

# **Dog Breeding For Licenced Premises**

Welsh Ministers Guidance

Issued Pursuant to Section 13 and  
Schedule 1 of the

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

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## **PROPOSED LICENSED CONDITIONS**

### **1. ACCOMMODATION & ENVIRONMENT**

*Dogs will at all times be kept in accommodation that is appropriate in construction, size, exercise facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and with appropriate bedding. Appropriate whelping facilities must be available.*

#### **1.1 Construction**

All internal surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, partitions, doors and door frames are to be durable, smooth and impervious and easily cleansed. There should be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

When washed out all areas (to include all kennel floors, exercise areas, passageways and kitchen area) should not be subject to pooling and be able to dry easily.

Partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction to a minimum height of 1.2 m (4ft.).

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

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.

#### **1.2 Size of Quarters**

The following are the minimum requirements of accommodation – small, medium and large dogs are as defined by the Kennel Club.

##### **Small Size Dogs**

<b>No. dogs</b>	<b>Free access to exercise</b>	<b>Limited access to exercise</b>
1	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
2	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
3	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
4	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

##### **Medium Size Dogs**

No. dogs	Free access to exercise	Limited access to exercise
1	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
2	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
3	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

### Large Size Dogs

No. dogs	Free access to exercise	Limited access to exercise
1	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
2	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

For licensed dog breeding establishments that operate in domestic home environment, dog cages suitable to the size of dog kept may be used.

### 1.3 Bedding

Beds and bedding should be provided and be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable. Beds and bedding should be capable of being easily cleaned, disinfected and sited away from draughts. All bedding material in use should be clean, non-irritant and dry.

A dog bed should be of a durable construction and be a suitable size for the breed of dogs kept. Each dog should have access to a bed of its own.

### 1.4 Temperature & Heating

Kennels should be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.

Heating and cooling facilities should be available in the kennel and used according to the requirements of the individual dog and pups. There should 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) except for puppies under two weeks of age where the temperature should be between 26°C (79°F) to 28°C (82°F).

Owners of kennels should ensure that all heat sources are safe and comply with all regulatory requirements for both the animals and people working there.

### 1.5 Lighting

Light should be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible. Where practicable this should be natural light. Adequate supplementary lighting should be provided throughout the establishment. Lighting needs to be switched off at night time to allow proper sleep patterns.

## **1.6 Ventilation**

Ventilation should be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the sleeping area. It should also be able to regulate changes in temperature.

## **1.7 Cleanliness**

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

Each occupied kennel should be cleaned daily. All excreta and soiled material should be removed from all areas used by the dogs at least daily and as necessary.

A cleansing schedule should be implemented and displayed outlining daily, weekly and monthly cleansing and disinfection duties which should incorporate an approved formulation effective against micro-organisms responsible for canine diseases and should be put in the health plan.

An approved list of disinfectants can be found at:

<http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>

## **1.8 Pest Control**

Measures should 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.

## **1.9 Waste Disposal**

Facilities should be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of waste. Particular care should be taken to segregate waste arising from the treatment and handling of dogs with infectious diseases.

## **1.10 Whelping Facilities**

All bitches should be provided with a designated area/kennel prior to whelping, with a suitable whelping box/bed. However, they should continue to have sight, sound and smell of other familiar bitches and daily contact with humans. Heating facilities should be adequate, secure and safe and capable of providing the range of temperatures, suitable for both pups and bitch.

An area needs to be provided within the whelping kennel where a bitch can rest away from her pups. From approximately 3 days after parturition, bitches should be given short periods of exercise away from their litter.

## **1.11 Puppy facilities**

In kennels or sheds or other types of outbuildings, a specific area should be set aside to that is suitable for the socialisation of all litters e.g. in mimicking environmental conditions in home environments. There will no need for a specific separate area if situated in a domestic home where there will be a natural environment and an enriched socialising situation.

## **2. DIET AND NUTRITION**

*Dogs must be supplied with suitable food and drink.*

### **2.1 Food & Drink**

All dogs should be supplied with adequate quantities of suitable food. Fresh clean water should be available at all times and changed daily.

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

In kennels with more than one occupant there should be at least two filled water bowls.

### **2.2 Food Preparation Facilities**

Suitable facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, should be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities should be provided. Food contamination should be avoided.

A sink with hot and cold running water should 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.

Food should be adequately protected against pests and vermin.

## **3. NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**

*Dogs must be supplied with adequate facilities to enable them to exhibit normal behaviour patterns*

### **3.1 Exercise**

All dogs should have sufficient exercise for their individual needs to ensure their physical and mental wellbeing. Dogs over 6 weeks old should have at least 30 minutes of exercise a day.

A written exercise programme, included as part of the enrichment and enhancement programme, should be provided to the local authority.

### **3.2 Supervision**

Supervision should be by a suitable and competent person who should be at least 16 years of age.

They should be available to deal with emergencies.

### **3.3 Staff ratio/stocking density**

The maximum number of dogs kept at any one time is stated on the licence and in no case will exceed 20 dogs per full time attendant and 10 dogs per part time attendant (other work commitments).

### **3.4 Kennel Layout**

All dogs should be housed in the company of others unless for an individual's safety and wellbeing it is required to be kept in isolation.

Each kennel should provide a raised area where dogs can enjoy an elevated view of their surroundings.

