

MODEL CONDITIONS: DOG BREEDING

Throughout the text and as a licence condition, the following applies:

- Unless otherwise stated, these conditions shall apply to **all buildings and areas** to which dogs have access and/or used in association with the breeding of dogs.
- Use of the term 'kennel' refers to combined sleeping and individual outdoor run areas unless otherwise specified.

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.

Licence Display

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

Inspections and Visits

Officers of the Licensing Authority may visit the premises at any reasonable time to inspect the premises or to follow up complaints received from customers or the alleged breach of licence conditions. The licence holder is expected to work co-operatively and civilly with the officers during these visits.

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.

1.4 Bitches with litters should be provided with further space.

2. Maximum Number of Dogs Permitted

2.1 The maximum number of dogs to be kept at any one time is to be determined by authorised officers of the Licensing Authority in consultation with a nominated vet. The applicant can appeal any decision made to the Magistrates Court.

2.2 The number of dogs permitted must relate to the number and size of the kennels or space available and should be stipulated clearly on the front sheet of the licence. 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.

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

3. Kennel Construction

3.1 Where kennels are provided, within converted outbuildings, consideration must be given to cleaning, wildlife access, vermin control, natural lighting and ventilation.

3.2 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.

3.3 Kennels must be free from hazards and there must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

3.4 Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.

3.5 In new constructions, wood should not be used on exposed surfaces of walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors in the dog kennelling area.

3.6 Where wood has been used in an existing construction it must be smooth and treated to render it impervious.

3.7 Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas.

3.8 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.

3.9 Special consideration should be given to whelping bitches and bitches in season to provide additional space.

Guidance: 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.

4. Security

4.1 The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured.

4.2 Fencing material must be safe and secure.

5. Walls

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

6. Lighting

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 A low level night light must be provided for use after day light.
- 6.3 During daylight hours light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible. Where practicable this must be natural light.

7. Ventilation

- 7.1 Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the sleeping area.
- 7.2 Checks need to be made during the day and night to allow for temperature fluctuations.
- 7.3 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').

8. Kennel Design (Size, Layout and Flooring)

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.

Minimum Kennel Sizes

- 8.3 The following specifications are considered appropriate for dog breeding establishments:
- The kennel area should be large enough to allow separate sleeping and activity areas.
 - The kennel must be sufficiently large to allow each dog to be able to walk, turn around and wag its tail without touching the sides of the kennel, to play, to stand on its hind limbs and to lie down without touching another individual.
 - The minimum kennel size should be at least 4m² for dogs under 20kg, and 8m² for dogs over 20kg. This should be increased in relation to size, and number of dogs, such that both the length and width are sufficient for all the dogs to lie outstretched at all angles with neither their tail nor snout touching the walls or another individual.
 - Bitches with litters should be provided with double this space allowance.

- For post weaned stock, the minimum enclosure dimensions and space allowances are as set in the Council of Europe 2006 legislation should apply.
- For dogs over 30kg these sizes would be scaled up accordingly and should be proportionate.

9. Ceilings

9.1 Ceilings must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

10. Doors

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

11. Windows

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

12. Drainage

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

12.2 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.

13. Exercise Areas

13.1 Adequate exercise areas must be provided for all kennels. How much space will depend upon the size of the dog as well as the circumstances of each breeding establishment. Dogs must be able to walk, turn around easily, wag their tails without touching the kennel sides, and lie down without touching another dog.

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

13.3 Exercise areas must not be used as sleeping areas.

13.4 Outdoor areas where animals exercise and interact cannot have strict temperature regulation.

13.5 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.

13.6 In adverse weather conditions, the responsible person must decide whether or not dogs are given free access to their run.

13.7 The run must be at least partially roofed to provide the dog with sufficient protection against all weathers.

14. Beds and Bedding

14.1 The bed must have clean bedding and be large enough for each dog to lie flat on their side.

14.2 Beds must be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable, ie 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.

14.3 Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.

14.4 All bedding material in use should be clean, non irritant, parasite free and dry.

15. Temperature and Heating in Accommodation

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

15.2 There should be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a temperature of between 10°C and 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.

