

Dog breeding (Non-Domestic)

Legislation and Guidance

Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991

Legal Requirements and Model Standards for Non-Domestic Breeders

1. Record Keeping

Detailed records should be kept concerning the operation of the breeding establishment. These must be accurate, up to date and available for inspection by the authorised inspector. The following records must be kept:

- Details of all breeding bitches and dogs, including matings, whelpings and oestrus dates;
- Details of all puppies, their litter sizes, dates of birth, dam and sire details;
- Where and when puppies and adult dogs are sold;
- Microchip and tattoo numbers;
- If dogs are on loan, details of the premises and the period of the loan;
- Vaccination and worming regimes as well as other veterinary treatment given;
- Cleaning and disinfecting regimes;
- Feeding and exercising regimes;
- Accommodation temperatures;
- Isolation cases being managed and the regime in place;
- Vehicles used for transporting dogs and journeys undertaken.

1. A copy of the licence and its conditions should be suitably displayed to the public in a prominent position in, or about, the breeding establishment.
2. Certificates of insurance must be displayed.

Where dogs are KC registered, their KC registration details should be recorded. Where dogs are not KC registered, they should be identified by some other suitable method, such as by the pet name. Where dogs are owned by the licensee but not kept on the breeding establishment premises, details of such dogs, together with their whereabouts, should also be recorded. Puppies which have been sold should be properly identified and records of sale should be kept.

2. Accommodation

2.1 GENERAL

The legal requirement is dogs will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, numbers of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

- 2.1.1 Where wood has been used in an existing construction it must be smooth and treated to render it impervious. Wood should not be used on exposed surfaces of walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors in the dog kennelling area. There must be no projections liable to cause injury.
- 2.1.2 All exterior wood should be properly treated against wood rot, e.g. tanalised. Only non-toxic products should be used.
- 2.1.3 All internal surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, partitions, doors and door frames are to be durable, smooth and impervious. There must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.
- 2.1.4 Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.

- 2.1.5 The construction should be such that the security of the dog is ensured.
- 2.1.6 Fencing material should be secure and safe.

The establishment should, at all times, be laid out and operated in accordance with an approved plan, to be attached to the licence. Before carrying out alterations, advice should be sought from the licensing officer of the local authority.

Where kennels are provided, within converted outbuildings, consideration should be given to cleaning, energy conservation, wildlife access, vermin control, natural lighting and ventilation.

The purpose of avoiding wood on surface structures of kennel interiors is because of the possibility of damage to the material caused by scratching or chewing by dogs.

Worn and splintered material is difficult to clean, harbours bacteria, viruses and so on, and allows the splinters to penetrate the animal's skin.

The interior and exterior of the buildings should be kept in good decorative order and repair. Outer paths, gardens, exercise areas and general surroundings should be kept in good, clean, safe condition.

Where galvanised welded mesh is used for fencing the wire diameter should not be less than 2mm (14 standard wire gauge) excluding any covering and the mesh size should not exceed 5cm (2 in).

2.2 WALLS AND PARTITIONS

- 2.2.1 Walls with which dogs may come into contact must be of smooth impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned. Where concrete or other building blocks or bricks are used, they should be sealed so as to be smooth and impervious, and resealed as necessary.
- 2.2.2 Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be coved. If impractical in existing premises, all joints should be sealed.
- 2.2.3 It is suggested that partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction to a minimum height of 1.2 m (4 ft).

Sealing is the use of proprietary water proofing agent for sealing the wall against damp penetration. Under certain circumstances sealing of brickwork can only be achieved by rendering prior to sealing. Sealants must be non toxic.

Partition construction may be solid from floor to ceiling, but this should not be to the detriment of other welfare considerations such as the dog's outlook, lighting, ventilation and socialising. Suitable materials for the construction of partition walls include properly surfaced impervious brick/block constructions, moulded plastic, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and pre-formed plastic surfaced board.

Constructing a solid partition to a minimum height provides a physical barrier to infection. It will also reduce aggression while allowing the dogs to socialise.

2.3 FLOORS

- 2.3.1 Floors of all buildings, individual exercise areas and kennels should be of smooth, impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned. It is recommended that new kennels should incorporate a damp proof membrane.
- 2.3.2 All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.
- 2.3.3 In new constructions, it is recommended that floors should be laid to a minimum fall of 1 in 80 leading to a shallow drainage channel or effectively covered deep drainage channel.
- 2.3.4 Communal exercise areas should also be suitably drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

Floors of kennels and related exercise areas should be constructed of impervious material and be easily cleanable while providing sufficient grip for the animal to walk or run without sustaining injury.

