

Advice to Applicants

On

Licence Conditions

The Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 & 1991

The Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999

**DOMESTIC BREEDER**

Dog Breeding Licences are administered by: Corporate Services

21 City Square

Dundee

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Contact Details:

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**DEFINITION OF BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT**

A breeding establishment is defined as any premises where the business of breeding dogs for sale is carried on. A person will be presumed to be carrying on the business of breeding dogs for sale regardless of the number of litters produced in a 12 month period.

In addition, anyone producing five litters or more in a 12 month period should also be licenced regardless of whether they are in the business of breeding and selling dogs, where litters born to his / her bitch or bitches are:

* Kept by him at any premises during any period of 12 months
* Kept by any relative of his at those premises
* Kept by him elsewhere and
* Kept by any person under a breeding arrangement with him.

Upon application for a licence which has not previously been granted the premises must be inspected by a veterinary surgeon and a local authority officer. For subsequent applications the local authority has discretion as to whether the inspection is carried out by a veterinary surgeon or a local authority officer or both. A report following inspection shall be considered by the local authority before determining whether or not to grant a licence.

*(Note, costs incurred by the above noted inspection of the veterinary surgeon will be passed on to the applicant in a separate invoice)*

**SALE OF DOGS**

The keeper of a licensed breeding establishment has two methods of sale. He or she may either sell a dog direct to its final home, provided the dog is not less than eight weeks old and the keeper does not know or believe that the buyer intends to sell the dog on. Alternatively, he or she is restricted to sell to licensed third parties, namely a licensed pet shop or licensed Scottish rearing establishment, provided the dog is wearing a collar with an identifying tag or badge indicating the licensed breeding establishment at which it was born.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BREEDING BITCH**

* Bitches are not to be mated if they are less than one year old
* Bitches must not give birth to more than six litters of puppies each in their lifetime
* 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.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS**

* A copy of the licence and its conditions must be available to each client who visits the premises
* Adequate insurance indemnity should be in place. This should be maintained at a sufficient level to cover the maximum number of dogs boarded.
* Access shall be permitted to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority at any time and all reasonable directions and requirements of such officer or the Licensing Authority shall be complied with.
* The Licence holder must surrender the licence if and when called upon to do so by the Licensing Authority.
* The business must, at all times, be laid out and operated in accordance with an approved plan, to be attached to the licence.
* The maximum number of dogs to be kept at any one time will be determined by the local authority. This will relate to the size of the premises.
* No other animals other than the licensed dogs are to be boarded within the licensed facilities without the written approval of the local authority.

* All dogs should be identified to comply with the Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

**DOMESTIC BREEDERS**

**1.0 ACCOMMODATION**

1.1 Dogs must at all times, be kept in accommodation suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

1.2 Where dogs are maintained in cages within the house, the cage must be of sufficient size for the dog to lie down, stand up and turn around comfortably and allow the dog to defecate away from the sleeping area. Such cages should be used principally for sleeping quarters and animals should not be confined to them for long periods of the day. All dogs require adequate exercise and exercise space should be provided.

1.3 Thought should be given to the maximum likely litter size. There should be effective housing to care for the maximum number of puppies. To avoid crushing puppies, crush bars can be useful when breeding large or giant dogs or if the bitch is particularly clumsy.

1.4 When bitches are whelping every effort should be made to maintain adequate standards of hygiene. Whelping should not take place in the domestic kitchen. Impermeable floor coverings should be provided to prevent fluids and discharges from fouling wooden floors and similar surfaces.

**2.0 BEDDING**

2.1 Suitable bedding should be chosen according to the size, coat density, heating and comfort factors needed for the dogs and puppies.

2.2 The bedding should be kept clean and dry at all times

**3.0 TEMPERATURE**

3.1 There must be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a minimum temperature of 10**º**C (50**º**F) and a maximum temperature of 26**º**C (79**º**F).

3.2 Puppies under two weeks of age should be kept at a temperature between 26**º**C to 28**º**C. Temperatures should be recorded and monitored.

**4.0 LIGHTING**

4.1 During daylight hours, light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible. Where practicable this should be natural light.

Lighting must be of sufficient standard to enable efficient working both during and after daylight hours. It is recommended that breeding establishments should have a low level night light for a 12 hour period after daylight hours.

