

Dog Breeding - Pre-inspection information

This is a Yes / No exercise to ensure that you are prepared for your licensing inspection and have all the necessary procedures in place to meet the minimum standards

- Member of staff to be trained in canine first aid.
- Staff to dog ratio for established businesses will be around 1:20
- In a kennel environment - any wood used must be smooth and treated and properly maintained to render it impervious
- In a home environment - the home must be well maintained and in good repair, doors to outside must be escape proof. All outdoor fencing must be strong and rigid
- Isolation facilities must be available
- The complete sales route from birth to sale must be clear, and the inspector must be shown how and where puppies are bred, born, reared and kept until sale.
- Copies of paperwork given to buyers (puppy packs) needs to be available
- The license holder must ensure that no bitch -
 - is mated if aged less than 12 months;
 - gives birth to more than one litter of puppies in a 12-month period;
 - gives birth to more than six litters of puppies in total;
 - is mated if she has had two litters delivered by caesarean section.
- No puppy under 8 weeks of age may be sold or permanently separated from its biological mother
- Any advertisement for the sale of a dog must -
 - include the number of the license holder's license,
 - specify the local authority that issued the license,
 - include a recognisable photograph of the dog being advertised, and
 - display the age of the dog being advertised.
- Each puppy must be microchipped and registered to the licence holder before it is sold.
- The licence holder must make arrangements for rehoming of dogs no longer required for breeding
- There must be a designated key holder available in case of emergencies, details of this person need to be lodged with the Licencing authority

- For a non-home-based facility emergency contact name / number must be displayed on the outside of the premises.
- The licence holder must register with a veterinarian

Procedures / policies needed:

Requirement	Yes / No
A written staff training policy (including induction, annual appraisal, planned continued professional development, use of online courses and literature, should no staff be employed this should demonstrate the license holder's own knowledge development. This must also cover dog welfare, dog handling, dog behaviour, cleanliness and hygiene, feeding and food prep, disease control, recognising and treating sick animals)	
Unit doors (kennels)/Internal doors (homes) should open inwards, any not require a documented procedure to demonstrate staff safety A safety procedure if head height is less than 2m or if corridor of facing units is less than 1.2m wide	
A procedure for the diet of pregnant bitches A procedure for weaning puppies	
A weekly record of weight and Body Condition Scoring (BCS) for each puppy	
A daily health and behaviour record for each dog	
An enrichment programme to be documented, to include grooming, socialisation, play and appropriate toys and feeding enrichment	
A policy must be in place for monitoring the introduction of new dogs to other dogs in either domestic or kennel environments, to avoid stress to either new or resident animals	
Documented procedures in place covering: cleaning and disinfecting isolation transportation feeding (to record of the type, quantity, frequency of food for each dog)	

Requirement	Yes / No
the prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease the death or escape of an animal the care of animals following suspension/revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency (emergency plan)	
A veterinary treatment record must be available (to include internal and external parasites)	
A record of all euthanasia is to be kept	
A fire risk assessment and documented fire procedure is required There must be a documented policy in place for dealing with extremes of temperature and weather conditions (both hot and cold).	
A procedure for socialisation and habituation of puppies	
A procedure for dealing with dogs showing abnormal behaviour	
Suitable paperwork needs to be given to buyers (puppy packs)	
A written health care plan must be in place agreed with a veterinarian (to include vaccination, internal and external parasite control, weight monitoring and body condition scores)	

Records:

Requirement	Yes / No
Breeding bitches must be adequately supervised during whelping and the licence holder must keep a record of: the date and time of birth of each puppy each puppy's sex, colour and weight placentae passed the number of puppies in the litter any other significant events.	
The licence holder must keep a record of each puppy sale including: the microchip number of the puppy	

Requirement	Yes / No
the date of the sale the age of the puppy on that date	
The licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding dog: its name its sex its microchip and database details its date of birth the postal address where it normally resides its breed or type its description date or dates of any matings, whether or not successful details of its biological mother and biological father details of any veterinary treatment it has received the date and cause of its death (where applicable)	
The licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding bitch: the number of matings its age at the time of each mating the number of its litters the date or dates on which it has given birth the number of caesarean sections it has had, if any	

Star ratings:

Each premises will receive a star rating following their formal inspection. In order to achieve the best star rating possible each premises will need to have covered all of the standard conditions and have all consents, policies and procedures in place.

