The Dog Breeding Act 1973

LICENCE TO RUN A DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT

LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. LICENCE DISPLAY
1.1 A copy of the licence and its conditions must be suitably displayed to the public in a prominent position in, on or about the breeding establishment.
1.2 The number of breeding bitches accommodated at the establishment at any one time shall not exceed...........

2. RECORD KEEPING
2.1 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 (i.e., private owner or pet shop).

3. ACCOMMODATION
3.1 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)
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.
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. Kennels must be free from hazards and there must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury. Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.
3.3 The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured. Fencing material must be safe and secure. 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.
3.4 The establishment must be connected to mains drainage or an approved sewerage disposal system.
3.5 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.
3.6 Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the sleeping area.
3.7 Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas. 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. Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas. Kennels and runs must open onto secure corridors or other secure areas so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises.
3.8 The bed must have clean bedding and be large enough for each dog to lie flat on their side. Beds must be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable, i.e. 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. Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.
3.9 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 protection officer.

3.10 There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each whelping bitch in which to whelp. 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.

4. EXCERSIZE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT
4.1 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.

Exercise areas must not be used as sleeping areas
Outdoor areas where animals exercise and interact cannot have strict temperature regulation. 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.
In adverse weather conditions, the responsible person must decide whether or not dogs are given free access to their run.

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

4.2 Dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment and the ability to have some control over their environment.

4.3 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. Arrangements must be made for the dogs to be exercised at least twice a day.

5. HEALTH AND DISEASE
5.1 Veterinary advice must be sought for any animal with a potentially infectious disease.

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

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

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

5.5 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.

6. HEALTH AND WELFARE OF BREEDING STOCK AND LITTERS
6.1 Bitches must not be mated if they are less than one year old.

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

6.3 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;

7. FIRST-AID KIT FOR DOGS
7.1 A fully maintained first-aid kit suitable for use on dogs and puppies must be available and accessible on the premises.

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8. HANDLING AND HABITUATION
8.1 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.

9. WEANING PROCEDURES
9.1 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. 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.

10. FOOD AND DRINK
10.1 Facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, must be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided. A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking vessels.
10.2 All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed at least 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.
10.3 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.
10.4 Dogs must be fed sufficiently well to maintain health.

11. OBSERVATION
11.1 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.

12. DISPOSAL OF WASTE
12.1 All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs as necessary. All sleeping areas and bedding must be kept clean and dry. Facilities must be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of waste.
12.2 Measures must be taken to minimise the risks from rodents, insects and other pests within the breeding establishment.

13. TRANSPORTATION
13.1 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.

14. STAFF TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE
14.1 Numbers of staff must be appropriate for the breed/type and number of dogs being bred. Numbers must be sufficient to provide the level of care set out in these model conditions.
14.2 Sufficient adequately trained staff must be available every day to carry out all the interactions and procedures with dogs specified in this document.

15. FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS
15.1 Suitable emergency precautions and written procedures must exist and be made known to all staff, including arrangements for evacuation of animals.
15.2 Entrances and exits must be clear of obstructions at all times.
15.3 The licensee, or a designated key holder, must at all times be within reasonable travelling distance of the premises and available to attend in case of emergency.

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15.4 A list of key holders must be logged with the local police, fire brigade and local authority.

15.5 An emergency telephone number must be displayed at the front of the shop: this may either be the keyholder’s number or the emergency telephone no 999. 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.