



Licence Conditions & Guidance for Dog Breeding Licences

Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991

Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999

Introduction

The 1973 Breeding of Dogs Act ('the 1973 Act') requires proprietors of breeding establishments to be licensed. Under the authority of the 1973 Act, local authorities may issue licences to proprietors of breeding establishments stipulating conditions which must be complied with by the licensee.

Licence Display

The principal legislation dealing with Dog Breeding Establishments is the Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which addresses the areas to be covered by the licence relating to animal welfare and management. It is essential that consumers and those responsible for premises management are aware of the licence conditions.

A copy of the licence and its conditions must be suitably displayed to the public in prominent position in, on or about the boarding establishment.

Conditions

ACCOMMODATION

1. General

- 1.1 Dogs must at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, numbers of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness [Breeding and Sale of Dogs Act 1973 S.1(4)(a)].
- 1.2 Dogs kept in domestic premises must have free access to more than one room and every dog must be provided with continual access to a comfortable, dry, draught-free, clean and quiet place to rest.
- 1.3 Dog crates, where used (and whilst not acceptable as permanent housing) must be of sufficient size to allow each dog to be able to sit and stand at full height, step forward, turn around, stretch and lie down in a natural position and wag its tail without touching the sides of the crate and to lie down without touching another individual.

2. Kennel Construction

- 2.1 Where kennels are provided, within converted outbuildings, consideration must be given to cleaning, wildlife access, vermin control, natural lighting and ventilation.
- 2.2 All internal surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, ceilings, partitions, doors and door frames must be durable, smooth and impervious, easily cleaned and disinfected. Kennels must be free from hazards and there must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury. Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.

3. Security

- 3.1 The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured. Fencing material must be safe and secure.

4. Walls and Partitions

- 4.1 Walls with which dogs may come into contact must be of smooth impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.

5. Floors

- 5.1 Flooring must be of a non-slip, urine-resistant material. It must be laid in a way and at a fall that avoids the pooling of liquids. Slatted or wire mesh floors must not be used.
- 5.2 Floors of all buildings, individual exercise areas and kennels must be of smooth,

impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected while providing sufficient grip for the animal to walk or run without sustaining injury.

6. Ceilings

6.1 Ceilings must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

7. Doors

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

8. Windows

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

9. Drainage

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

10. Lighting

10.1 During daylight hours light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible.

10.2 Lighting must be of sufficient standard to enable efficient working both during and after daylight hours. Supplementary lighting, adequate to allow inspection, must be provided throughout the establishment.

11. Ventilation

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

12. Kennel Design (Size, layout and exercise facilities)

12.1 Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas. Kennels must be provided with an adequate size of sleeping area, such that dogs can stand, turn around, stretch and lie down flat in a natural position, with sufficient space for the door to open fully.

12.2 Adequate exercise areas must be provided for all kennels. Dogs must be able to walk, turn around easily, wag their tails without touching the kennel sides, and lie down without touching another dog.

12.3 Kennels and runs must open onto secure corridors or other secure areas so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises.

12.4 Exercise areas must not be used as sleeping areas.

12.5 Outdoor areas where animals exercise and interact cannot have strict temperature regulation. Dogs must not be restricted to such areas when climatic conditions may cause them distress. They must have constant access to fresh clean water, shade and shelter so they can avoid rain, wind, snow, ice or direct sunlight, etc. In adverse weather conditions, the responsible person must decide whether or not dogs are given free access to their run. The run must be at least partially roofed to provide the dog with sufficient protection against all weathers.

13. Beds and Bedding

13.1 The bed must have clean bedding and be large enough for each dog to lie flat on their side. Beds must be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable, i.e. of durable construction, be sited away from and offer protection from draughts and be of a suitable size for the size and type of dogs kept. Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.

14. Number of Dogs Permitted

14.1 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 or space available and will be stipulated clearly on the front sheet of the licence.

15. Temperature in Accommodation

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

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

16. Cleanliness

16.1 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. Each occupied kennel must be cleaned daily at a minimum.

16.2 All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs as necessary. All sleeping areas and bedding must be kept clean and dry. Facilities must be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of waste.

16.3 Measures must be taken to minimise the risks from rodents, insects and other pests within the breeding establishment.