If all the required minimum conditions are met then a 3-star 2-year licence can be achieved, however if you are found to have minor failings during your inspection then a 1 star 1 year licence will be issued. Any new businesses are automatically classed as high risk due to them not having any compliance history, therefore they cannot achieve a 5-star 3 year licence. New businesses are also not permitted to have any minor failings, therefore if any of the minimum conditions aren't met then a licence will not be issued.

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- There must be a designated key holder available in case of emergencies, details of this person need to be lodged with the Licencing authority
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Requirement	Yes / No
the date or dates on which it has given birth the number of caesarean sections it has had, if any	

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Each premises will receive a star rating following their formal inspection. In order to achieve the best star rating possible each premises will need to have covered all of the standard conditions and have all consents, policies and procedures in place.

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In order to meet the highest possible rating for both the high and low risk categories in the rating matrix certain extra conditions will need to be met. The higher standards are classified into two types: required and optional and are outlined below. Higher standards that appear in blue text are required, whereas those that appear in red text are optional. To qualify as meeting the higher standards, the business needs to achieve all of the required higher standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher standards.

Required

- One staff member should not be responsible for more than 10 adult dogs.
- All individual dogs must be checked at least once at an appropriate interval during the out of hours period (6pm to 8am) by CCTV or in person. When there are litters, they must be checked in person.
- The licence holder must keep a record of all checks made during both normal hours and out of hours, including the date and time of each check.
- The design and layout of the facility must give the dogs a choice of areas.
- Dogs must be fed twice a day. Each dog must have a feeding plan that balances feeding with food enrichment such as use of scatter feeders. Inspector must see the enrichment tools and plan for each dog.
- A minimum of a week's supply of the puppies' current diet must be included when they go to their new home.
- There must be a clear plan setting out 2 forms of exercise per dog each working day for a minimum of 20 minutes each. There must be an alternative form of enrichment planned for dogs which cannot be exercised for veterinary reasons.
- The breeder will ensure all breeding stock or puppies are recorded in the UK with a registration organisation which must make available record of parent or lineage including coefficient of inbreeding and record of health screening test results
- All bitches must be at least 18 months old before they are mated.
- A bitch must not be mated if she is 8 years of age or older
- A bitch must not give birth to more than 4 litters of puppies in total
- A bitch must not be bred from if they have had one caesarean
- Licence holders must test all breeding stock for hereditary disease using the accepted and scientifically validated health screening schemes relevant to their breed or type. They must carefully evaluate all test results and follow any breeding advice issued under each scheme prior to breeding.
- No mating must take place if the test results indicate that it is likely to produce health or welfare problems in the offspring or affect negatively the relevant breeding strategy (or both).
- Surgery to correct exaggerated conformation must be reported to the registration organisation.
- A vet must check each puppy before sale. Proof of the check must be held and available to the puppy buyer.

- A puppy contract must be used. It must include undertakings and warranties around health, vaccinations, socialisation carried out by the seller prior to sale, the responsibilities of the buyer relative to the dog. This must then give both parties confidence that a transaction has taken place in good faith.

Optional

- Businesses must appoint a qualified behaviour expert and record all discussions that are had.
- Each business must have a full-time, permanent member of staff with an appropriate OFQUAL regulated Level 3 qualification.
- Ventilation must be a managed fixed or portable air system to maintain temperatures in all weathers. This can be an air conditioning unit or removable fans installed safely away from animals.
- Businesses must have a noise management plan in place that's proven to reduce noise for the dogs. Measures can include:
 - physical barriers
 - sound absorbing materials
 - positive reinforcement training to keep barking down
 - kennel design to prevent noise generation with demonstration of effectiveness
- A competent person must be on site at all times.
- The breeder must give all details of the sire and bitch to the buyer including:
 - date of birth
 - microchip number
 - registration body (if applicable)
 - details of any inherited diseases that the breed is prone to
- The licence holder must make sure that the microchipping database is amended with the puppy buyer's details.
- No bitch must be intentionally mated when the Coefficient of Inbreeding of the puppies would exceed the breed average or 12.5% (if no breed average exists as measured from a minimum 5 generation pedigree).

Further information on the inspection process can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities>