



Conditions for keeping a Dog Breeding Establishment

1. Accommodation provided for dogs, bitches and puppies must be in all respects suitable as regards construction, size of quarters, exercising and whelping facilities, temperature, ventilation and cleanliness, with especial regard to breeds maintained.
2. All accommodation, which includes kennels, cages, partitions and passageways shall be so constructed that the floor and, to a height of at least 1.2 metres (4 feet), the walls, are solid, impervious and readily cleanable. Wood will not be permitted, even if treated to be impervious. Where galvanized welded mesh is used for fencing the wire diameter should not be less than 2 mm and the mesh size should not exceed 5 cm.
3. Kennels must be of sufficient size for dogs to lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably. If a bench is provided for the sleeping area, there must be in addition an area of similar size unbenched. Kennels should have a minimum height of 1.8 metres (6 feet) to allow adequate access by kennel staff for cleaning. It is recommended that the accommodation conforms to the following minimum dimensions:

Individual compartments (excluding any outside exercise areas) : single tiered compartments – 2.0 metres high, floor area 1.25 metres;

Multiple tiered compartments : 1.0 metres high, floor area sufficient for a sleeping bench and/or an area to enable the areas to turn around comfortably.

4. In all cases where multiple tiered accommodation is provided, the design must be such that no waste matter or other debris can fall from one compartment to another.
5. Accommodation must be so constructed that draught and damp is excluded, and heating facilities are available to maintain a minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius and not exceed a maximum temperature of 26 degrees Celsius. Accommodation temperatures should also be monitored and recorded.

NB: Puppies under 2 weeks of age should be kept at a temperature between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius.

6. Natural or artificial lighting of individual kennels must be sufficient to allow the proper working and cleaning of kennels, with no dark areas. It is recommended that a low level night light is available for a 12 hour period for after daylight hours.
7. All excreta and soiled material must be removed at least twice daily from living areas, and at least once daily from the exercise area. The floor of the living areas, exercise areas and communal corridors must be kept clean and dry and should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids. Regular disinfection should be demonstrated by keeping records of disinfection regimes. 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.
8. All exercise runs must have an area by the entrance which is paved or surfaced with other suitable material in order to prevent undue fouling of the ground.
9. All animals accommodated at the premises must be provided with bedding material suitable to the breeds kept. Where sleeping benches are provided, these should be of such dimensions as to allow an adult dog of the breed maintained to lie out flat on its side.
10. Facilities must be provided for the collection of all used bedding and other waste material which must be disposed of in a manner approved by the local authority, and in a way not likely to cause harm or nuisance.
11. All animals must be adequately exercised. Dogs should have direct and voluntary access to an exercise area of at least 2.5 metres, depending upon the size of the animal, or be allowed exercise periods in a run of at least 40 square metres for at least 10 minutes twice a day, or be walked on a lead for a similar time.
12. All animals must have access to wholesome drinking water at all times, changed daily. Special dietary considerations should be given to young and old dogs and to whelping and nursing bitches.
13. Animals must be adequately supplied with suitable food.
14. The food preparation area and equipment must be kept clean and vermin free at all times. Refrigeration facilities must be provided where fresh meat is used. A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing utensils and eating and drinking vessels.
15. All bulk supplies of food must be kept in vermin free containers.
16. All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among dogs of infectious or contagious diseases. Every precaution must also be taken to eliminate flies throughout the kennels.

17. Facilities must be provided for the reasonable control of disease. These must include isolation facilities, physically isolated from the main kennels at a distance of at least 5 metres, appropriate disinfection routines and, where necessary, proper veterinary treatment. All dogs should be vaccinated against canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, leptospirosis and canine parvovirus. For the control of roundworms, pregnant and nursing bitches should be given additional worming treatment, and veterinary advice should be sought. 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 and thereafter at regular intervals.
18. Where breeding stock is maintained either wholly or partially within a private dwelling house, every effort must be made to maintain adequate standards of hygiene in the whelping area, including the provision of impermeable floor coverings.
19. All heating appliances must be of such construction as to constitute no risk of fire, and not to endanger the health and well-being of occupants. In addition, if free standing oil appliances are used, they must be installed in an area inaccessible to dogs. All heating and lighting should be installed in accordance with normal good practice and advice on the subject should be obtained from a fire prevention officer.
20. Animals and equipment must not be placed in such a position as to render entry or exit difficult in case of fire.
21. The licensee shall ensure that a responsible person shall at all times be in, or within reasonable distance from the premises for the purpose of giving warning and taking other necessary steps in the event of fire or other emergency. In the case of premises which are locked up outside of normal working hours, the licensee shall appoint a responsible person residing within a reasonable distance of the premises to have custody of the key. The name and address of such person shall be displayed in legible characters on the front door, or windows, of the premises, and be notified to the local fire brigade. An adequate and accessible supply of water and sand and/or an efficient fire extinguisher must always be available on the premises, outside the kennels, and the positions clearly marked.
22. The animals must be visited at regular intervals throughout any 24 hour period, and at maximum intervals of four hours between 08:00 hours and 18:00 hours. Checks should be more frequent when bitches are whelping or when puppies are not yet weaned.
23. A register shall be kept of the number of all bitches and dogs in the establishment, their ages, dates of heat periods, mating and whelping.
24. Bitches must not be mated if they are less than one year old.
25. Bitches must not give birth to more than six litters of puppies each.

26. 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.
27. Records of puppy sales should also be kept. The attached record sheet must be completed for each breeding bitch. If the puppies are being sold to a licensed third party, namely a pet shop, the puppy must be wearing a collar with an identifying tag or badge indicating the licensed breeding establishment at which it was born.
28. Washing and lavatory facilities must be available for staff.