

Licensable Activity Specific Conditions – 4
see also General Conditions

Breeding dogs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 - The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

1. Advertisements and sales

1.—(1) The licence holder must not advertise or offer for sale a dog—

- (a) which was not bred by the licence holder;
- (b) except from the premises where it was born and reared under the licence;
- (c) otherwise than to—
 - (i) a person who holds a license for the selling of animals as pets (or with a view to their being latter resold as pets) as described in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 of the above regulations; or
 - (ii) a keeper of a pet shop in Wales who is licensed under the Pet Animals Act 1951 to keep the shop, knowing or believing that the person who buys it intends to sell it or intends it to be sold by any other person.

(2) Any advertisement for the sale of a dog must—

- (a) include the number of the licence holder's licence,
- (b) specify the local authority that issued the licence,
- (c) include a recognisable photograph of the dog being advertised, and
- (d) display the age of the dog being advertised.

(3) The licence holder and all staff must ensure that any equipment and accessories being sold with a dog are suitable for it.

(4) The licence holder and all staff must ensure that the purchaser is informed of the age, sex and veterinary record of the dog being sold.

(5) No puppy aged under 8 weeks may be sold or permanently separated from its biological mother.

(6) A puppy may only be shown to a prospective purchaser if it is together with its biological mother.

(7) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) do not apply if separation of the puppy from its biological mother is necessary for the health or welfare of the puppy, other puppies from the same litter or its biological mother.

2. Suitable environment

2.—(1) Each dog must have access to a sleeping area which is free from draughts and an exercise area.

(2) Each dog must be provided with sufficient space to—

- (a) stand on its hind legs,
- (b) lie down fully stretched out,
- (c) wag its tail,
- (d) walk, and
- (e) turn around, without touching another dog or the walls of the sleeping area.

(3) The exercise area must not be used as a sleeping area.

(4) Part or all of the exercise area must be outdoors.

(5) There must be a separate whelping area for each breeding bitch to whelp in which contains a suitable bed for whelping.

(6) Each whelping area must be maintained at an appropriate temperature (between and including 26 and 28 degrees centigrade) and include an area which allows the breeding bitch to move away from heat spots.

(7) Each dog must be provided with constant access to a sleeping area.

(8) A separate bed must be provided for each adult dog.

(9) No puppy aged under 8 weeks may be transported without its biological mother except—

- (a) if a veterinarian agrees for health or welfare reasons that it may be so transported, or
- (b) in an emergency.

(10) No breeding bitch may be transported later than 54 days after the date of successful mating except to a veterinarian.

(11) No breeding bitch may be transported earlier than 48 hours after whelping except to a veterinarian where it is not otherwise practicable or appropriate for that person to attend to the bitch.

(12) Each dog's sleeping area must be clean, comfortable, warm and free from draughts.

(13) In this paragraph, "exercise area" means a secure area where dogs may exercise and play.

3. Suitable diet

3. – Staff must—

- (a) ensure that each puppy starts weaning as soon as it is capable of ingesting feed on its own,
- (b) provide each breeding bitch with feed appropriate to its needs,
- (c) provide each puppy with feed appropriate for its stage of development, and
- (d) ensure that each puppy ingests the correct share of the feed provided.

4. Monitoring of behaviour and training

4.—(1) The licence holder must implement and be able to demonstrate use of a documented socialisation and habituation programme for the puppies.

(2) Each dog must be provided with toys or feeding enrichment (or both) unless advice from a veterinarian suggests otherwise.

(3) Except in the circumstances mentioned in sub-paragraph (4), all adult dogs must be exercised at least twice daily away from their sleeping area.

(4) Where a veterinarian has advised against exercising a dog, the dog must be provided with alternative forms of mental stimulation.

(5) Any equipment that a dog is likely to be in contact with and any toy provided must not pose a risk of pain, suffering, disease or distress to the dog and must be correctly used.

5. Housing with or apart from other dogs

5.—(1) Each adult dog must be provided with opportunities for social contact with other dogs where such contact benefits the dogs' welfare.

(2) Each adult dog must be given suitable and adequate opportunities to become habituated to handling by people.

(3) Procedures must be in place for dealing with dogs that show abnormal behaviour.

(4) There must be an area within each sleeping area in which dogs can avoid seeing people and other dogs outside the sleeping area if they so choose.

6. Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

6.—(1) All dogs for sale must be in good health.

(2) Any dog with a condition which is likely to affect materially its quality of life must not be moved, transferred or offered for sale but may be moved to an isolation facility or veterinary care facility if required until it has recovered.

(3) The licence holder must ensure that no bitch—

- (a) is mated if aged less than 12 months;
- (b) gives birth to more than one litter of puppies in a 12-month period;

- (c) gives birth to more than six litters of puppies in total;
 - (d) is mated if she has had two litters delivered by caesarean section.
- (4) The licence holder must ensure that each puppy is microchipped and registered to the licence holder before it is sold.
- (5) No dog may be kept for breeding if it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of its genotype, phenotype or state of health that breeding from it could have a detrimental effect on its health or welfare or the health or welfare of its offspring.
- (6) The health, safety and welfare of each dog must be checked at the start and end of every day and at least every four hours during the daytime.
- (7) Breeding bitches must be adequately supervised during whelping and the licence holder must keep a record of—
- (a) the date and time of birth of each puppy,
 - (b) each puppy's sex, colour and weight,
 - (c) placentae passed,
 - (d) the number of puppies in the litter, and
 - (e) any other significant events.
- (8) The licence holder must keep a record of each puppy sale including—
- (a) the microchip number of the puppy,
 - (b) the date of the sale, and
 - (c) the age of the puppy on that date.
- (9) The licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding dog—
- (a) its name,
 - (b) its sex,
 - (c) its microchip and database details,
 - (d) its date of birth,
 - (e) the postal address where it normally resides,
 - (f) its breed or type,
 - (g) its description,
 - (h) the date or dates of any matings, whether or not successful,
 - (i) details of its biological mother and biological father,
 - (j) details of any veterinary treatment it has received, and
 - (k) the date and cause of its death (where applicable).

(10) In addition to the matters mentioned in sub-paragraph (7), the licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding bitch—

- (a) the number of matings,
- (b) its age at the time of each mating,
- (c) the number of its litters,
- (d) the date or dates on which it has given birth, and
- (e) the number of caesarean sections it has had, if any.

(11) Unless the licence holder keeps the dog as a pet, the licence holder must make arrangements for any dog no longer required for breeding to be appropriately rehomed.

(12) A preventative healthcare plan agreed with the veterinarian with whom the licence holder has registered under paragraph 9(8) of the general conditions must be implemented.

(13) The licence holder must keep a record of any preventative or curative healthcare (or both) given to each dog.

(14) Where any other activity involving animals is undertaken on the premises on which the licensable activity of breeding dogs is carried on, it must be kept entirely separate from the area where that licensable activity is carried on.

See also General Conditions
End of Specific Conditions