



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
**Government of Ireland**

Prepared by the Department of Rural  
and Community Development

# Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines

July 2018

# DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

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## Introduction

These Guidelines have been issued under Section 15 (4) of the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 (the Act) following a public consultation process. They come into effect from **1 January 2019**, at which time they will replace the previous Guidelines. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Act.

The definition of a Dog Breeding Establishment is outlined within the Act. As the definition relates to the number of breeding bitches, some premises that do not breed pups specifically for sale are also captured by the definition. These include, for example, Hunt Clubs. It is recognised that in some cases the details outlined in this document may not be suitable for the types of dogs that are held in Hunt Clubs, as these are mainly pack animals that have different preferences or requirements. In those cases (and all other cases) an appropriate, practical approach will be taken to interpretation of these Guidelines.

This document has two sections. Part 1 relates to construction and maintenance of a Dog Breeding Establishment. Part 2 relates to operation and management of a Dog Breeding Establishment.

These Guidelines do not cover all legislation that Dog Breeding Establishments must comply with. For example, they must also comply with relevant Health and Safety legislation. They must also comply with relevant animal welfare legislation.

# **PART 1: Construction & Maintenance of a Dog Breeding Establishment**

## **1. GENERAL STANDARDS FOR ALL DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS**

- 1.1 In order to comply with the Act the operator<sup>1</sup> of a dog breeding establishment must
- provide accommodation and equipment which suits the physical, behavioural and social requirements of the particular breed(s) of dogs held.
  - protect the dogs from other animals and adverse environmental conditions.
  - provide sufficient space for dogs to stand, move around freely, stretch fully and rest in a comfortable and appropriate resting area. Please see Annex 2 for details regarding kennel sizes. Dogs must be allowed to control their own views of dogs in other kennels and to be able to move out of the view of other dogs.
  - provide sufficient quantities of appropriate food and clean water to maintain good health and support optimal growth and reproduction. The food must be age appropriate.
  - provide an environment that allows all dogs to express normal behaviour and in particular to provide adequate social interaction (with humans and dogs), enrichment and exercise for all dogs.
  - protect the dogs from disease, distress, injury, fear and pain.
  - maintain the hygiene of the breeding premises and the health and welfare of the dogs held.
  - ensure the premises is appropriately licensed under the Control of Dogs Acts 1986 to 2014.

## **2. ANIMAL HOUSING**

### **2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 Buildings which house dogs must be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to animals.

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<sup>1</sup> Operator means the person who owns or manages the establishment or is otherwise responsible for the running of the establishment.

- 2.1.2 Buildings which house dogs must not be a source of nuisance such as excessive noise or smell.
- 2.1.3 All kennels must have an adequate supply of clean water which must be available to all dogs at all times. The supply of drinking water must be checked at least twice daily.
- 2.1.4 Suitable isolation facilities must be available on site. A suitable veterinary treatment area/room must also be available on the premises.
- 2.1.5 A full site map of the Establishment, outlining all buildings, yards, exercise facilities and any other associated structures that are part of the application must be submitted to the local authority as part of the application process. The site map must be kept updated and must be available for inspection.

## **2.2 Construction**

### 2.2.1 The Dog Breeding Establishment must

- protect dogs from rain and wind and other adverse weather conditions
- be lit, at least in part, by natural light
- provide adequate shade
- provide a sheltered sleeping area
- provide an adequate area for exercise
- be suitable for dogs as regards temperature, humidity, ventilation, noise and light

2.2.2 Kennels must be separated from each other by a suitable barrier that will minimise noise, prevent fighting injuries and prevent the spread of infectious disease. Dogs used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows adequate social contact when the stage of the breeding cycle permits. Temperament must be monitored to ensure that the possibility of inter-dog aggression is minimised. On those occasions where the dogs have to be kennelled on their own, the level of social contact with humans must be increased to compensate.

2.2.3 All contact surfaces for kennels must be constructed of an impervious material that facilitates thorough cleaning, disinfection and drainage in order to prevent/control disease. Similarly all surfaces that may come in contact with dogs must be easy to clean, disinfect

and dry. Grassed or landscaped sections may form part of large outdoor runs and must be adequately maintained.