15.3 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.

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

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.

16.2 Each occupied kennel must be cleaned twice daily at a minimum.

16.3 All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs as necessary.

16.4 All sleeping areas and bedding must be kept clean and dry.

16.5 Facilities must be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of waste.

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

16.7 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.

- 16.8 Staff working from kennel to kennel further increases the risk of spreading disease. Staff should be fully trained in good kennel hygiene. Complete disinfection of kennel and equipment should be carried out between occupancies.
- 16.9 The type of waste likely to be produced by breeding establishments include faeces, soiled material, waste water, blood and other discharges, and tissue. There are regulations which pertain to the collection, carriage and disposal of such waste and place a duty of care on those producing and handling certain types of waste, particularly animal by-products. Advice should be sought by the licensee from the Environment Agency Regional Office which produces information sheets and from AHVLA or from the local authority. The disposal of such waste needs to be recorded in writing as to how it will be collected, stored and disposed of.

17. Whelping Facilities

- 17.1 There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each whelping bitch in which to whelp.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 Bitches should be moved to their whelping accommodation 60 days after mating or sooner if signs of imminent whelping are shown.
- 17.4 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.
- 17.5 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.
- 17.6 The whelping area must be maintained at an appropriate temperature. The bitch must be able to move away from heat spots.
- 17.7 There should be an area maintained between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius. This can be achieved with a local heat source such as a heat lamp.
- 17.8 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.

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.

- 17.9 Bitches must be allowed a minimum of four periods a day for toileting and exercise away from their puppies.
- 17.10 Consideration should be given to separating bitches in season and they should not be kept with entire male dogs.

18. Management

- 18.1 Dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised, and visited at suitable intervals.
- 18.2 The 1999 Act strengthens the requirements for dogs to be visited at suitable intervals.

19. Supervision

- 19.1 A fit and proper person must always be present to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.
- 19.2 Any person with responsibility for supervision should be over the age of 16. **The dogs must not be left in the care or supervision of any person (including family members) 16 years or less at any time.**

20. Training

- 20.1 Where staff are employed on the premises, a written training policy should be provided and be available for inspection. 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.
- 20.2 Staff should be adequately trained in the work they are expected to carry out. For example, they should be trained in the safe handling of dogs and in the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- 20.3 The following should 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.

21. Numbers of Staff

- 21.1 The number of staff at the premises must be appropriate for the breed/ type and number of dogs being bred. Numbers must be sufficient to provide the level of care as 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. Two or more staff would be required for an establishment with over

20 dogs on the premises. 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 including feeding, grooming, cleaning, exercise and compatibility issues, especially where several dogs, or different 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. These checks should be more frequent when bitches are imminently due to whelp, whelping and puppies that are not yet weaned.

22. Environmental Enrichment

- 22.1 Dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment and the ability to have some control over their environment.
- 22.2 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.
- 22.3 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.
- 22.4 Arrangements must be made for the dogs to be exercised **at least twice a day**.
- 22.5 Exercise may also be provided by walking.
- 22.6 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.

23. Food and Water Supplies

- 23.1 All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed at least twice 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.
- 23.2 The dog's weight should be monitored and recorded.
- 23.3 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.
- 23.4 Dogs must be fed sufficiently well to maintain health.
- 23.5 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.
- 23.6 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.

23.7 Weaning should normally commence at 3-4 weeks old. The initial diet may be liquid progressing to solid food over the ensuing period.

23.8 During lactation, the bitch must have sufficient appropriate food to satisfy the demands being made upon her. Lactation will last until the puppies are weaned.

24. **Kitchen Facilities**

24.1 Facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, must be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs.

24.2 Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided.

24.3 A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking vessels.

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

24.5 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.

25. **First Aid for Dogs**

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

26. **Isolation Facilities**

26.1 Veterinary advice must be sought for any animal with a potentially infectious disease. Where advised, the dog should be isolated immediately and the procedure documented.

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

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

26.4 Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other dogs.

26.5 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.