Drainage channels should be provided near to the kennel edge so that urine cannot pass over walk areas in corridors and communal access areas. A separate drainage channel may be needed in the exercise area. Advice concerning waste water outlets must be sought from the Environment Agency and/or the local authority.

The condition of the dogs with regard to cleanliness of skin, bodyweight in relation to breed and other well recognised signs of health will be taken into account.

Veterinary advice will be sought if there is any concern about the health and welfare of the dogs.

2.4 **CEILINGS**

Ceilings must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.

2.5 **DOORS**

2.5.1 Kennel doors should be strong enough to resist impact and scratching and should be capable of being effectively secured.

2.5.2 Where metal bars and frames are used, they should be of suitable gauge with spacing adequate to prevent dogs escaping or becoming entrapped. Where metal edging is used, this should not present a risk of injury to the dog.

2.5.3 Door openings should be constructed such that the passage of water/waste is not impeded, or allowed to accumulate due to inaccessibility.

When designing kennel doors regard should be had to the health and safety of the person working in the kennel, for example, large dogs may push against the door which may give rise to difficulties in securing the door and even to accidents to the person on the opposite side of the door when it opens outwards. A door which opens inwards may also reduce the possibility of escape.

2.6 **WINDOWS**

Windows should not pose a security risk and ideally should be escape proof for the protection of the dog as well as the public.

Dogs should not be allowed to escape. When windows are so situated that they pose a security risk, it is recommended that welded mesh or reinforced glass, polycarbonate or other impact-resistant material is used.

2.7 **DRAINAGE**

The establishment must be connected to mains drainage or an approved sewerage disposal system.

2.8 **LIGHTING**

2.8.1 During daylight hours light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible. Where practicable this should be natural light.

2.8.2 Adequate supplementary lighting must be provided throughout the establishment. Lighting must be of sufficient standard to enable efficient working both during and after daylight hours.

It is recommended that breeding establishments should have a low level night light for a 12 hour period for after daylight hours.

2.9 **VENTILATION**

Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the sleeping area.

A balance should be struck between providing adequate ventilation while avoiding unnecessary removal of heat. Checks need to be made during the day and night to allow for temperature fluctuations.

Ventilation is important in disease control. It provides protection against accumulation of odour and prevents excessive humidity. High humidity increases the risk of infectious bronchitis ('kennel cough').

Bedding should have sufficient depth to allow the dog protection against draughts.

2.10 **NUMBER OF DOGS PERMITTED**

2.10.1 The maximum number of dogs to be kept at any one time is () to be determined by the Local Authority.

The number of dogs permitted must relate to the number and size of the kennels available. The decision regarding the number of dogs permitted to be kept must take into account the maximum likely litter size as well as the effectiveness of site management.

2.11 **KENNEL SIZE, LAYOUT AND EXERCISE FACILITIES**

2.11.1 Kennels should be provided with an adequate size of sleeping area.

2.11.2 Bedding should be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable. Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and sanitised and sited away from draughts. All bedding material in use should be clean, parasite free and dry.

2.11.3 Adequate exercise areas must be provided for all kennels or an exercise regime put in place to the approval of the local authority.

2.11.4 Kennels should have a minimum height of 1.8m (6ft) to allow adequate access by kennel staff for cleaning.

2.11.5 Kennels and exercise areas should open onto secure corridors or other secure areas so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises.

2.11.6 Exercise areas should not be used as sleeping areas.

When constructing kennels, an appropriate design and correct materials should be used to overcome problems of noise emission and to ensure energy conservation. This is in order to minimise discomfort to the dog and risk of nuisance to persons in the vicinity of the site. Dogs should be able to lie down, turn around and stand comfortably in the sleeping area, with sufficient space for the door to open fully.

Special consideration should be given to whelping bitches. Kennels should cater for the maximum number of puppies having regard to the size of the breed and litter size. To avoid crushing puppies, crush bars can be useful when breeding large or giant dogs or if the bitch is particularly clumsy.

In adverse weather conditions, the responsible person must decide whether or not dogs are given free access to their exercise area. The exercise area should be roofed to a minimum of half the area, sufficient to give the dog protection against the weather. Some of this should be translucent material capable of filtering UV light and providing adequate shade.

It should be borne in mind that certain breeds are more adept at climbing than others. Therefore, depending upon the breed, consideration should be given to covering the whole of the exercise areas.

