must have fine mesh shields in place to prevent burns on snakes.

Floor heat is used for those that spend their time on the floor of the cage. Heat pads or "hot rocks" can provide low-level heating. Hot rocks are not cage heaters but provide a source of belly heat.

Because reptiles need to vary their body temperature they require a range of ground and air temperatures in their enclosures. A variation of 5 – 8 degrees Celsius is sufficient. Heat sources are provided at one end of the cage only.

Heat sources must be connected to a thermostat to provide regulated heat to the cage. Thermometers must be placed in the cage to monitor the performance of the thermostat and to gauge the temperature gradient.

All cages must have vents to allow air circulation.

Glass aquariums lose heat readily. Ensure heating system is adequate to provide the environmental requirements of the species being housed

#### Lighting:

UVA and UVB are essential for lizards and Diamond pythons and will benefit all reptiles.

Avoid placing cages in direct sunlight as sunlight through glass may cause overheating.

Do not use the "Blacklight Blue" or poster globes, as they are too strong.

Eight watt mini lights are inadequate.

UV lights should be on timers so they turn on during daylight hours only.

UVA and UVB tubes are not heaters – they are inadequate as cage heaters.

#### Freshwater Turtles:

Aquariums are suitable for young tortoises. A dry platform must be provided in the aquarium and setup in a manner that allows the tortoise's easy access.

Tortoise aquariums require a filter and good hygiene practices must be applied.

Maintain a neutral pH (pH 7) by regular water testing and adjustment.

Water temperature must be maintained at 22° – 25° C via a water heater and monitor with a thermometer.

UVB light must be provided to allow proper shell development. UV lights should be on timers for daylight operation.

Do not place tortoise aquariums in the direct sunlight, overheating may occur.

Provide a vitamin enriched tortoise food daily until tortoises are at least 3 months old. Feeding frequency can be decreased to every second day by the age of 2 years.

Tortoise aquariums must be kept clean to prevent fungal infections.

#### Feeding of Reptiles and Amphibians

Records must be kept of feeding behaviour of reptiles. Amounts and dates of feeding should be recorded.

Dietary requirements vary with the species – ensure correct diets are available.

Feeding behaviour – feeding in groups may lead to dominant behaviour patterns causing sub-dominants to miss feeds. Be aware of the behaviour patterns of each species housed.

The practice of feeding live vertebrate prey such as mice or small bird to reptiles is unacceptable. For the welfare of both reptile and prey, it is recommended that only prey (vertebrate) that have been humanely killed, frozen and then thawed to body temperature should be fed to reptiles.

Feeding Time – reptiles are usually shy feeders and should be fed outside normal shop opening times unless the animal has a special requirement.

Fresh Water – must be available in suitable containers for the species. Some species require misting to allow skin absorption of moisture.

#### Care of Juvenile Reptiles

Juveniles will require special attention in food selection and provision. Requirements vary greatly between species.

Housing and heating requirements also differ from those suitable for adults.

Overcrowding must be avoided.

#### Sick or Injured Animals

All facilities must provide an adequate hospital cage for sick or injured animals.

A veterinarian with reptile experience must be consulted in the case of illness or injury of housed reptiles.

A quarantine and preventative treatment program should be designed in conjunction with a veterinarian experienced with reptiles.

## APPENDIX I

### Minimum Cage and Pen Sizes

(Animals should only be kept in these cages for a maximum of 4 weeks)

| Species                      | Minimum Floor areas (cm <sup>2</sup> ) | Minimum width (cm) | Minimum height (cm) | Maximum no. of animals   | Increased area for each additional animal (cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>DOGS</b>                  |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>Puppies (8-16wks)</b>     |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| Less than 3kg                | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 4                        | 1500   |
| Over 3kg                     | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 2                        | 3000   |
| <b>Adults (height)</b>       |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| Less than 40cm               | 15000                                  | 90                 | 180                 | 1                        |  |
| 40-70cm                      | 24000                                  | 90                 | 180                 | 1                        |  |
| over 70cm                    | 35000                                  | 90                 | 180                 | 1                        |  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>CATS</b>                  |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>Kittens (8-12wks)</b>     | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 4                        | 1500   |
| <b>Adults</b>                | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 1                        |  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>RABBITS</b>               |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>Young (6-12wks)</b>       | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 6                        | 300  |
| <b>Adults</b>                | 6000                                   | 60                 | 50                  | 2                        | 600  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>GUINEA PIGS</b>           | 2500                                   | 50                 | 40                  | 4                        | 600  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>MICE</b>                  | 600                                    | 20                 | 20                  | 2                        | 300  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>SNAKES</b>                |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>Up to 100cm</b>           | 2000                                   | 45                 | 35                  | 2                        | 1000   |
| <b>100-250cm</b>             | 4500                                   | 50                 | 50                  | 2                        |  |
| <b>250-400cm</b>             | 6000                                   | 50                 | 50                  | 2                        |  |
| <b>Over 400cm</b>            | 10000                                  | 90                 | 75                  | 1                        |  |
|                              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>LIZARDS</b>               |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| Geckoes, skinks              |  |                    |                     |                          |  |
| <b>to 25cm snout to vent</b> | 1800                                   | 30                 | 20                  | 3 adults<br>10 juveniles | 300  |