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

27. **Disease Control, Vaccination and Worming**

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

- 27.2 Licence holders must take all reasonable steps to protect the animal from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- 27.3 All breeding establishments must be registered with a Veterinary Practice and ensure full details are made available to the Licensing Authority.

28. Emergencies/Fire Prevention

- 28.1 There must be Emergency Evacuation and Contingency Plans in place which meets with the approval of the local authority.
- 28.2 There should also be a fire warning procedure in place. This should be posted where staff may become familiar with it.
- 28.3 This procedure should include instructions dealing where dogs are to be evacuated to and contingency for their accommodation/care if the premises are rendered unsafe or unsuitable.
- 28.4 Smoke detectors must be in place and all fire detection and fighting equipment are easily accessible and regularly tested.
- 28.5 Exit routes must be kept clear at all times.

The onus is upon the breeding establishment to ensure adequate fire prevention precautions are in place.

Guidance: Fire prevention advice may be sought from the Fire Prevention Officer based at your local fire station. This officer can give advice on fire drills, fire escapes, equipment and should be consulted when new buildings are constructed or existing buildings modified.

Staff should be familiar with the fire evacuation procedure by use of fire drills and how to use the fire extinguishers. The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 place a duty on employers to carry out a risk assessment for the premises not covered by a fire certificate.

29. Transport

- 29.1 Dogs and puppies being transported to and from breeding establishments must be properly supervised to ensure compliance with the obligations under the 1973 Act.
- 29.2 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.
- 29.3 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.
- 29.4 Bitches must not be transported for 48 hours after whelping unless it is to see a veterinary surgeon for treatment.

29.5 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.

29.6 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.

30. Health and Welfare of the dogs

30.1 Bitches must not be mated if they are **less than one year old**.

30.2 Bitches must not give birth **to more than six litters** of puppies each in **their lifetime**.

30.3 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

31. Social Contact for Dogs and Puppies

31.1 Social contact is very important, and all dogs used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows adequate social contact with both other dogs and people.

31.2 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.

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

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

32. Record Keeping

32.1 Accurate records in a form prescribed by regulations as shown below 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 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.

32.2 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).**

33. Microchipping

- 33.1 The breeder must ensure that all puppies are micro chipped by the time they are **8 weeks old** unless one of two exemptions apply.
- 33.2 The first exemption is where a veterinarian has certified the dog as a working dog and docked its tail in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In such cases the time limit for the dog to be micro chipped and details recorded with a database is extended to 12 weeks. The dog can be passed on to a new keeper once it has been micro chipped.
- 33.3 The second exemption is where a veterinarian certifies that a dog should not be micro chipped because it could adversely affect its health. In such cases a vet would have to certify that this was the case and state when the exemption expired. The dog would then need to be micro chipped on the expiry of that time limited certificate unless a veterinarian issued a further exemption certificate because of ongoing concerns with the dog's health. In this case the decision to exempt a dog from being micro chipped would be made by the veterinary surgeon. In such a case a breeder may pass the puppy on with a copy of the veterinary exemption certificate and any time limit for micro chipping though it would be for the puppy buyer to decide whether to take the dog given this information.
- 33.4 It will be illegal for breeders to sell a puppy that is not micro chipped and registered on a compliant database that meets the legal requirement.
- 33.5 The breeder must always be the first recorded keeper of the puppies on the microchip database.
- 33.6 The breeder must provide transfer of keepership documents to the puppy buyer to ensure the new owner can update their details in order to comply with the law.

Regulation 2

SCHEDULE

FORM OF RECORD TO BE KEPT BY LICENSED DOG BREEDER FOR EACH BREEDING BITCH

Name	Date of birth	Address where kept	Breed	Description*	Date of mating	Details of sire**	Details of litter								Total number in litter				
							Male				Female								
							Date of birth	Weight	Description*	Sale details***	Date of birth	Weight	Description*	Sale details***					

- * Enter name (in the case of puppies), colour, identifying features (if any) and registration number (if any).
- ** Enter name, address where kept, breed, colour and registration number (if any).
- *** Enter date of sale, and name, address and status (for example, private/pet shop) of purchaser.