

Enclosure 7: Summary of Regulation Specific for Pet Meat and Pet Food in Australia

Imported pet food regulation

All pet food imported into Australia must comply with the provisions of the Quarantine Act 1908, administered by DAFF Biosecurity. Regulation of imported pet food is limited to quarantine¹ issues and the Quarantine Act 1908 does not provide an authority for the Australian Government to mandate tests, treatments or recalls of imported pet food, other than for quarantine issues. DAFF Biosecurity does not have the legal authority to regulate the safety of imported pet food.

Currently, there is no other legislation that regulates safety of imported pet food. The Imported Food Control Act 1992 regulates safety of imported food for human consumption but does not regulate food used for animal consumption.

Domestic pet food regulation

For regulation purposes, pet food may be separated into:

- pet meat², either fresh or frozen. It includes pet meat that is packaged for retail sale
- manufactured or processed pet food³

Following a review of all relevant Acts in each state and territory, the following key findings are outlined

1. Pet Meat Safety

The Primary Industries Standing Committee Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009 Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat (previously Australian Standard 4841:2006) was developed in 2006 to establish minimum hygiene requirements in the processing of all animals used in the production of pet meat. However, it is not translated legislatively in all the states. Furthermore, current legislations present within each state and territory pertain only to fresh pet meat and pet meat products.

Most state and territories do prohibit the processing of pet meat from carcasses sourced from unhealthy animals.

¹ 'Quarantine' is as defined by the Quarantine Act includes, but is not limited to, measures 'having as their object the prevention or control of the introduction, establishment or spread of diseases or pests that will or could cause significant damage to human beings, animals, plants, other aspects of the environment or economic activities

² In this document, the term 'pet meat' is as defined by the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, 'meat in a raw state that is intended as food for pets'

³ In this document, the term 'pet food' is as defined by the Australian Standard for Manufacturing and Marketing of Pet Food (AS5812:2011), 'Food for dogs or cats, including all types of dry, semi-moist, retorted, pasteurized and other food manufactured for consumption by domesticated dogs or cats but excluding pet meat.'

2. Manufactured or Processed Pet Food Safety

There is no legislation concerning manufactured pet food in any of the states or territories.

The Pet Food Industry Association of Australia Inc. (PFIAA) has traditionally managed its Code of Practice for the Manufacturing & Marketing of Pet Food as a guide for pet food manufacturers. The Code has been superseded by a new Australian Standard for the Manufacturing and Marketing of Pet Food, AS 5812-2011. This is currently voluntary for PFIAA members, but compliance is strongly encouraged. Approximately 97-98 per cent of Australian manufacturers of prepared pet food (by volume) are members of PFIAA. PFIAA provides an accreditation system for its members who demonstrate compliance to AS5812 by means of third party independent audits. Compliant members will be entitled to declare their certification and to be listed on the association website (from mid 2012).

3. Labelling

Banding of raw pet meat not fit for human consumption is required at all states and territories.

Pet food, including pet meat and pet meat product labelling requirements are regulated in some jurisdictions, but apart from Queensland, there is no provision on requiring manufacturers to state actual ingredients or methods of processing (refer to table below).

The Australian Standard for the Manufacturing and Marketing of Pet Food (AS 5812:2011) provides detailed guidelines for product labelling.

The following table sets out the Commonwealth, state/territory and industry controls over imported and domestically produced pet meat and pet food sold in Australia.

IMPORTED

	Commonwealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Relevant Legislation	Quarantine Act 1908									
Pet Meat Safety	Pet Meat imports prohibited for quarantine risk									N/A
Pet Food Safety	No, except where quarantine risk overlaps. Legislation for quarantine risk only, not for safety Some permit conditions Australian Consumer Law	Once imported, then treated as per domestic product								As per domestically manufactured pet food.

DOMESTIC

	Common-wealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Relevant Legislation	Competition and Consumer Act 2010	Food Act 2003 Food Regulation 2004	Meat Act 2003 Meat Industry Regulations 2005	Food Production (Safety) Act 2000 Food Production (Safety) Regulation 2002	Meat Hygiene Act 1985 Meat Hygiene Regulations 2003 Tasmanian Code of Practice for Hygienic Production of Pet Food 2003	Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act 2004 Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Regulations 2006	Health Act 1911 Health (Pet Meat) Regulations 1991	Meat Industries Act 1996 Meat Industries Regulations	None	Australian Standard for the Manufacturing & Marketing of Pet Food AS 5812-2011

DOMESTIC

	Commonwealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Safety for pets	Fit for purpose provisions of Trade Practices Act Red and yellow banding provisions enforced at export abattoirs	Meat has to be passed by a meat safety officer as being fit for use as animal food	Pet meat must be deemed fit for animal consumption	Under the Act, certain food safety measures must be implemented for production of primary produce for both human and animal consumption Prohibits processing of pet meat from carcasses sourced from unhealthy animals.	Pet meat cannot be sourced from diseased animals	Pet meat must be suitable for pet consumption	Prohibits processing of pet meat from carcasses sourced from unhealthy animals	Prohibits processing of pet meat from carcasses sourced from unhealthy animals	None	Pet meat must be deemed fit for animal consumption, e.g. through ante or post mortem inspections for presence of disease. Australian Standard AS5812 and PFIAA accreditation for its members

DOMESTIC

	Commonwealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Pet Meat – labelling	Fit for purpose provisions of Competition and Consumer Act Red and yellow banded provisions enforced at export abattoirs	Red and yellow banded provisions enforced at domestic abattoirs, slaughterhouses and knackeries Staining (colour marking) is required for non-packaged raw meat (using Brilliant Blue FCF 42090) Staining not required, if in labelled retail-sized packs. Heat processing facilities licensed and transfers of red-branded material reconciled For packaged pet meat, including pet meat in casings, labelling needs to state for ‘Animal or Pet food only not suitable for human consumption’ No label requirements for ingredients or processing method (for processed meat) Provisions for traceability In Queensland prepackaged pet meat and pet meat products must be labelled with — (a) the accreditation holder’s name or number; (b) the use-by date or batch number of the meat or product; (c) the weight of the meat or product; (d) the ingredients of the meat or product; (e) the requirements for storage of the meat or product; (f) the statement ‘Animal food—Not for human consumption’ or ‘Pet food—Not for human consumption’; (g) if the meat or product is packaged for retail sale— (i) the list of ingredients; and (ii) graphics showing the type of animal for which the meat or product is intended								Yes as per PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009 Standard for the hygienic production of pet meat

DOMESTIC

	Commonwealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Pet Food – labelling	No, other than Competition and Consumer Act	Nil								Yes, voluntary under PFIAA AS5812:2011 accreditation for its members
Testing of product	Nil	Nil								Testing of representative samples as per HACCP requirements

EXPORTED

	Commonwealth	NSW	VIC	QLD	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Industry standard or code
Relevant Legislation	Export Control Act 1982 Export Control Act Meat Orders									
Safety for pets	Only provisions of importing country	Minimum standards for domestic product must be met for export								Manufacturers will have to satisfy importing country requirements
PET MEAT–labelling	As for red or yellow banded, but staining only if specified by importing country	Minimum standards for domestic product must be met for export Exportation of meat is under Commonwealth jurisdiction								
PROCESSED – labelling	As specified by importing country and minimum provisions of Export Control Act	No legislation for labelling requirements for manufactured pet food								Yes, voluntary under PFIAA AS5812:2011 accreditation for its members