It is recommended that the exercise area is separate from the sleeping area and exclusive to that kennel for free use by the dog during the day.

2.12 **TEMPERATURE IN KENNELS**

2.12.1 Heating facilities must be available in the kennel and used according to the requirements of the individual dog.

- 2.12.2 There must be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a minimum temperature of 10°C (50°F) and a maximum temperature of 26°C (79°F).

The materials used on the kennel exterior should offer adequate protection against temperature variations throughout the year.

The difficulty of maintaining the ideal temperature is acknowledged, however these are realistic temperatures and should not be exceeded in normal circumstances. Puppies under two weeks of age should be kept at a temperature between 26°C (79°F) to 28°C (82°F).

There will be periods in the year where ambient external temperatures will cause temperatures to fluctuate above or below the recommended levels. If the higher temperature level is exceeded due to structural shortcomings rather than normal ambient temperature, then artificial means of counteracting this high temperature should be introduced.

Where temperatures fall below the recommended level, the use of individual heating lamps for dogs may prove adequate. In some circumstances additional background heating will also be required.

Failure to give adequate attention to construction and insulation may cause dogs to suffer and increase running costs. Geographical orientation will affect temperature, e.g north facing openings make it difficult to maintain adequate heating levels. Correct orientation of the kennel will allow maximum use of natural light.

Devices used for heating and cooling must be safe and free from risk of burning or electrocution. Open flame appliances must not be used and manufacturer's instructions should be followed.

2.13 **CLEANLINESS**

- 2.13.1 All kennels, corridors, common areas, kitchens and so on must be kept clean and free from accumulations of dirt and dust so that disease control is maintained and the dogs are comfortable.

- 2.13.2 Each occupied kennel must be cleaned daily. All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs at least daily and as necessary. The cleaning regime should include:-

- Removal of Solids
- Washing Down
- Application of Disinfection in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and contact time
- Drying

- 2.13.3 All sleeping areas and bedding must be kept clean and dry.

- 2.13.4 Regular disinfection should be demonstrated by keeping records of disinfecting regimes to include daily disinfection, specialist disinfections for whelping bitches and between occupancies.

- 2.13.5 Facilities must be provided for the proper collection, storage and disposal of waste. Particular care should be taken to segregate waste arising from the treatment and handling of dogs with infectious diseases (See isolation section at paragraph 4.3)

- 2.13.6 Measures must be taken to minimise the risks from rodents, insects and other pests within the breeding establishment. Such pests should be adequately dealt with without delay to eradicate the infestation.

Advice must be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority concerning removal of waste such as dog faeces and soiled material. In addition, foul waste water must be disposed of by discharge to the approved drainage system. Those wishing to operate an incinerator must seek advice from the Environment Agency and/or the local authority.

The physical collection of faeces is usual ('poop scoop' or shovel and bucket). The use of detergent and water will 'wash down'. Pressure hoses or steam cleaning will wash down more effectively.

Bacteria, viruses, fungi must be controlled by the sanitising process. Because disinfectant is washed away after a short period of time, the long term activity of chemicals used to control viruses, bacteria and fungi should be considered.

Great care should be taken when using any chlorine-based chemical, e.g bleach. Chemicals and materials must be used and stored correctly.

Combinations of bactericides, fungicides and virucides may prove expensive to use and may not necessarily provide the best system. Professional advice should be sought for the most effective method.

Staff working from kennel to kennel further increases the risk of spreading disease. Staff should be trained in good kennel hygiene. Complete disinfection of kennel and equipment must be carried out between occupancies.

3. Management

3.1 GENERAL

The legal requirement is dogs will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals.

3.2 SUPERVISION

3.2.1 A fit and proper person should always be present to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies. If 24 hour cover cannot be guaranteed, alternative procedures must be in place to the satisfaction of the local authority.

3.2.2 Dogs must be checked regularly throughout the day. It is recommended that dogs should be checked by a member of staff at least every four hours between 8 am and 6 pm. An evening visit may be appropriate but this must be balanced against the possibility of disturbing the dogs and causing a nuisance due to barking. Frequency of inspections must increase when bitches are whelping or when puppies are not weaned.

Ideally, a written training policy should be provided. Training of staff, whether permanent or temporary, should be demonstrated to have been carried out on all aspects of the care of all ages of dogs. Staff should be adequately trained in the work they are expected to carry out. For example, in handling dogs safely and in procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

The following are regarded as essential topics to be covered in the training programme relating to the care of dogs: Animal Health and Welfare; Cleanliness and Hygiene; Feeding and Food Preparation; Disease Control; Recognition of Sick Animals; Dog Handling; Health and Safety; Emergency Procedures.

