



**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**GUIDANCE**

**FOR**

**DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS LICENCE**  
**CONDITIONS**

**BREEDING OF DOGS ACT 1973 AND 1991 AS**  
**AMENDED BY THE BREEDING AND SALE OF DOGS**  
**(WELFARE) ACT 1999**

**Version 1: #**

## **Guidance for Dog Breeding Establishment Conditions**

This Guidance should be read in conjunction with South Derbyshire's dog breeding establishment conditions. The Guidance is intended to provide more information and best practice advice to ensure compliance with the conditions attached to the dog breeding establishment licence.

### **Accommodation**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Condition 1.3 | Bitches with litters should be provided with further space.  |
| Condition 1.4 | <p>In new constructions, wood should not be used on exposed surfaces of walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors in the dog kennelling area.</p> <p>Existing buildings may be more expensive to adapt and less efficient to operate than new build kennels. Proposed building works may require approval from the building control department and/or planning department.</p> <p>Where wood has been used in an existing construction it must be smooth and treated to render it impervious. The purpose of avoiding wood on surface structures of kennel interiors is because of the possibility of damage to the material caused by scratching or chewing by dogs. Worn and splintered material is difficult to clean, harbours bacteria, viruses and so on, and allows the splinters to penetrate the animal's skin.</p> |
| Condition 1.5 | <p>All exterior wood should be properly treated against wood rot, e.g. tanalised. Only non-toxic products should be used.</p> <p>The interior and exterior of the buildings should be kept in good decorative order and repair. Outer paths, gardens, exercise areas and general surroundings should be kept in good, clean, safe condition.</p>   |
| Condition 1.7 | Where galvanised welded mesh is used for fencing and cages or kennels, the wire diameter should not be less than 2mm (14 standard wire gauge) excluding any covering and the mesh size should not exceed 5cm (2in).  |
| Condition 1.8 | <p>Where concrete or other building blocks or bricks are used, they should be sealed so as to be smooth and impervious, and resealed as necessary.</p> <p>Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be coved. If impractical in existing premises, all joints should be sealed.</p>  |

It is suggested that partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction and of sufficient height to prevent direct nose-to-nose contact between dogs. Partition construction may be solid from floor to ceiling, but this should not be to the detriment of other welfare considerations such as the dog's outlook, lighting, ventilation. Suitable materials for the construction of partition walls include properly surfaced impervious brick/block constructions, moulded plastic, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and pre-formed plastic surfaced board.

Constructing a solid partition provides a physical barrier to infection.

Condition 1.9

It is recommended that new kennels should incorporate a damp proof membrane. All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.

Condition 1.10

In new constructions, it is recommended that floors should be laid to a minimum fall of 1 in 80 leading to a shallow drainage channel or effectively covered deep drainage channel.

Communal exercise areas should also be suitably drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

Condition 1.12

Where metal bars and frames are used, they should be of suitable gauge with spacing adequate to prevent dogs and puppies escaping or becoming entrapped. Where metal edging is used, this should not present a risk of injury to the dog.

Door openings should be constructed such that the passage of water/waste is not impeded, or allowed to accumulate due to inaccessibility.

When designing kennel doors, regard should be had to the health and safety of the person working in the kennel, for example, large dogs may push against the door which may give rise to difficulties in securing the door and even to accidents to the person on the opposite side of the door when it opens outwards. A door which opens inwards may also reduce the possibility of escape.

Condition 1.13

When windows are so situated that they could pose a security risk, it is recommended that welded mesh or reinforced glass, polycarbonate or other impact resistant material is used.

- Condition 1.14 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. Advice concerning waste water outlets should be sought from the Environment Agency and/or, the local authority.
- Condition 1.15 Where practicable, this should be natural light.
- Condition 1.16 It is recommended that breeding establishments should have a low level night light for use after daylight hours.
- Condition 1.17 A balance should be struck between providing adequate ventilation while avoiding unnecessary loss of heat. Checks need to be made during the day and night to allow for temperature fluctuations. 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').
- Condition 1.18 Special consideration should be given to whelping bitches and bitches in season. Kennels should cater for the maximum number of puppies having regard to the size of the breed and litter size.
- When constructing kennels, an appropriate design and correct materials should be used to overcome problems of noise emission and to ensure energy conservation. This is in order to minimise discomfort to the dog and risk of nuisance to persons in the vicinity of the site.
- All parts of the kennel should be easily accessible to undertake thorough cleaning by staff.
- Condition 1.22 Depending upon the breed, consideration should be given to covering the whole of the runs.
- Condition 1.23 All bedding material in use should be clean, non-irritant, parasite free and dry. Chewing or destruction of bedding should not result in restricted access, rather alternative materials should be tried.
- Condition 1.24 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.
- This figure should include any dogs kept on the breeders' premises which are not being used for breeding and must not be exceeded.