|                                |       |     |                           |                           |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Monitors,<br>dragons           |       |     |                           |                           |       |
| <b>to 30cm total length*</b>   | 2100  | 40  | 40                        | 3 adults<br>10 juveniles  | 350   |
| <b>to 50cm total length**</b>  | 2500  | 40  | 40                        | 2 adults<br>5 juveniles   | 600   |
| <b>to 90cm total length***</b> | 7000  | 90  | 60                        | 1                         | 3500  |
| Monitors                       |       |     |                           |                           |       |
| <b>to 120cm total length</b>   | 10000 | 90  | 90                        | 1                         | 5000  |
| <b>to 200cm total length</b>   | 30000 | 150 | 120                       | 1                         | 15000 |
|                                |       |     |                           |                           |       |
| <b>FROGS</b>                   |       |     |                           |                           |       |
| <b>Small</b>                   | 1800  | 30  | 40                        | 3                         | 400   |
| <b>Large</b>                   | 2500  | 50  | 30                        | 6                         | 150   |
|                                |       |     |                           |                           |       |
| TORTOISES                      |       |     | MINIMUM<br>WATER<br>DEPTH | MINIMUM<br>WATER<br>DEPTH |       |
| <b>Carapace 0-10cm</b>         | 1800  | 30  | 20                        | 3                         | 300   |
| <b>Carapace 10-20cm</b>        | 3600  | 40  | 30                        | 3                         | 600   |
| <b>Carapace over 20cm</b>      | 6000  | 40  | 30                        | 3                         | 1500  |

**Notes :**

Juvenile mice (less than 8 weeks) may be housed 4 to a pen.

Juvenile pythons (less than 40cm) may be held singularly in holding units with a minimum floor area of 480cm<sup>2</sup>. These units may be stored in one temperature enclosure.

\* This group includes Black Rock, Tree, White's and Stripped Skinks.

\*\* Including heavy bodies, slower moving species such as blue-tongue, Shingle back, Gidgee Skinks

\*\*\* Includes Land Mullet, Yakka and King's Skink.

## APPENDIX II

### Minimum Sizes - Bird Display Cages - Indoor & Outdoor

| Size of Bird approx. length  | Indoor Display Cage Dimensions        |              |                     |  | Outdoor Display Cage Dimensions       |              |                     |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
|  | Minimum floor area (cm <sup>2</sup> ) | No. of birds | Minimum height (cm) | Increased floor area for each additional bird (cm <sup>2</sup> ) | Minimum floor area (cm <sup>2</sup> ) | No. of birds | Minimum height (cm) | Increased floor area for each additional bird (cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
| <b>100mm (10cm)<br/>Zebra Finches,<br/>Cubans, Double bar,<br/>Orange Breasted Waxbills,<br/>Fife Canaries</b>       | 600                                   | 6            | 30                  | 150  | 15000                                 | 100          | 180                 | 150  |
| <b>200mm (20cm)<br/>Neophemas,<br/>Budgerigars,<br/>Yorkshire Canaries,<br/>Varied Lorikeets,<br/>Musk Lorikeets</b> | 1600                                  | 10           | 40                  | 160  | 1500                                  | 75           | 180                 | 200  |
| <b>300mm (30cm)<br/>Rosellas,<br/>Cockatiels,<br/>Rainbow Lorikeets,<br/>Bronzewing Pigeons</b>                      | 6000                                  | 10           | 100                 | 600  | 60000                                 | 100          | 180                 | 600  |
| <b>400mm (40cm)<br/>King Parrots,<br/>Princess &amp; Superbs,<br/>Ringneck Parakeets,<br/>Galaha &amp; Corellas</b>  | 6000                                  | 4            | 100                 | 1000   | 60000                                 | 40           | 180                 | 1000   |
| <b>500mm (50cm)<br/>Sulphur-crested Cockatoos</b>  | 6000                                  | 3            | 100                 | 2000   | 60000                                 | 30           | 160                 | 2000   |

## **APPENDIX III**

### **Stocking Density Guidelines for Aquarium Fish in Pet Shops**

These are guidelines only and stocking densities may be exceeded in some circumstances if water quality permits. When water quality falls below acceptable standards, reduced stocking density is required until the water quality is improved. The total volume of the system must be measured and taken into account in determining the actual stocking densities.