**5.0 WASTE**

5.1 An adequate quantity of absorbent material e.g. newspapers should be available and properly disposed of after use.

5.2 Advice must be sought from the Local Authority concerning removal of waste such as dog faeces and soiled material. In addition, foul waste water must be disposed of by discharge to the approved drainage system.

**6.0 MAINTENANCE**

6.1 Maintenance and repair of the whole premises must be carried out regularly

**7.0 FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES**

7.1 All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed daily.

7.2 Special dietary considerations should be given to young and old dogs and to whelping and nursing bitches.

Nutrition is particularly important during pregnancy and lactation. It is recommended that a feed requirement of about 1.5 times the non-pregnant state is necessary for the last few weeks of pregnancy.

Lactation will last until the puppies are weaned. During lactation, the bitch must have sufficient food to satisfy the demands being made upon her. Consideration should be given to how many puppies the bitch is nursing.

During lactation the bitch should be closely monitored for signs of complications e.g. eclampsia.

The feeding level required for the bitch after weaning will depend upon her body condition. Where a proprietary food source is used the manufacturer’s guide should be followed. Veterinary advice should be sought if in doubt.

7.3 Food preparation should be carried out in hygienic conditions and there should be adequate refrigeration where fresh and cooked meats are stored

To avoid cross contamination, there should be separate facilities for washing dishes and bedding.

7.4 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 cleansed or disposed of after each meal.

**8.0 CLEANLINESS**

8.1 All common areas, kitchens and so on must be kept clean and free from accumulations of dirt so that disease control is maintained and the dogs are comfortable.

**9.0 MANAGEMENT / SUPERVISION**

9.1 A fit and proper person should always be present to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.

Dogs should be checked on regularly throughout the day. Dogs should not be left alone for long periods of the day. Dogs should be checked regularly at least every four hours between 8am and 6pm.

Checks should be more frequent when bitches are whelping and puppies are not yet weaned.

9.2 Consideration should be given to the number of dogs being kept at the breeding establishment and the ratio of persons supervising.

9.3 Breeding establishments are the permanent home for some dogs and therefore provision of exercise facilities need to be adequate for the long term. Arrangements should be made for the dogs to be exercised at least twice a day. Dogs should not be kept permanently confined.

**10.0 DISEASE CONTROL, VACCINATION AND WORMING**

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

All insecticides and disinfectants must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. It may be necessary to use protective clothing. Phenolic disinfectants should not be used around dogs.

10.2 All dogs should be vaccinated against Canine Distempter, Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus), Leptospirosis (Leptospira canicola and Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae) and Canine Parvovirus. It may be necessary to vaccinate against other diseases and veterinary advice should be sought.

10.3 Infectious bronchitis (Kennel Cough) can be problematic in kennels and staff

should be aware of the symptoms. However because vaccination will depend

on the local level of infection, it is recommended that the advice of the

veterinary surgeon is sought.

10.4 For the control of roundworms, pregnant and nursing bitches should be given additional worming treatment. Breeding bitches require particular attention and veterinary advice should be sought. However as a rule of thumb, it is suggested that bitches are wormed before mating and then again after the 41st day of pregnancy with a broad spectrum anthelmintic.

The bitch should also be wormed at the same time as the puppies, which should be when the puppies are at two, four and six weeks of age.

Thereafter is it recommended that puppies should be wormed at regular intervals, according to manufacturer’s instructions.

From 16 weeks of age into adulthood, worming should be carried out routinely two to four times per year.

Advice concerning dogs with tapeworms should be sought from the veterinary surgeon

10.5 Fleas, lice and harvest mites are common ectoparasites of dogs. Appropriate treatment must be carried out if they are found on any of the dogs. When treating these infestations it is important to take account of the life cycle of the parasite in order to achieve maximum control or even eradication. For instance, simply killing the adult flea is unlikely to provide adequate control.

Several mange mites affect dogs including Demodex folliculorum, Sarcoptes scabiei and Cheyletiella, all of which attack the skin and Otodectes, which is most commonly seen in the ears. Any of these infestations can cause severe illness in both puppies and older dogs.

Ringworm can be passed to humans. Early diagnosis and thorough treatment is essential if the disease is to be controlled.

The veterinary surgeon should be consulted if any of these conditions is suspected or known. Particular care is required with pregnant bitches and suckling puppies when using treatments for these infestations.

A risk assessment must be carried out in relation to **TICKS** and **LUNGWORM** in consultation with the applicants’ veterinary surgeon and appropriate action taken.