16.4 Foul waste water must be disposed of by discharge to the appropriate or an approved drainage system. Those wishing to operate an incinerator must seek advice from the

Environment Agency and/or the local authority.

17. Whelping Facilities

17.1 There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each whelping bitch in which to whelp. There must be direct access to the whelping area for kennel personnel without disturbing the general kennel population. Once separated there must be increased social contact with humans.

17.2 Each whelping pen must be constructed of easily cleanable impervious materials. The area must be cleaned regularly and a record kept of cleaning procedures. The whelping pen must have a divider to allow the bitch to access an area where she cannot be reached by the puppies. There must be natural daylight. There must be a whelping bed raised off the floor and with sides high enough to prevent new born puppies from falling out. The bed must contain sufficient bedding to ensure a soft surface for the bitch and to enable the absorption of mess resulting from whelping. The bed must be constructed of easily cleanable impervious material and must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between litters.

17.3 The whelping area must be maintained at an appropriate temperature. The bitch must be able to move away from heat spots.

17.4 Bitches must be adequately supervised during whelping and records kept of:

- Time of birth of each puppy
- Puppies' sex, colour and weight
- Placentae passed
- Any other significant events.

17.5 Bitches must be allowed a minimum of four periods a day for toileting and exercise away from their puppies.

18. Bitches in Season

18.1 Consideration should be given to separating bitches in season and they must not be kept with entire male dogs.

MANAGEMENT

19. General

19.1 Dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised, and visited at suitable intervals [BDA 1973 S.1 (4) (b)]. The 1999 Act strengthens the requirements for dogs to be visited at suitable intervals. The Animal Welfare Act (2006) sets out the Duty of Care which must be met by the person responsible for the animals

20. Supervision

20.1 A fit and proper person must always be present to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.

21. Numbers of staff

21.1 Numbers of staff must be appropriate for the breed/ type and number of dogs being bred. Numbers must be sufficient to provide the level of care set out in these model conditions.

21.2 Sufficient adequately trained staff must be available every day to carry out all the interactions and procedures with dogs specified in this document.

21.3 Establishing the number of staff required will require an assessment of the conditions at the establishment. As a guideline, it may be considered that a full time attendant may care for up to 20 dogs. In domestic environments, it is advisable for other members of the household, or dog sitters to be provided with guidance notes in regard to general day to day care – feeding, grooming, cleaning, exercise and compatibility issues – especially where several dogs, or breeds of dogs, are involved.

21.4 Dogs must not be left alone for long periods and must be checked at the start and end of every working day and regularly by a member of staff at least every four hours during the day.

22. Environmental Enrichment and Exercise

22.1 Dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment and the ability to have some control over their environment.

22.2 Breeding establishments are the permanent home for some dogs and therefore provision of exercise facilities must be adequate for the long term. Dogs must not be kept permanently confined. Arrangements must be made for the dogs to be exercised at least twice a day.

23. Handling and Habituation

23.1 Breeding dogs must be handled and examined regularly to identify changes in health, weight and behaviour, also to ensure dogs are habituated to handling by people. This is particularly important for bitches, as fear of people will influence development of puppy behaviour

24. Food and Water Supplies

24.1 All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed at least daily. Dogs must be fed a diet appropriate to their age, breed, activity level and stage in the breeding cycle. Dogs must be fed individually with separate bowls. Food must be stored in vermin-proof containers and fresh food must be

refrigerated.

24.2 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 cleaned and disinfected or disposed of after each meal.

24.3 Dogs must be fed sufficiently well to maintain health.

25. Weaning Procedures

25.1 Puppies must start the weaning process as soon as they are capable of ingesting food on their own. The food offered must be appropriate for the stage of development of the puppies. Puppies at weaning must initially be offered food five times a day. It must be ensured that each puppy takes the correct share of the food offered.

25.2 During lactation, the bitch must have sufficient appropriate food to satisfy the demands being made upon her.

26. Kitchen Facilities

26.1 Facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, must be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided. A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking vessels.

26.2 Containers for storing foods must be provided and must be constructed and maintained to guard against insects and other pests. Cross-contamination must be avoided.

27. First-Aid Kit for Dogs

27.1 A fully maintained first-aid kit suitable for use on dogs and puppies must be available and accessible on the premises.