#### **Suggested stocking densities are as follows:**

|                            | Grams of fish        | Normal Size - per 100ltr tank of fish   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Cold Freshwater</b>     |                      |   |
| Fish up to 5cm             | 800g per 100ltr tank | 0.5 to 4 grams or 100cm <sup>2</sup> per 25mm of Fish Body Length (exclud. tail)  |
|                            |                      |   |
| <b>Tropical Freshwater</b> |                      |   |
| Fish up to 5cm             | 150g per 100ltr tank | 0.5 to 4 grams or 500cm <sup>2</sup> per 25mm of Fish Body Length (exclud. tail)  |
| Fish over 5cm              | 250g per 100ltr tank | 4 grams or more or 300cm <sup>2</sup> per 25mm of Fish Body Length (exclud. tail) |
|                            |                      |   |
| <b>Tropical Marine</b>     |                      |   |
| Fish up to 5cm             | 100g per 100ltr tank | 0.5 to 3 grams or 800cm <sup>2</sup> per 25mm of Fish Body Length (exclud. tail)  |
| Fish over 5cm              | 200g per 100ltr tank | 3 grams or more or 400cm <sup>2</sup> per 25mm of Fish Body Length (exclud. tail) |

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **Recommendations for Construction of Glass Aquaria**

The following glass types are not suitable for aquarium construction and should be avoided:

- a) Decorative
- b) Laminated
- c) Toughened glass without a frame

All glass should be first class and each piece of glass should be inspected for faults:

- a) prior to use.
- b) After cutting and cleaning, all glass edges should be rubbed back to a dull edge prior to gluing.
- c) Faulty glass should not be used. Faults causing the rejection of glass would include imperfections in the sheet, chipping and cracking or unevenness of edges.

Special care must be taken to rub back or dull any sharp edges on all panels and strengthening bars.

Each sheet of glass should be cleaned in a manner that ensures no film remains, visible or invisible, that may compromise the efficiency of the adhesive. This may be achieved by:

- a) Cleaning equipment using ammonia.
- b) Hand cleaning using methylated spirits or appropriate industrial cleaner.

Aquarium manufacturers should ensure that the silicone sealer used in construction is specifically recommended for use in the manufacture of aquaria and is safe in use, both for livestock and humans.

Butt and corner joins should be used for aquaria 45x30x30cm or larger. Fillet joints should only be used on smaller aquaria.

It is recommended that aquaria should only be repaired by a bona fide manufacturer.

This Code applies to aquaria up to a length of 180cm and a depth of 60cm.

Aquaria should be packaged to prevent damage in transit. This should include at least enclosure of end faces of glass with semi rigid materials capable of preventing accidental damage of these surfaces under normal transit and handling conditions. In transit, care should be taken to ensure that exposed edges remain undamaged.

## **SUGGESTED GLASS SPECIFICATIONS:**

| Aquarium Size | Sides | Ends | Base | Bracing                 |
|---------------|-------|------|------|-------------------------|
| 22x15x15      | 3mm   | 3mm  | 4mm  |                         |
| 30x17x20      | 3mm   | 3mm  | 4mm  |                         |
| 37x20x22      | 3mm   | 3mm  | 4mm  |                         |
| 45x22x22      | 4mm   | 4mm  | 4mm  |                         |
| 50x25x30      | 4mm   | 4mm  | 5mm  |                         |
| 60x30x30      | 4mm   | 4mm  | 5mm  |                         |
| 60x30x37      | 4mm   | 4mm  | 5mm  |                         |
| 75x30x37      | 5mm   | 5mm  | 5mm  | with strengthening bars |
| 90x37x37      | 6mm   | 6mm  | 6mm  | with strengthening bars |
| 90x37x45      | 6mm   | 6mm  | 6mm  | with strengthening bars |
| 120x37x37     | 6mm   | 6mm  | 6mm  | with strengthening bars |
| 120x37x45     | 6mm   | 6mm  | 6mm  | with strengthening bars |
| 150x45x50     | 8mm   | 8mm  | 10mm | with strengthening bars |
| 150x50x60     | 10mm  | 10mm | 10mm | with strengthening bars |
| 180x45x60     | 8mm   | 8mm  | 10mm | with strengthening bars |
| 180x50x60     | 10mm  | 10mm | 10mm | with strengthening bars |
| 180x60x60     | 10mm  | 10mm | 10mm | with strengthening bars |