

# Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2019

## Section A: Environment- Providing the dog(s) with a suitable place to live/stay

Poor housing has a substantially negative impact on both the health and wellbeing of dogs. Housing systems must be suitable for the needs of the sizes of dog(s) in question. The kennels must be designed, built and managed to provide a safe, disease free, comfortable, clean, draught free environment, which provides for dogs' welfare needs. It can be beneficial for dogs to spend time away from the kennel unit, such as in an exercise area.

The interior and exterior of the buildings should be kept in good decorative order and repair.

Washing and toileting facilities should available for staff.

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 business hours, the licensee shall appoint a responsible person residing within reasonable distance of the premises to have custody of the key. The name and address of such person shall be displayed in legible characters at the front of the building.

### **1. Kennel construction and principles of design.**

- Kennels should provide a comfortable, dry, draught free, clean and quiet place to rest.
- Contact with urine/ faeces from other animals should be avoided.
- A safe and secure reception area for handling over dogs should be available.
- For disease control there must be no possibility of dogs within the kennel establishment (other than those from the same household, or with prior permission) coming into direct contact with each other.

### **2. Physical construction and integrity**

- The kennels should be safe, secure and free from hazards, and minimise the risk of injury to a dog, or escape of a dog.
- The kennels must be structurally sound and constructed of materials that are robust, safe and durable.
- Windows must be escape proof at all times.
- All wire mesh/fencing must be strong, rigid and kept in good repair.
- Any timber used must be smooth and treated and properly maintained to render impervious.

- Any storage areas must be dry and free from vermin.
- Fixed electrical installations and all portable electrical appliances must be installed and maintained in accordance with current legislation.
- Drainage needs to be effective to ensure there is no standing water in the kennels, as this can be a reservoir for infectious agents.
- An enclosed secure area, for example a safety corridor, is essential to ensure that if a dog manages to slip out from its individual dog unit it is still kept safely inside the kennels.
- There should be an escape proof area beyond the kennel unit to ensure that dogs are unable to escape from the premises.
- There must be a securable door from which the secure area of the kennels can be viewed from the outside and this must be kept closed when not in use.
- The door from the dog unit to the secure area must be escape proof, securable enough to resist impact and scratching and to prevent injury. It must not be propped open.
- The floor must be finished to produce a smooth non-slip, impervious surface which is easy to clean and disinfect. Holes or gaps between tiles or paving slabs are not acceptable.
- External doors/gates must be lockable and staff must have easy access to keys in case of emergency.
- There must be a safe, secure, waterproof roof which should cover all of the sleeping accommodation.

### **3. Dog Units**

- Dogs from different households must not share dog units.
- Lighting must allow for observation of the dogs and illumination for cleaning and working in the kennels.
- Lights must be turned off to provide a period of darkness overnight.
- Ventilation must be appropriate all year round (both cool in hot weather and avoiding cold draughts in winter). Localised draughts in the sleeping accommodation must be avoided.
- For disease prevention dog units need to be easy to clean and disinfect.
- Each unit must have a securable, full height door for access, which should open inwards.
- Gaps or apertures must be small enough to prevent a dog's head passing through, or entrapment of any limb or body part.
- Dogs need sleeping accommodation which must be separate from the run and provide somewhere for the dog to hide. A dog must be able to sit and stand at full height, stretch and wag its tail without touching the sides.
- Bedding must be adequate for the dog to allow them to be comfortable and control their temperatures.

#### **4. Outdoor exercise and exercise areas**

- There is a potential for injury if dogs from different households are allowed to exercise in the exercise area at the same time. Informed consent from the owners should be sought before dogs from different households are allowed to mix.
- Dogs must be monitored whilst in outdoor exercise areas.
- Informed written consent from owners must be obtained to enable a dog to be walked outside the kennel facility.
- An outdoor exercise area must be secure and safe. The area should be suitably drained.
- All small runs should be paved or surfaced in such a way to allow adequate cleansing or disinfection.