28. Isolation Facilities

28.1 Veterinary advice must be sought for any animal with a potentially infectious disease.

28.2 Facilities for isolation must be available when required. Isolation facilities must be used where the presence of infectious disease is suspected or known.

28.3 Isolation facilities must be in compliance with the other licence conditions but must be physically separate from other dogs.

28.4 Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other dogs. Protective clothing, footwear and equipment, for use only in the isolation facility, must be used to reduce the spread of infection and must not be worn outside the isolation facility.

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

DISEASE CONTROL, VACCINATION AND WORMING

29. All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among dogs of infectious or contagious diseases [BDA 1973 S.1 (4) (c)]. Licence holders must take all reasonable steps to protect the animal from pain, suffering, injury and disease. All breeding establishments must be registered with a Veterinary Practice and ensure full details are made available to the Licensing Authority.

EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION

30. There must be Emergency Evacuation and Contingency Plans in place which meets approval with the local authority, and in consultation with the local authority.

TRANSPORT

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'.

31. General

31.1 Dogs and puppies being transported to and from breeding establishments must be properly supervised to ensure compliance with the obligations under the 1973 Act. All appropriate steps must be taken to ensure 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. Bitches must not be transported in the last stages of pregnancy, ideally not from 54 days after mating, unless to a veterinary surgeon for treatment. Bitches must not be transported for 48 hours after whelping unless it is to see a veterinary surgeon for treatment.

31.2 Whenever dogs are transported they must be fit and healthy for the intended journey. Injured and/ or diseased dogs must not be transported (except for minor illness or injury, as determined by trained and competent staff) unless they are being taken to a veterinary surgery.

31.3 Puppies must not be transported before eight weeks of age without their dam unless a veterinary surgeon agrees otherwise for health and/or welfare reasons, or in an emergency (See Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (England) 2006 - Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005).

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BREEDING STOCK AND LITTERS

32. Mating

32.1 Bitches must not be mated if they are less than one year old [BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (f)]

33. Maximum Number of Litters

33.1 Bitches must not give birth to more than six litters of puppies each in their lifetime [BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (g)]

34. Twelve Months Between Litters

34.1 Bitches must 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 [BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (h)]

35. Social Contact for Dogs and Socialisation of Puppies Adult Dogs

35.1 All dogs used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows adequate social contact with both other dogs and people.

36. Puppies

36.1 Puppies must be handled regularly from shortly after birth for short periods (e.g. gently picking up and examining) to habituate them to human contact and to examine them for any sign of disease and to ensure they are feeding properly.

36.2 From 3 weeks old puppies must be habituated to events likely to be encountered in a domestic environment.

36.3 To learn social skills with other dogs, puppies must be maintained as a litter or with puppies of a similar age and size.

37. Record Keeping

37.1 Accurate records in a form prescribed by regulations must be kept at the premises and made available for inspection there by any officer of the local authority or any veterinary surgeon, authorised by the local authority to inspect the premises [BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (i)].

37.2 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 authorised by the local authority.

37.3 A record must be kept 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.

37.4 A record of any litters must be kept, 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 (i.e., private owner or pet shop).

Guidance on Conditions

This guidance is aimed at all those who are tasked with inspecting, advising and licensing kennels under the Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991 and Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999. It may also be useful to owners and managers of kennels and those planning to build breeding kennels who wish to better understand what their legal requirements are under the 1973 Act the 1991 Act and the Animal Welfare Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') as well as other related legislation, and how to improve compliance with the licence conditions.

The following definitions are provided for the purposes of inspection:

Kennel – this is the physical structure and area that consists of an indoor sleeping area and outdoor run

Run – A run is defined as an area attached to and with direct and permanent access from a kennel

Outdoor exercise area – a separate area from the kennel itself where dogs may, for example, exercise, play, interact with other dogs and people

Crate – a safe, secure area that a dog can go into for short periods of time. Usually consists of a wire frame with a removable tray in the base for bedding, but can also be plastic, or fabric. Uses include security, transportation or following veterinary advice. NB: this should only be a temporary enclosure for a dog and only where the dog is habituated to it

ACCOMMODATION

1. General

1.1 Bitches with litters should be given extra space

2. Kennel Construction

2.1 In new constructions, wood should not be used on exposed surfaces of walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors in the dog kennelling area. Existing buildings may be more expensive to adapt and less efficient to operate than new build kennels. Proposed building works may require approval from the building control department and/or planning department. Where wood has been used in an existing construction it must be smooth and treated to render it impervious. 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.