- Condition 1.25
- There should be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a temperature of between 10°C -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.
- The materials used on the kennel exterior should offer adequate protection against temperature variations throughout the year. The difficulty of maintaining the ideal temperature is acknowledged; however, these are realistic temperatures and should not be exceeded in normal circumstances.
- Condition 1.26
- There should be the ability to record temperatures at dog level.
- There will be periods in the year where ambient external temperatures will cause temperatures to fluctuate above or below the recommended levels. If the higher temperature level is exceeded due to structural shortcomings rather than normal ambient temperature, then artificial means of counteracting this high temperature should be introduced.
- Where temperatures fall below the recommended level, the use of individual heating lamps for dogs may prove adequate. In some circumstances additional background heating will also be required.
- Failure to give adequate attention to construction and insulation may cause dogs to suffer and increase running costs. Geographical orientation will affect temperature, e.g. north facing openings make it difficult to maintain adequate heating levels. Correct orientation of the kennel will allow maximum use of natural light.
- Condition 1.27
- Regular disinfection should be demonstrated by keeping records of disinfecting regimes
- Condition 1.28
- Advice should be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority concerning removal of waste such as dog faeces, soiled material and infectious material.
- Condition 1.31
- Such pests should be adequately dealt with without delay to eradicate the infestation.
- Conditions 1.27-1.32
- There is a range of cleaning regimes. The regime, for which all establishments should have an SOP, should include:
1. Removal of solids
  2. Washing
  3. Disinfection
  4. Drying

The physical collection of faeces is usual ('poop scoop' or shovel and bucket). The use of detergent and water will 'wash down'. Pressure hoses or steam cleaning will wash down more effectively. Bacteria, viruses, fungi need to be controlled by the sanitising process. Because disinfectant is washed away after a short period of time, the long term activity of chemicals used to control viruses, bacteria and fungi should be considered.

Great care should be taken when using any chemicals. Chemicals and materials should be used and stored correctly. Combinations of bactericides, fungicides and virucides may prove expensive to use and may not necessarily provide the best system. Professional advice should be sought for the most effective method.

DEFRA's website includes their approved disinfectant list for statutory use on disease control.

Staff working from kennel to kennel further increase the risk of spreading disease. Staff should be trained in good kennel hygiene. Complete disinfection of kennel and equipment should be carried out between occupancies.

Condition 1.33

Bitches should be moved to their whelping accommodation 60 days after mating or sooner if signs of imminent whelping are shown.

Condition 1.34

Where a bitch is whelped in a domestic environment it is acceptable for a temporary disposable covering to be used.

Varnishing wood will make it impervious.

Condition 1.36

There should be an area maintained between 26-28 degrees Celsius. This can be achieved with a local heat source such as a heat lamp.

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.

Condition 1.37

Consideration should be given to separating bitches in season and they should not be kept with entire male dogs.

### **Management**

Condition 2.2

Any person with responsibility for supervision should be over the age of 16.

Where staff are employed, ideally a written training policy should be provided. Training of staff, whether permanent or temporary, should be demonstrated (via appropriate training records) to have been carried out in all aspects of the care of all ages of dogs and updated regularly. Staff should be adequately trained in the work they are expected to carry out. For example, in handling dogs safely and in procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

The following are regarded as essential topics to 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.

There are a variety of animal care courses available and staff should be encouraged to attend Relevant NVQs attained at Level 2 or the equivalent should enable staff to gain a minimum level of competency.

Condition 2.3

Staff numbers should be of concern when there is evidence that the standards maintained or the condition and behaviour of the animals is being compromised, or where an unrealistic routine is in place.

Condition 2.4

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. 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 – feeding, grooming, cleaning, exercise and compatibility issues – especially where several dogs, or breeds of dogs, are involved.

Condition 2.5

These checks should be more frequent when bitches are imminently due to whelp, whelping and puppies that are not yet weaned.

Condition 2.6

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. The use of raised beds and the ability to move out of other dogs' sight should be provided.

Condition 2.7

Exercise may also be provided by walking. Where dogs are exercised off the premises, reference should be made to the Clean Neighbourhoods Environment Act (2005) and the Control of Dogs Order 1992. The name, address and telephone number (including the

emergency number) of the establishment's veterinary practice should be displayed prominently preferably by the telephone.

