

## Standard Licence Conditions and Advice for

### Dog Breeding Establishments

#### INTRODUCTION

Under the provisions of the above Act no person shall keep a breeding establishment for dogs except under a licence granted by the local authority.

#### 1. Accommodation

##### 1.1 General

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.

Where dogs are maintained in cages, these must be of sufficient size for the dog to lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably, and allow the dog to defecate away from the sleeping area. Such cages should be used principally for sleeping quarters and animals should not be confined to them for long periods of the day.

If there are children in the house, there should be separate facilities because of public health concerns. In particular, during whelping the risk of Toxocara is increased. Food preparation should be carried out in hygienic conditions and there should be adequate refrigeration to keep food fresh. To avoid cross-contamination, there should be separate facilities for washing dishes and bedding.

When bitches are whelping every effort should be made to maintain adequate standards of hygiene. Whelping should not take place in a domestic kitchen for public health reasons.

Impermeable floor coverings should be provided to prevent fluids and discharges from fouling wooden floors and similar surfaces.

An adequate quantity of absorbent disposable material, eg newspapers, should be available and properly disposed of after use.

##### 1.2 Temperature

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 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). Temperatures should be monitored and recorded.

##### 1.3 Lighting

##### 1.3.1 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.

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.

## **2.0 Management**

### **2.1 General**

Dogs will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised and visited at suitable intervals.

### **2.2 Supervision**

**2.2.1** A fit and proper person should always be present to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.

**2.2.2** Dogs must be checked on regularly throughout the day.

Dogs should not be left alone for long periods of the day. It is recommended that dogs should be checked regularly at least every four hours between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

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

### **2.3 Food and Water Supplies**

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

**2.3.2** 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.

Special dietary consideration 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 (eg 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.

Veterinary advice should be sought if in doubt.

## **3.0 Disease control, vaccination and worming**

### **3.1 General**

All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among dogs of infectious or contagious diseases

Adequate precautions should be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious and contagious diseases and parasites among dogs and zoo noses among dogs and visitors. Records should be kept of all vaccination and worming regimes.

**3.1.1** 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

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.

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 then 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.

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

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 commonly 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.

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 treatments for these infestations.

- 3.1.2** Advice from the veterinary surgeon must be sought where a dog shows signs of disease, injury or illness. A competent person must ensure this advice is followed.

## **3.2 First-Aid Kit for Dogs**

A fully maintained 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. A veterinary surgeon should be consulted concerning its contents and a competent member of staff should be in charge of its maintenance.

## **3.3 Isolation Facilities**

- 3.3.1** Facilities for isolation should be available when required.

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

- 3.3.2** Isolation facilities must be in compliance with the other licence conditions but must be physically isolated from other dogs ideally at a distance of at least 5m (15ft)

Isolation facilities must be used where the presence of infectious disease is suspected or known.

- 3.3.3** Adequate facilities to prevent the spread of infectious disease between the isolation case and any other dogs must be provided.

Protective clothing and equipment, for use only in the isolation facility, must be used to reduce the spread of infection.

### **3.3.4** Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other dogs.

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. Records of the isolation cases and the management regime to be followed should be kept.

Complete disinfection of the isolation facilities and equipment must be carried out once vacated.

## **4.0 Emergencies/Fire preventions**

### **4.1 General**

That all appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of the dogs in case of fire or other emergency.

The domestic breeder must be able to protect the dogs in case of fire or other emergency and have in place an emergency evacuation plan, which should be practiced at least annually. Smoke detectors are recommended and should be regularly tested.

## **5.0 Transport**

### **5.1 General**

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.

Section 1(4)(e) of the 1973 Act is concerned with safeguarding the welfare of dogs 'when being transported to or from the breeding establishment'. Dogs and puppies being transported to and from breeding establishments should be properly supervised to ensure compliance with the obligations under the 1973 Act. It is recommended that records are kept of the vehicles used when dogs are transported, as well as details of journeys undertaken.

## **6.0 Health and Welfare of the Breeding Bitch**

### **6.1 Mating**

That bitches are not mated if they are less than one year old.

### **6.2 Maximum Number of Litters**

That bitches do not give birth to more than six litters of puppies each.

### **6.3 Twelve Months Between Litters**

That bitches do not give birth to puppies before the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which they last gave birth to puppies.

Although the sub-section does not provide any scope for flexibility, the Home Office and the Scottish Executive guidelines to Local Authorities expect Local Authorities to take into account any difficulties in relation to factors beyond the breeder's control, such as when a bitch whelps prematurely. Accurate records showing matings and whelpings will be essential.

### **6.4 Record Keeping**

That accurate records in a form prescribed by regulations are kept at the premises and made available for inspection there by any officer of the Local Authority, or any veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner, authorised by the Local Authority to inspect the premises.


Additional records will provide useful information to the Local Authority inspectors should problems arise. It is suggested that this information should include:

The details and number of all dogs owned by the licensed breeder and their whereabouts  
Oestrus dates of breeding bitches  
Microchip and tattoo numbers or other suitable form of identification. If the dogs are KC registered, these numbers should also be recorded  
Where dogs are under a breeding arrangement, the details of such dogs, together with their whereabouts  
Vaccination and worming records and details of other veterinary treatment given  
Cleaning and disinfecting regimes  
Feeding and exercise regimes  
Accommodation temperatures  
Details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place  
Details of vehicles used for transporting dogs, as well as time, length of journeys taken and destination.

This list is by no means exhaustive.

- 6.4.1** The Breeding of Dogs (Licensing Records) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No 3192) prescribe the form of records to be kept by licensed breeding establishments. These records must be accurate and kept on the premises and made available to Local Authority inspectors or any veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner authorised by the Local Authority.
- 6.4.2** A record must be kept by every licensed dog breeder for each breeding bitch providing the name of the bitch, date of birth, address where she is kept, breed, description, date of mating and details of sire. Licensed dog breeders must also keep a record of any litters, including the sex of the puppies, date of birth, weight, description and total number in the litter. The record must also show the details of sale, namely the date of sale, name and address of who was supplied and the status of the purchaser (ie private owner or pet shop).
- 6.4.3** The 1999 Act provides that the sale of puppies from licensed breeders must be not less than 8 weeks old and to its final home or to a licensed third party, e.g. Pet Shop, providing the dog is wearing an identification collar or tag indicating the name of breeding establishment and date of birth.

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