The licensee should have adequate staff ratios to a number of dogs. Non-domestic breeding kennels should have a ratio of at least one member of staff to 30 dogs where the dogs are adult and not whelping or nursing puppies. However, whelping and nursing bitches are time consuming. It is therefore recommended that at least one member of staff should be available for every 5 bitches which are either whelping or nursing puppies.

It is recommended that dogs should be checked regularly by a member of staff at least every four hours between 8 am and 6 pm. An evening visit may be appropriate but this must be balanced against the possibility of disturbing the dogs thereby causing a nuisance due to excessive barking. Dogs should not be left alone for long periods of the day.

Checks should be more frequent when bitches are whelping or when puppies are not yet weaned.

Breeding establishments are the permanent home for some dogs and therefore provision of exercise facilities may be inadequate for the long term. Arrangements should be made for the dogs to be exercised at least twice a day. Dogs should not be kept permanently confined. Where dogs are exercised off the premises reference should be made to the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and the Control of Dogs Order 1992.

The name, address and telephone number (including the emergency number) of the establishment's veterinary practice should be displayed prominently, preferably by the telephone.

3.3 **FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES**

3.3.1 All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed daily.

3.3.2 Eating and drinking vessels must be capable of being easily cleansed and disinfected to prevent cross-contamination. They must be maintained in a clean condition and cleansed or disposed of after each meal.

Dogs must be fed sufficiently well to maintain health. Inspectors will observe the general nutrition of the dogs and check on the quality of food in store and the process of preparation. If necessary, the veterinary surgeon will be consulted to advise.

To avoid flies and odours, food should not be left for excessive periods in the kennel, nor should food be left outside at night as this will attract vermin.

Special dietary considerations should be given to young and old dogs and to whelping and nursing bitches.

Nutrition is particularly important during pregnancy and lactation. It is recommended that a requirement of about 1-5 times the non-pregnant state is necessary for the last few (say three) weeks of pregnancy.

Lactation will last until the puppies are weaned. During lactation, the bitch must have sufficient food to satisfy the demands being made upon her. Consideration should also be given to how many puppies the bitch is nursing.

During lactation the bitch should be closely monitored for signs of complications (e.g eclampsia).

The feeding level required for the bitch after weaning will depend upon her body condition.

Where a proprietary food source is used the manufacturer's guide should be followed.

3.4 **KITCHEN FACILITIES**

3.4.1 Exclusive facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained should be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs.

3.4.2 Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided.

3.4.3 A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking vessels. A separate hand basin with hot and cold running water should be provided for staff.

3.4.4 Containers for storing foods should be provided and should be constructed and maintained to guard against insects and other pests.

4. **Disease Control, Vaccination and Worming**

4.1 **GENERAL**

The legal requirement is all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among dogs of infectious or contagious diseases.

4.1.1 All dogs should be vaccinated against Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus), Leptospirosis (*Leptospira canicola* and *Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae*) and Canine Parvovirus. It may be necessary to vaccinate against other diseases and veterinary advice should be sought.

4.1.2 Advice from a veterinary surgeon must be sought where a dog shows signs of disease, injury or illness. A competent person must ensure this advice is followed. Adequate precautions should be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious and contagious diseases and parasites among dogs and visitors.

- (a) Infectious bronchitis (kennel cough) can be problematic in kennels and staff should be aware of the symptoms. However, because vaccination will depend on the local level of infection, it is recommended that the advice of the veterinary surgeon is sought.
- (b) For the control of roundworms, pregnant and nursing bitches should be given additional worming treatment. Breeding bitches require particular attention and veterinary advice should always be sought. However, as a rule of thumb, it is suggested that bitches are wormed before mating and again after the 41st day of pregnancy with a broad spectrum anthelmintic.

The bitch should also be wormed at the same time as the puppies, which should be when the puppies are at two, four and six weeks of age.

Thereafter it is recommended that puppies should be wormed at regular intervals, according to manufacturer's instructions.

From 16 weeks of age into adulthood, worming should be carried out routinely two to four times per year.

Advice concerning dogs with tapeworms should be sought from the veterinary surgeon.