- Condition 2.8 An SOP for the socialisation and habituation of puppies from birth to the point of sale should be used. (see Annex C and D of the conditions for further details).
- Condition 2.9 The dog's weight should be monitored and recorded quarterly and diets adjusted where necessary, unless otherwise advised by a veterinary surgeon or a significant change in the dog's weight/body condition is noticed.
- Condition 2.10 If necessary, the veterinary surgeon should be consulted to advise. 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 and consideration should be given to the varying nutritional requirements of individual dogs. Body condition score should be monitored and feeding adjusted appropriately. (See Annex E of the conditions for further details).
- Condition 2.12 Weaning should normally commence at 3-4 weeks old. The initial diet may be liquid progressing to solid food over the ensuing period.
- Conditions 2.12-2.13 Lactation will last until the puppies are weaned.
- Consideration should also be given to how many puppies the bitch is nursing. During lactation the bitch should be closely monitored for signs of complications (eg 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. Food provision can be used to enhance enrichment, for example through the use of devices increasing the time and effort taken to access food (e.g. puzzle feeders, activity balls, stuffed rubber toys). Where these are used they should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between each use. Where dogs are kept in pairs or larger groups, more devices should be available than the number of dogs, use should be monitored carefully to identify where aggression occurs. Dogs which show aggression associated with feeding, or when provided with food based enrichment, should be separated from other dogs prior to feeding.
- Condition 2.16 A separate hand basin with hot and cold running water should be provided for staff.



- Condition 2.17 Dishes and bedding should be washed separately from domestic items.
- Condition 2.18 A veterinary surgeon should be consulted concerning its contents and a competent member of staff should be in charge of its maintenance.
- Condition 2.19 Where advised, the dog should be isolated immediately and the procedure documented.
- Condition 2.20 Procedures should be in place, and understood by all staff, to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolated animals and the other dogs.
- Condition 2.21 Intervening buildings and construction detail (ie window and door positions) should be taken into account because individual circumstances may significantly affect the recommended distance.
- For airborne diseases, ideally a distance of at least 5 m (15 ft). The requirement for 5 m distance between isolation facilities and the other dogs is based upon consideration of the distance that airborne infection can carry.
- Condition 2.22 The use of disposable clothing is recommended. A management regime should be followed where an isolation case is being handled. For example, 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.

### **Disease Control, Vaccination and Worming**

- Condition 3.1 Registered breeders should produce a health and welfare plan (see Annex F of the conditions for further details) approved by a veterinary surgeon. This should be updated on an annual basis and needs to take into account the health, preventive treatment, socialisation, and welfare of the animals.
- Condition 4.1 Contingency plans should also include consideration for alternative housing for a large number of dogs. For the occasions where it is not possible to evacuate the dogs to alternative locations other contingency measures should be in place, this may include long term provision of feed/water or euthanasia.

### **Transport**

- Conditions 5.1-5.6 It is recommended that records are kept of the vehicles used when dogs are transported, as well as details of journeys undertaken. All vehicles are considered commercial and subject to EU Transport Regulation 1/2005.

The transporting of distressed dogs should be avoided whenever possible.

When transporting animals, there is a general duty of care to protect them from injury or unnecessary suffering and to also ensure they are transported in suitable containers. If the transportation is carried out in connection with an 'economic activity', as defined by the Regulations, then there are further legal requirements to comply with under this legislation. Furthermore, there is a requirement under the Highway Code that animals should be "suitably restrained" when transported (Rule 57, Highway Code). Any vehicle used for transporting dogs should be suitable and have the correct ventilation and temperature control so that the dog remains comfortable during the journey, whatever the outside temperature. Dogs should not be left unattended in a vehicle for any length of time.

Dogs should not be fed within two hours of a journey and should be exercised immediately before they are loaded to give them the opportunity to go to the toilet.

During a journey dogs should be securely and comfortably confined. If a dog is transported alone in a container, he or she should have enough space to stand, sit erect, lie in a natural position and turn around normally while standing up for long journeys. If transported with other dogs, there should be sufficient space for all the dogs to carry out all these behaviours without touching other dogs.

If transporting adult dogs by road, sufficient breaks should be offered for water and the chance to go to the toilet.

Where possible, puppies should be trained to stay calmly in a crate by using reward-based training prior to transportation.

### **Health and Welfare of the Breeding Stock and Litters**

#### Condition 6.1

It is the responsibility of the licensee to make every reasonable effort to ensure that both sires and bitches are in good health prior to mating. This includes checking for the presence of both infectious and genetically inherited diseases which may affect the health of either parent or resulting puppies. Where necessary, veterinary advice should be sought.