- 2.2.4 There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each bitch in which to whelp. Bitches should be moved into the whelping area 1- 2 weeks prior to anticipated parturition dates. Whelping bitches must be provided with a separate area away from interference by other animals. There must be a whelping bed raised off the floor and with attached sides high enough to prevent new-born pups from falling out. The bed must contain bedding to ensure a soft surface for the bitch and to enable the absorption of foetal fluids resulting from whelping. The bed must be constructed of easily cleanable, durable, impervious material and must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between litters.
- 2.2.5 An area must be provided within the whelping kennel where a bitch can rest and exercise away from her pups. Bitches in season must be kept completely separated from 'entire' males. There must be completely separate accommodation for bitches in season.
- 2.2.6 Bitches should receive additional daily human contact whilst in whelping enclosure, thus ensuring adequate acceptance of the bitch to socialisation and early handling of the pups, reducing stress for both mother and pups.

## **2.3 Size and Number of Occupants**

- 2.3.1 Dog housing, whether for a single dog or for a group of dogs must provide enough space for each dog to feed, sleep, sit, wag their tails, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about unimpeded (or without touching the sides of the kennel). Dogs must be able to lie down without touching another dog. Dogs must be able to lie flat on their sides outside the bed in the sleeping area.
- 2.3.2 The accommodation of dogs in any way other than loose in a kennel is not acceptable and, in particular, the use of portable crates, cages or boxes as a kennel is not permitted.
- 2.3.3 All kennels must conform to the schedule of minimum requirements for kennel sizes included at Annex 2. All kennels must have a minimum length of 1.5m and a minimum width of 1.5m. All kennels must be of a breed appropriate height to allow for visualisation of dogs.

## **2.4 Temperature**

- 2.4.1 Dogs must be protected from extremes of temperature. The microclimate should be maintained between 10C to 25C in kennels and 22C to 28C in whelping area. An

appropriate system for monitoring of temperature, such as a thermometer provided in each kennel block, whelping and isolation units, must be provided by the operator.

2.4.2 Dogs must be monitored to check if they are too hot or too cold. If an individual dog is showing signs of heat or cold intolerance, steps must be taken to ensure the welfare of the dog.

2.4.3 Special consideration must be given to young and old dogs and particular breeds which are more sensitive to changes in temperature. They may require special provision of heating or cooling.

## **2.5 Noise**

2.5.1 Noise from barking dogs must be managed to ensure that the premises is not a source of noise nuisance and to ensure that the noise does not adversely affect the dogs. For example, noise may be reduced by limiting external stimulation by having partitions between kennels, the use of sound proofing material, by holding dogs in singles or in compatible groups, by situating kennels so that they do not face each other, or by any other appropriate humane noise attenuating measure. This includes increasing exercise levels or mental stimulation with toys and human interaction, etc.

## **2.6 Lighting**

2.6.1 Lighting must be as close as possible, in duration and intensity, to natural conditions. The kennel must have sufficient light to allow dogs to be examined and the kennels to be cleaned.

2.6.2 Natural daylight is the preferred means of lighting, provided shaded areas are available to the dogs.

2.6.3 Artificial light must be provided where necessary to allow animal housing areas to be thoroughly cleaned and dogs to be checked.

## **2.7 Ventilation**

2.7.1 Suitable ventilation must be provided and must ensure that dampness, draughts, noxious odours and risk of the spread of infectious disease is minimised.

2.7.2 There must be sufficient ventilation to prevent excessive odours or contamination without causing draughts.

## **2.8 Bedding and Sleeping**

2.8.1 All kennels must be provided with a distinct sleeping area that is a suitable size for the breed of dog being kept. This area should be raised and predominantly enclosed to allow dogs to have a secure refuge. All kennels must have sufficient beds for the number of dogs.

2.8.2 Beds and bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned, disinfected and sited away from draughts. All bedding material in use must be absorbent, clean, non-irritant and dry. Examples of bedding which may be acceptable depending on individual cases are straw, sawdust, wood wool, blankets, rugs, fleece, cushions, waterproof dog pad or mat, shredding paper, etc.