2.2 All exterior wood should be properly treated against wood rot, e.g. tanalised. Only non-

toxic products should be used. 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.

3. Security

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

4. Walls and Partitions

4.1 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. Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be coved. If impractical in existing premises, all joints should be sealed. It is suggested that partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction and of sufficient height to prevent direct nose-to-nose contact between dogs. 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. 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 provides a physical barrier to infection.

5. Floors

5.1 It is recommended that new kennels should incorporate a damp proof membrane. All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.

5.2 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. Communal exercise areas should also be suitably drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

7. Doors

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

8. Windows

8.1 When windows are so situated that they could pose a security risk, it is recommended that welded mesh or reinforced glass, polycarbonate or other impact resistant material is used.

9. Drainage

9.1 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 should be sought from the Environment Agency and/or, the local authority.

10. Lighting

10.1 Where practicable this should be natural light.

10.2 It is recommended that breeding establishments should have a low level night light for use after daylight hours.

11. Ventilation

11.1 A balance should be struck between providing adequate ventilation while avoiding unnecessary loss 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').

12. Kennel Design (Size, layout and exercise facilities)

12.1 Special consideration should be given to whelping bitches and bitches in season. Kennels should cater for the maximum number of puppies having regard to the size of the breed and litter size. 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. All parts of the kennel should be easily accessible to undertake thorough cleaning by staff.

Depending upon the breed, consideration should be given to covering the whole of the runs.

13. Beds and Bedding

13.1 All bedding material in use should be clean, non-irritant, parasite free and dry. Chewing or destruction of bedding should not result in restricted access, rather alternative materials should be tried.

14. Number of Dogs Permitted

14.1 This figure should include any dogs kept on the breeders' premises which are not being used for breeding and must not be exceeded. 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.

15. Temperature in Accommodation

15.1 There should be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a temperature of between 10°C -26°C. Temperature should be relevant to the type and breed of dog. If necessary, heating and/ or automatic cooling/ventilation should be used to achieve this. 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.

15.2 There should be the ability to record temperatures at dog level. 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.

16. Cleanliness

16.1 Regular disinfection should be demonstrated by keeping records of disinfecting regimes.

16.2 Advice should be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority concerning removal of waste such as dog faeces, soiled material and infectious material.

16.3 Such pests should be adequately dealt with without delay to eradicate the infestation.

16.4 There is a range of cleaning regimes. The regime should include:

1. Removal of solids
2. Washing
3. Disinfection
4. Drying

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 need to 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 chemicals. Chemicals and materials should 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 increase the risk of spreading disease. Staff should be trained in good kennel hygiene. Complete disinfection of kennel and equipment should be carried out between occupancies.

17. Whelping Facilities

- 17.1 Bitches should be moved to their whelping accommodation 60 days after mating or sooner if signs of imminent whelping are shown.
- 17.2 Where a bitch is whelped in a domestic environment it is acceptable for a temporary disposable covering to be used. Varnishing wood will make it impervious.
- 17.3 There should be an area maintained between 26-28 degrees Celsius. This can be achieved with a local heat source such as a heat lamp. Puppies under four weeks of age should be kept at a temperature between 26°C (79°F) to 28°C (82°F) with provision for the bitch to move to a cooler area.

Management

20. Supervision

- 20.1 Any person with responsibility for supervision should be over the age of 16. Where staff are employed, ideally a written training policy should be provided. Training of staff, whether permanent or temporary, should be demonstrated (via appropriate training records) to have been carried out on all aspects of the care of all ages of dogs and updated regularly. 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 Prevention and Control; Recognition of Sick Animals; Dog Handling; Health and Safety; Emergency Procedures, Normal Whelping and Responsible Breeding. There are a variety of animal care courses available and staff should be encouraged to attend Relevant NVQs attained at Level 2 or the equivalent should enable staff to gain a minimum level of competency.