## **Section B: Diet**

### **1. Drinking**

- Fresh water suitable for human consumption must be available at all times. It must be provided in a clean container and changed or refreshed as often as necessary.

### **2. Eating**

- Diet and frequency of feeding should be discussed and agreed with a dog's owner.
- There must be exclusive facilities hygienically constructed and maintained for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs.
- A sink must be available for washing of food equipment.
- Food must be stored in a clean area that is insect and rodent proof.
- Food must be unspoilt, palatable, and free from contamination.
- Food intake must be monitored daily and any problems recorded and appropriate veterinary advice sought if required.
- Any dogs displaying significant weight loss/ gain during their stay must be evaluated by a vet and treated as necessary.

## **Section C: Behaviour**

### **1. General**

Changes in behaviour are often the first signs of illness or injury, so staff need to be familiar with and able to recognise common behaviours associated with stress, fear, pain and anxiety. Any changes should be noted and followed up. Exercise is important, not just for physical fitness but also to alleviate boredom.

- Any equipment used to walk dogs must protect the dog's welfare and must be correctly fitted and used.
- Dogs can be exercised on lead (written permission from owner required if outside of secure unit) or off lead in a secure exercise area. Dogs which cannot be exercised

must be provided with alternative forms of mental stimulation. This can include positive interaction with people and additional forms of toy and food enrichment.

- Long stay dogs i.e. over 3 weeks require special considerations such as additional environmental enrichment, regular health checks and extra attention from staff.
- Suitable dog handling equipment should be available to use if necessary and staff should be adequately trained for its appropriate and safe use.
- All staff must have the competence to handle dogs correctly and be able to identify dogs that are anxious or fearful about contact. Dogs must always be handled humanely and appropriately to suit the requirements of the individual dog.

## Section D: Health and Welfare

### 1. Keeping records

In order to keep dog's health the proprietor needs to have an organised system for registering all dogs at the kennels.

- A register must be kept of all dogs boarded and available to key members of staff and to local authority inspectors if requested. Information must include:
  - Date of arrival and departure
  - Name, age, sex, description of dog/ breed, microchip number (if applicable).
  - Number of dogs sharing from same household
  - Name, address, phone number and email of owner.
  - Emergency contact details
  - Dog's veterinary surgeon.
  - Neuter status
  - Dog's relevant medical/ behavioural history, including treatment for parasites and restrictions on exercise.
  - Consent form e.g. veterinary treatment, owners consent to allow mixing with other dogs when exercising and/or lead walking outside of the kennel area.
  - Record date of most recent vaccination.

### 2. Monitoring dogs

In order to keep dogs healthy and to avoid suffering the proprietor needs to have an organised system for monitoring all dogs at the kennels.

- In addition to regular daytime checks an evening round should be carried out to check all dogs.
- Presence or absence of faeces and urine must be monitored daily and any abnormalities in excreta must be recorded or acted upon as appropriate.

### **3. Disease control**

- Dogs must not share a dog unit with another dog unless it is from the same household. Dogs must not be allowed to roam in the secure area (safety corridor).
- All dog units, corridors, common areas, kitchens etc. must be kept clean and free from accumulations of dirt and dust.
- Isolation facilities must be available.
- Any other activity undertaken by the proprietor, such as work with rescue dogs, stray dogs or the breeding of dogs must be kept completely separate and extra precautions taken to prevent the spread of disease, including separate facilities away from boarded dogs.

### **4. Cleaning regimes**

- Cleaning regimes need to be implemented and checked.
- Products need to be suitable to use and effective against pathogens for which the dogs are at risk.
- Beds and bedding must be checked daily and maintained in a clean, dry and parasite-free condition.
- Each kennel must be thoroughly cleansed, disinfected and dried between dogs.

### **5. Vaccinations and parasites**

- If owners have treated their dogs for worms and fleas before entry to the kennel, the proprietor must note when this occurred and what product was used.
- Vaccination against kennel cough should be recommended.
- An up to date veterinary vaccination record must be seen to ensure that dogs boarded have current vaccinations against canine parvovirus, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis (adenovirus) and leptospirosis.