Breeding stock should be selected on their temperament and genetic health. Dogs that have required surgery to rectify an exaggerated conformation that has caused adverse welfare (e.g. an excessively

flat face or short nose or eyelid abnormalities etc.) should not be bred from.

Dogs with exaggerated conformations that may be associated with adverse welfare should not be bred from.

#### Condition 6.4

Social contact with other dogs may be achieved through pair or group housing, although the behaviour of individuals within each group should be monitored carefully for signs of aggression or fear. The compatibility of the dogs may vary depending on the stage of the breeding cycle (seasons and lactation) and this should be monitored carefully. Dogs which show behavioural signs of fear or anxiety associated with contact with other dogs may be better housed and exercised singly, as long as they are provided with sufficient human contact. They should not be used for breeding. A policy should be in place for monitoring the introduction of new dogs to existing groups in either domestic or kennel environments, to avoid stress to either new or resident animals.

Bitches close to whelping and when lactating should not generally be mixed with other adult dogs. On these occasions where dogs have to be kennelled on their own, the level of social contact with humans should be increased to compensate.

When the social contact is provided by humans, the contact should be for the majority of the day. When dogs are kept in a kennel environment this should be the working day and in a domestic environment the normal waking hours of the household.

#### Condition 6.5

The early experience of puppies has a profound effect on their adult behaviour, and it is important that the facility has in place an adequate programme to socialise puppies and prepare them for life in a domestic environment. SOPs should be available so that all staff know how to appropriately socialise puppies.

Where bitches are anxious or aggressive when puppies are approached, this process should be gradual to acclimatise the bitch to the presence of people around the litter.

#### Condition 6.6

This should include the sights and sounds in households, such as appliances, as well as differing surfaces on which to walk. Introduction to novel sights and sounds should be gradual so that puppies do not show a fearful response such as startling or withdrawal. Puppies should also be introduced to a variety of

people including adults of both sexes, children of different ages, and wearing a variety of clothing styles.

Condition 6.7

They should also ideally be introduced to nonaggressive and healthy, vaccinated adult dogs in addition to the bitch. However, it is also important for puppies to start to learn to be separated from others, so should be separated from litter mates and the bitch for short periods from the age of six weeks. During periods of separation there should be human social contact.

Household sounds may occur naturally in domestic environments but could be achieved through the playback of recordings for dogs housed in kennels.

Condition 6.7

Although the sub-section does not provide any scope for flexibility, the Home Office guidelines to local authorities expect local authorities to take into account any difficulties in relation to factors beyond the breeder's control, such as when a bitch whelps prematurely. Accurate records showing matings and whelpings will be essential.

Additional records will provide useful information to the local authority inspectors should problems arise. It is suggested that this information should include:

- The details and number of all dogs kept on the premises, including movement on and off the premises;
- oestrus dates of breeding bitches;
- microchip or tattoo numbers or other suitable form of permanent identification. If the dogs are Kennel Club or breed association registered, these numbers should also be recorded;
- where dogs are under a breeding arrangement, the details of such dogs, together with their whereabouts;
- vaccination and worming records and details of other veterinary treatment given;
- cleaning and disinfecting regimes (see Annex B of the conditions);
- feeding and exercise routines;
- accommodation temperatures;
- details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place;
- details of vehicles used for transporting dogs, as well as time and length of journeys taken. Records should also show which dogs are transported and their destination;
- date and cause of death if known;
- Number of dogs required to be euthanised, reason for euthanasia, date of euthanasia and the name of the veterinary surgeon in attendance;
- Number of breeding bitches retired, details of each individual breeding bitch's microchip (or other

- permanent identification) number, outcome for the bitch e.g. rehomed and to where;
- If dogs have come from abroad, specific additional information should be recorded;
  - Health Plan (see Annex F of the conditions for more details);
  - health screening test results;
  - puppy contract.

This list is by no means exhaustive.

Documentation should also be routinely provided to purchasers of puppies, for example as a 'puppy pack', including information on the puppy's diet, worming history, five generation pedigree where relevant, any parental or puppy health check results, any veterinary treatment or ongoing medication, health insurance, socialisation history, and advice on ongoing care. Purchasers of puppies should also receive a puppy contract, and full contact details of the breeder.

### **Additional Guidance**

The latest version of the Puppy Plan, supported by Dogs Trust and the Kennel Club, can be downloaded at [www.thepuppyplan.com](http://www.thepuppyplan.com)