The kennel environment should be designed to ensure the safety, wellbeing and welfare of the occupants.

### **3.5 Enhancement & Enrichment**

All dogs kept at the establishment should have the opportunity to express normal behaviour.

A written programme showing enhancement and enrichment is to be supplied to the local authority.

Outdoor environments, if provided, should be as complex as safety and cleanliness allow. Play items, where possible, should be rearranged regularly and swapped between runs to enhance novelty and stimulation.

Examples of environmental enrichment are: play, contact with humans (grooming, training or playing) and food finding activities e.g. puzzle feeders or scavenging exercises.

Domestic breeders where dogs enjoy freedom of the house and garden plus additional leash exercise need only produce short documented programmes.

### **3.6 Socialisation of Puppies**

All puppies should be socialised before being sold or homed and a plan supplied to the local authority.

A planned socialisation plan should, amongst other things include:

- gently handling each puppy,
- the introduction of low level noise from 14 days onwards;
- from 21 days the animal should be introduced daily to a variety of human contact, play with suitable toys organised to play away from the mother. Where biosecurity allows, puppies of other litters should mix in suitable environments. Care should be taken that removal of puppies for handling is done in such a way that it does not distress the dam.
- Training - when employed, any training should be reward-based. Harsh training methods which may result in pain or fear must not be used.

Dog breeders should also comply with the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs made under s14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

#### **4. HEALTH AND WELFARE**

*Licence holders must take all reasonable steps to protect the animal from pain, suffering, injury and disease.*

##### **4.1 Registration with a Veterinary Surgeon**

All breeding establishments should be registered with a Veterinary Practice and ensure full details are made available to the Licensing Authority.

##### **4.2 Health and Welfare Plan**

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, socialisation and welfare of the animals.

##### **4.3 Medicines**

All medicines should have a current Marketing Authorisation for sale in the UK, within its expiry date, and used as per instruction. They should be stored in a suitable secure cabinet. They should be protected from light and extremes of temperature.

Prescription Only Medicine – Veterinary (POM-V) medicines should only be used for the specific animals to which they are prescribed. The specific veterinary instruction should be followed.

Non Food Animal Medicine – Veterinary, Pharmacist and Suitably Qualified Person (NFAM-VPS) and Authorised Veterinary medicine – General Sale List (AVM-GSL) medicines should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.



#### **4.4 Contagious/Infectious diseases on the premises**

All dogs subject to this licence should be vaccinated against Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus), Leptospirosis and Canine Parvovirus unless vaccination is contraindicated on the direction of the Veterinary Surgeon.

Vaccination records should be kept for each dog and be up to date according to the vaccine manufacturer's datasheet.

Parasitic control should be in the health plan and the log book and should also show treatments and prevention routines for external parasites including fleas, mites, lice and ticks.

#### **4.5 Health Status of dogs**

There should be a daily physical inspection of every animal to check for any signs of illness or distress.

Advice from a Veterinary Surgeon should be sought where a dog shows signs of disease, injury or illness or behavioural disorder.

#### **4.6 Breeding**

When intentionally breeding crossbreeds, breeders should have due regard to the breeds' compatibility.

#### **4.7 Isolation facilities**

Isolation facilities should be available and should be in compliance with the other licence conditions but should also be physically isolated.

Adequate facilities to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolated animals and other animals should be available.

Effective biosecurity measures should be in place and understood by all staff. Isolation animals need to be effectively "Barrier Nursed" and evidence of veterinary involvement will be expected.

Staff training and Standard Operating Procedures should be available for inspection.

#### **4.8 First aid kit**

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

#### **4.9 Protection from fire**

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. There should be adequate means of raising an alarm in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Fire fighting equipment and detectors should be properly maintained and fire extinguishers need to be serviced or replaced as required.

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.

Heating appliances should not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to dogs.

Precautions should be taken to prevent any accumulation of material which may present a risk of fire.

#### **4.10 Strategy for the retirement of breeding bitches and stud dogs.**

All retired breeding bitches and stud dogs being kept within the licensed premises will still be included on the licence. Breeders will maintain documented evidence of the strategy and detail for dealing with retired dogs including ways of disposal.

### **5. RECORD KEEPING**

*Accurate and up to date records must be kept on the premises. These must be made available to Authorised Inspectors.*

#### **5.1 Dog Identification**

A schedule of all stud dogs/bitches should be kept by the breeder.

Breeding bitches and stud dogs are to be microchipped by a suitably competent person and registered on a recognised national database.

A fully completed logbook prescribed in Appendix 2 should be completed for each dog.

#### **5.2 Puppies**

All puppies should be micro-chipped before being sold or homed and details referenced to the breeding bitch. The details of the microchip should be registered on a database. Microchips should be registered to the breeder before the puppy moves off the premises.

All puppies should be accompanied by the properly completed log book. Records to be maintained as described in Regulations.

Where size and/or health preclude implantation of a microchip, documented veterinary advice should be provided.

### **5.3 Sales of Breeding Bitches and Stud Dogs**

When sold, breeding bitches should be accompanied with their logbook which includes their full breeding history. Records to be maintained as described in Regulations.

Stud dogs should be accompanied by their log book.

### **5.4 Transport of Dogs**

When stud dogs, breeding bitches and puppies are being transported, licensees should ensure full compliance with the Welfare of Animals (Transport)(Wales) Order 2007.