All of the above must be incorporated in the Health Plan for the breeding bitch and/or sire which is drawn up and agreed with the applicants veterinary surgeon and should be reviewed annually with a view to addressing any conditions new to Scotland or the locality or emerging diseases.

10.6 You must be registered with a vet practice with 24 hour access. Advice from a veterinary surgeon must be sought where a dog shows signs of disease, injury or illness. A competent person must ensure this advice is followed.

**11.0 FIRST-AID KIT FOR DOGS**

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

**12.0 ISOLATION FACILITIES**

12.1 Facilities for isolation should be available when required. For domestic breeders the use of a separate room/area would be sufficient.

Isolation facilities must be used where the presence of infectious disease is suspected or known.

12.2 Adequate facilities to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolation and other areas of the house must be provided

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

12.4 Protective clothing and equipment for use only in the isolation facility must be used to reduce the spread of infection.

12.5 A management regime should be followed where an isolation case is being handled e.g. isolation cases must be cared for after all other dogs have been attended to. Records of the isolation cases and the management regime to be followed should be kept.

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

**13.0 EMERGENCIES / FIRE PREVENTION**

13.1 All appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of the dogs in case of fire or other emergencies.

13.2 A suitable emergency evacuation plan and fire warning procedure must be drawn up. This procedure should include:

* How people will be warned if there is a fire
* What staff should do if they discover a fire
* What staff should do in the event of a fire
* The arrangements for calling the Fire and Rescue Service
* The specific action to be taken by the person in charge when the fire alarm activates or a fire is discovered
* The procedure to be followed to evacuate the premises, taking into account any personal emergency egress plans
* Where persons/animals will be taken after they have left the premises and procedures for checking whether the premises have been evacuated.

13.3 Fire fighting equipment must be provided in accordance with advice given by

the Fire Prevention Officer.

It is advisable to fit smoke detectors with regular checks being undertaken to ensure their effectiveness.

All people on the premises should be trained in the safe use of fire extinguishers.

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

13.5 Advice must be sought from the Fire Prevention Officer to ensure compliance with fire safety requirements.

13.6 Precautions must be taken to prevent any accumulation which may present a risk of fire.

13.7 All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition with no loose trailing cables.

13.8 All heating appliances must be free of risk of fire as is reasonable practicable.

Heating appliances should not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to the dogs. Dogs must not have direct access to open flame heating devices.

13.9 Where gas heating is provided the Licence holder shall ensure that the appliances are serviced on an annual basis by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

**14.0 TRANSPORT**

14.1 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.

14.2 Dogs and puppies being transported to and from the breeding establishments should be properly supervised to ensure compliance with the obligations under the 1973 Act. It is recommended that records are kept of the vehicles used when dogs are transported, as well as details of journeys undertaken.

**15.0 RECORD-KEEPING**

15.1 Accurate records in respect of each breeding bitch fully detailing their breeding records must be kept at the premises and any made available for inspection there by any officer of the local authority, or veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner, authorised by the local authority to inspect the premises.

15.2 The Breeding of Dogs (Licensing Records) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No 3192) prescribe the form of records to be kept by local licensed breeding establishments. These records must be accurate and kept on the premises and made available to authority inspectors or any veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner authorized by the local authority.

15.3 A record must be kept by every licensed dog breeder for each breeding bitch with the following details

* Name of bitch
* Date of Birth
* Address
* Description including details of any microchip / tattoo
* Oestrus dates
* Date of mating and details of sire
* Record of litters. This includes, sex of the puppies, date of birth, weight, description including breed and colour.
* Details of sale including date of sale, name and address of new owner and the status of purchaser (i.e. private owner or pet shop).

Additional records that should be kept

* The details and number of all dogs owned by the licensed breeder and their whereabouts. To include name, Date of Birth, microchip/tattoo numbers

*Note, the puppies must be microchipped by the breeder and access information to the microchip database must be provided to the new owner of the puppy at the time of handover of the animal to ensure that ownership details are updated timeously.*

* Where dogs are under a breeding arrangement, the details of such dogs, together with their whereabouts
* Vaccination and worming records
* Medicine records of any illnesses and their treatments and dates
* Cleaning and disinfecting regimes
* Feeding and exercising regimes
* Accommodation temperatures
* Details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place
* Details of vehicles used for transporting dogs, as well as time, length of journeys taken and destination