- (c) Fleas, lice, ticks and harvest mites are common ectoparasites of dogs. Appropriate treatment must be carried out if they are found on any of the dogs. When treating these infestations it is important to take account of the life cycle of the parasite in order to achieve maximum control or even eradication. For instance, simply killing the adult flea is unlikely to provide adequate control.

Several mange mites affect dogs, including *Demodex folliculorum*, *Sarcoptes scabiei* and *Cheyletiella*, all of which attack the skin and *Otodectes*, which is most common seen in the ears. Any of these infestations can cause severe illness in puppies and older dogs.

Some of these parasites can cause disease in humans.

Ringworm can be passed to humans. Early diagnosis and thorough treatment is essential if the disease is to be controlled.

The veterinary surgeon should be consulted if any of these conditions is suspected or known. Particular care is required with pregnant bitches and suckling puppies when using treatment for these infestations.

It is important that there are facilities and procedures for cleaning and disease control. Staff should know what action to take in the event of an outbreak of a disease and be familiar with the first signs of disease/illness. In addition, staff should be aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a dog being found dead. Sudden death of a bitch or a puppy should, if possible, be investigated and therefore advice should be sought from the veterinary surgeon.

Phenolic disinfectants should not be used around dogs. Dogs must be kept dry whilst kennels and enclosures are being cleaned.

All insecticides, disinfectants and so on, must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, staff must be told of any precautions they should take before using such solutions. Hazard sheets should be posted at strategic points in the establishment. It may be necessary to provide protective clothing.

4.2 **FIRST-AID KIT FOR DOGS**

A fully stocked first-aid kit suitable for use on dogs and puppies should be available and accessible on the premises.

The first aid kit for use on dogs and puppies must be kept fully stocked at all times. The veterinary surgeon should be consulted concerning its contents and a competent member of staff should be in charge of its maintenance.

4.3 **ISOLATION FACILITIES**

4.3.1 Isolation facilities should be provided.

4.3.2 Isolation facilities must be in compliance with the other licence conditions but must be physically isolated from the main kennels at a distance of at least 5 m (15 ft).

4.3.3 Adequate facilities to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolation and other kennels must be provided.

4.3.4 Protective clothing, footwear and equipment including cleaning equipment for use only in the isolation facilities must be used to reduce the spread of infection.

4.3.5 Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other dogs and visiting kennels.

4.3.6 Complete disinfection of the isolation facilities, clothing, footwear and equipment must be carried out once vacated.

It is recommended that isolation facilities should be provided at the rate of at least one isolation kennel for up to 50 kennels at the breeding establishment and pro rata above that.

The requirement for 5m distance between isolation facilities and the main kennels is based upon consideration of the distance that airborne infection can carry. Intervening buildings and construction detail (i.e window and door positions) should be taken into account because individual circumstances may significantly affect the recommended distance.

Isolation facilities must be used where the presence of infectious disease is suspected or known. Where stray dogs or new arrivals are accepted by kennels they must be kept in a separate area.

A management regime should be followed where an isolation case is being handled. For example, isolation cases must be cared for after all other dogs have been attended to.

5. **Emergencies/Fire Prevention**

5.1 **GENERAL**

The legal requirement is all appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of the dogs in case of fire or other emergency.

5.1.1 There should be an emergency evacuation plan and fire warning procedure in place. This should be posted where staff may become familiar with it. This procedure should include instructions dealing with where dogs are to be evacuated.

5.1.2 Fire fighting equipment and detectors should be properly maintained.

5.1.3 All electrical installations and appliances should be maintained in a safe condition. There should be a residual current circuit breaker system on each block of kennels protecting all electrical installations and appliances in each block.

- 5.1.4 Heating appliances should not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to dogs.
- 5.1.5 Precautions should be taken to prevent any accumulation of material which may present a risk of fire.
- 5.1.6 There should be adequate means of raising an alarm in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Fire prevention advice maybe sought from the Fire Prevention Officer regarding appropriate fire drills, fire escapes and equipment. Staff should not attempt to fight a fire unless they are confident that they can do so without injury.

Staff should be familiar with the fire evacuation procedure by use of fire drills. Staff should also know how to use fire extinguishers. Smoke detectors are recommended. Fire detection and fighting equipment should be easily accessible and regularly tested. Exit routes should be kept clear.

6. Transport

GENERAL

The legal requirement is that all appropriate steps will be taken to secure that the dogs will be provided with suitable food, drink and bedding material and adequately exercised when being transported to or from the breeding establishment.

Dogs and puppies being transported to and from breeding establishments should be properly supervised.