21. Numbers of Staff

- 21.1 Staff numbers should be of concern when there is evidence that the standards maintained or the condition and behaviour of the animals is being compromised, or where an unrealistic routine is in place.
- 21.4 These checks should be more frequent when bitches are imminently due to whelp, whelping and puppies that are not yet weaned

22. Environmental Enrichment and Exercise

- 22.1 Toy and activity feeders that are changed regularly are ideal enrichment. There should be more toys or feeders than there are dogs in the kennel. The use of raised beds and the ability to move out of other dogs' sight should be provided.
- 22.2 Exercise may also be provided by walking. Where dogs are exercised off the premises, reference should be made to the Clean Neighbourhoods Environment Act (2005) 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.

24. Food and Water Supplies

- 24.1 The dogs' weight should be monitored and recorded quarterly and diets adjusted where necessary, unless otherwise advised by a veterinary surgeon or a significant change in the dog's weight/body condition is noticed.
- 24.2 If necessary, the veterinary surgeon should be consulted to advise. 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 and consideration should be given to the varying nutritional requirements of individual dogs. Body condition score should be monitored and feeding adjusted appropriately.
- 24.3 Inspectors should observe the general condition of the dogs and check on the quantity of food in store and the process of preparation.

25. Weaning Procedures

- 25.1 Weaning should normally commence at 3-4 weeks old. The initial diet may be liquid progressing to solid food over the ensuing period.
- 25.2 Lactation will last until the puppies are weaned. 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. Veterinary advice should be sought if in doubt. Food provision can be used to enhance enrichment, for example

through the use of devices increasing the time and effort taken to access food (e.g. puzzle feeders, activity balls, stuffed rubber toys). Where these are used they should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between each use. Where dogs are kept in pairs or larger groups, more devices should be available than the number of dogs, use should be monitored carefully to identify where aggression occurs. Dogs which show aggression associated with feeding, or when provided with food based enrichment, should be separated from other dogs prior to feeding.

26. Kitchen Facilities

26.1 A separate hand basin with hot and cold running water should be provided for staff.

26.2 Dishes and bedding should be washed separately from domestic items.

27. First-Aid Kit for Dogs

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

28. Isolation Facilities

28.1 Where advised, the dog should be isolated immediately and the procedure documented.

28.2 Procedures should be in place, and understood by all staff, to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolated animals and the other dogs.

28.3 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. For airborne diseases, ideally a distance of at least 5m (15 ft.). The requirement for 5 m distance between isolation facilities and the other dogs is based upon consideration of the distance that airborne infection can carry.

28.4 The use of disposable clothing is recommended. 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.

DISEASE CONTROL, VACCINATION AND WORMING

29. Registered breeders should produce a health and welfare plan approved by a veterinary surgeon. This should be updated on an annual basis and needs to take into account the health, preventive treatment, socialisation, and welfare of the animals.

EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION

- 30.** Contingency plans should also include consideration for alternative housing for a large number of dogs. For the occasions where it is not possible to evacuate the dogs to alternative locations other contingency measures should be in place, this may include long term provision of feed/water or euthanasia.

Transport

31. General

- 31.1 It is recommended that records are kept of the vehicles used when dogs are transported, as well as details of journeys undertaken. All vehicles are considered commercial and subject to EU Transport Regulation 1/2005.
- 31.2 The transporting of distressed dogs should be avoided whenever possible. When transporting animals, there is a general duty of care to protect them from injury or unnecessary suffering (see Article 4 of Welfare of Animals [Transport] [England] Order 2006) and to also ensure they are transported in suitable containers. If the transportation is carried out in connection with an 'economic activity', as defined by the Regulations, then there are further legal requirements to comply with under this legislation. Furthermore, there is a requirement under the Highway Code that animals should be "suitably restrained" when transported (Rule 57, Highway Code). Any vehicle used for transporting dogs should be suitable and have the correct ventilation and temperature control so that the dog remains comfortable during the journey, whatever the outside temperature. Dogs should not be left unattended in a vehicle for any length of time. Dogs should not be fed within two hours of a journey and should be exercised immediately before they are loaded to give them the opportunity to go to the toilet. During a journey dogs should be securely and comfortably confined. If a dog is transported alone in a container, he or she should have enough space to stand, sit erect, lie in a natural position and turn around normally while standing up for long journeys. If transported with other dogs, there should be sufficient space for all the dogs to carry out all these behaviours without touching other dogs. If transporting adult dogs by road, sufficient breaks should be offered for water and the chance to go to the toilet.
- 31.3 Where possible, puppies should be trained to stay calmly in a crate by using reward-based training prior to transportation.

