



The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

Specific Conditions: Providing Boarding for Cats

1. Interpretation

In this Part—

“cat unit” means the physical structure and area that comprises a sleeping area and an exercise run;

“exercise run” means an enclosed area forming part of the cat unit attached to and with direct and permanent access to the sleeping area;

“premises” means the premises on which the licensable activity of providing boarding for cats is carried on.

2. Suitable environment

- 2.1. Cats within the premises must be prevented from coming into direct contact with other animals from outside the premises.
- 2.2. There must be a safe, secure, waterproof roof over the entire cat unit.
- 2.3. A cat unit may only be shared by cats from the same household.
- 2.4. Communal exercise areas are not permitted.
- 2.5. Each cat unit must be clearly numbered and there must be a system in place which ensures that information about the cat or cats in each cat unit is available to all staff and any inspector.
- 2.6. Each cat unit must provide the cat with sufficient space to—
 - (a) walk,
 - (b) turn around,
 - (c) stand on its hind legs,
 - (d) hold its tail erect,
 - (e) climb,
 - (f) rest on the elevated area, and
 - (g) lie down fully stretched out, without touching another cat or the walls.
- 2.7. Each cat unit must have sufficient space for each cat to sit, rest, eat and drink away from the area where it urinates and defecates.
- 2.8. Cats must have constant access to their sleeping area.
- 2.9. A litter tray and safe and absorbent litter material must be provided at all times in each cat unit and litter trays must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

- 2.10. Each cat unit must include an elevated area.
- 2.11. Adjoining cat units must have solid barriers covering the full height and full width of the adjoining wall.
- 2.12. Any gaps between cat units must be a minimum of 0.6 metres wide.
- 2.13. Any cat taken out of a cat unit must be secured in a suitable carrier.
- 2.14. The sleeping area must form part of the cat unit and be free from draughts.

3. Monitoring of behaviour and training of cats

- 3.1. There must be an area within each cat unit in which the cat can avoid seeing other cats and people outside the cat unit if it so chooses.
- 3.2. Each cat unit must include a facility for scratching and any surface within a cat unit available for scratching must either be disinfected between uses by different cats or disposed of.
- 3.3. All cats must be provided with toys or feeding enrichment (or both) unless advice from a veterinarian suggests otherwise.
- 3.4. All toys and other enrichment items must be checked daily to ensure they remain safe and must be cleaned and disinfected at least weekly.

4. Records

- 4.1. A register must be kept of all the cats on the premises which must include—
 - (a) the dates of each cat's arrival and departure,
 - (b) each cat's name, age, sex, neuter status and a description of it or its breed,
 - (c) each cat's microchip number, where applicable,
 - (d) the number of any cats from the same household,
 - (e) a record of which cats (if any) are from the same household,
 - (f) the name, postal address, telephone number (if any) and email address (if any) of the owner of each cat and emergency contact details,
 - (g) in relation to each cat, the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of a local contact in an emergency,
 - (h) the name and contact details of each cat's normal veterinarian and details of any insurance relating to the cat,
 - (i) details of each cat's relevant medical and behavioural history, including details of any treatment administered against parasites and restrictions on exercise,
 - (j) details of each cat's diet and related requirements,
 - (k) any required consent forms,
 - (l) a record of the date or dates of each cat's most recent vaccination, worming and flea treatments, and
 - (m) details of any medical treatment each cat is receiving.

5. Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

- 5.1. A cat must remain in its assigned cat unit, except when it is moved to an isolation cat unit or to a holding cat unit.

- 5.2. Where any other activity involving animals is undertaken on the premises, it must be kept entirely separate from the area where the activity of providing boarding for cats takes place.
- 5.3. All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected before a cat is first introduced into a cat unit.
- 5.4. A preventative healthcare plan agreed with the veterinarian with whom the licence holder has registered under paragraph 9(8) of Schedule 2 of the Regulations must be implemented.
- 5.5. A holding cat unit must only be used in an emergency and must not be used for longer than is necessary and in any event for no longer than a total of 12 hours in any 24-hour period (“holding cat unit” means a cat unit, separate from any other cat unit, in which a cat may be housed temporarily).