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BREEDING STOCK AND LITTERS

32. Mating

- 32.1 It is the responsibility of the licensee to make every reasonable effort to ensure that both sires and bitches are in good health prior to mating. This includes checking for the presence of both infectious and genetically inherited diseases which may affect the health of either parent or resulting puppies. Where necessary, veterinary advice should be sought. Breeding stock should be selected on their temperament and genetic health.

Dogs that have required surgery to rectify an exaggerated conformation that has caused adverse welfare (e.g. an excessively flat face or short nose or eyelid abnormalities etc.) should not be bred from. Dogs with exaggerated conformations that may be associated with adverse welfare should not be bred from.

35. Social Contact for Dogs and Socialisation of Puppies Adult Dogs

35.1 Social contact with other dogs may be achieved through pair or group housing, although the behaviour of individuals within each group should be monitored carefully for signs of aggression or fear. The compatibility of the dogs may vary depending on the stage of the breeding cycle (seasons and lactation) and this should be monitored carefully. Dogs which show behavioural signs of fear or anxiety associated with contact with other dogs may be better housed and exercised singly, as long as they are provided with sufficient human contact. They should not be used for breeding. A policy should be in place for monitoring the introduction of new dogs to existing groups in either domestic or kennel environments, to avoid stress to either new or resident animals. Bitches close to whelping and when lactating should not generally be mixed with other adult dogs. On these occasions where dogs have to be kennelled on their own, the level of social contact with humans should be increased to compensate. When the social contact is provided by humans, the contact should be for the majority of the day. When dogs are kept in a kennel environment this should be the working day and in a domestic environment the normal waking hours of the household.

36. Puppies

- 36.1 The early experience of puppies has a profound effect on their adult behaviour, and it is important that the facility has in place an adequate programme to socialise puppies and prepare them for life in a domestic environment. SOPs should be available so that all staff know how to appropriately socialise puppies. Where bitches are anxious or aggressive when puppies are approached, this process should be gradual to acclimatise the bitch to the presence of people around the litter.
- 36.2 This should include the sights and sounds in households, such as appliances, as well as differing surfaces on which to walk. Introduction to novel sights and sounds should be gradual so that puppies do not show a fearful response such as startling or withdrawal. Puppies should also be introduced to a variety of people including adults of both sexes, children of different ages, and wearing a variety of clothing styles.
- 36.3 They should also ideally be introduced to nonaggressive and healthy, vaccinated adult dogs in addition to the bitch. However, it is also important for puppies to start to learn to be separated from others, so should be separated from litter mates and the bitch for short periods from the age of six weeks. During periods of separation there should be human social contact. Household sounds may occur naturally in domestic environments but could be achieved through the playback of recordings for dogs housed in kennels.

37. Record Keeping

Although the sub-section does not provide any scope for flexibility, the Home Office 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. 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 kept on the premises, including movement on and off the premises;
- Oestrus dates of breeding bitches;
- Microchip or tattoo numbers or other suitable form of permanent identification. If the dogs are KC or breed association 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 routines;
- Accommodation temperatures;
- Details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place;
- Details of vehicles used for transporting dogs as well as time and length of journeys taken. Records should also show which dogs are transported and their destination;
- Date and cause of death if known;
- Number of dogs required to be euthanised, reason for euthanasia, date of euthanasia and the name of the veterinary surgeon in attendance;
- Number of breeding bitches retired, details of each individual breeding bitch's microchip (or other permanent identification) number, outcome for the bitch e.g. rehomed and to where
- If dogs have come from abroad, specific additional information should be recorded.
- Health Plan
- Health screening test results;
- Puppy contract

This list is by no means exhaustive. Documentation should also be routinely provided to purchasers of puppies, for example as a 'puppy pack', including information on the puppy's diet, worming history, five generation pedigree where relevant, any parental or puppy health check results, any veterinary treatment or ongoing medication, health insurance, socialisation history, and advice on ongoing care. Purchasers of puppies should also receive a puppy contract (AWF/RSPCA), and full contact details of the breeder.