2.8.3 Whelping bitches must be provided with a suitable whelping area that is provided with clean bedding. Whelping crates must not be used.

2.8.4 All dogs must have access to a separate area, away from their bedding, for toileting.

## **2.9 Safety**

2.9.1 In the event of an emergency any security methods used must allow for ready access by staff to dogs, and ready exit of staff and dogs from the premises. An evacuation and contingency accommodation plan must be in place, and available for inspection.

## **3 HYGIENE**

### **3.1 Cleaning and disinfection**

3.1.1 In order to facilitate cleaning and disinfection of dog kennels, housing, grooming and exercise areas must be kept clean and maintained in a good state of repair. A disinfectant approved for use against Parvo virus and enteric viruses is required.

3.1.2 To aid a thorough sanitation programme a supply of hot and cold water and a convenient method of delivering water, such as the appropriate number and location of hose points, must be available.

3.1.3. Eating and drinking vessels must be suitable bowls, designed so that they are not easily overturned. They must be disposable or capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected (to prevent cross-contamination). They must be maintained in a clean condition and cleaned or disposed of after each meal. All dogs must have access to clean and fresh water at all times.

3.1.4 Each occupied kennel must be cleaned daily. All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs at least twice daily and as necessary.

## **3.2 Pest Control**

3.2.1 A suitable pest control programme that meets all legal requirements must be in place, written details of which must be available for inspection by the local authority. The facility must be managed in such a way so as to minimise the risk of infestation by pest species.

## **3.3 Waste Disposal**

3.3.1 All dog breeding establishments must be constructed such that all waste, including washings, urine and faeces is managed by a suitable waste, drainage, storage and disposal system.

3.3.2 All waste must be collected and stored in suitable, closed, lidded, leak proof containers held in a dedicated waste storage area. Waste removal or storage must not be a source of nuisance or pose a risk to public or animal health, and must comply with local authority requirements.

## **4 EXERCISE**

4.1 A Dog Breeding Establishment must have a suitable written exercise and socialisation programme in place in order to:

- allow dogs to urinate and defecate outside their kennels
- allow dogs to socialise and play with humans and, if appropriate, with other dogs
- provide for on leash walks, in order to promote socialisation and contact with humans and other dogs
- allow dogs to be checked over
- allow dogs to exercise appropriately to suit their physical, behavioural and social requirements.



4.2 A plan (to scale) of the breeding establishment, to include an exercise yard or area, must be submitted to the local authority. The exercise area must have enrichment opportunities to allow the dog to engage in natural behaviours like sniffing, digging, searching, etc. Dogs must be provided with a minimum of 2 exercise periods daily, each of at least 30 minutes duration.

## **5 FOOD STORE**

5.1 A Dog Breeding Establishment must have a suitable enclosed room or area to store and prepare dog food. Food must be suitable and nutritious for the dogs it is intended for i.e. in terms of size of dog, age, sex, etc., The food store must;

- allow food to be stored in pest proof conditions
- guard against extremes of heat, cold and condensation and must be refrigerated as appropriate
- be secure from contamination
- be located to facilitate orderly feeding of dogs
- be equipped with a sink with a supply of cold water, and have facilities available to provide hot water

## **6 CHEMICAL STORE**

6.1 A Dog Breeding Establishment must have a suitable enclosed room or area to safely store chemicals, including cleaning agents and disinfectants. The storage area must be secure, suitably located for operational reasons and must not be a source of contamination. The chemical store must be locked when not in use.

## **7 EQUIPMENT AND WASHING FACILITY**

7.1 The Dog Breeding Establishment must have a suitable wash up area with a supply of water to properly wash all equipment, including utensils. It must have a facility to provide hot water. All feeding bowls must be maintained in good working order and in a hygienic state, and disinfected as appropriate with a suitable disinfectant which is harmless to the dogs both with regard to odour and palatability. It must have an appropriate facility for washing of bedding, where it is appropriate to do so.

## PART 2: Operation and Management of a Dog Breeding Establishment

### 1. REGISTRATION

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 9 of the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010, the operator of a Dog Breeding Establishment must apply to the local authority responsible for the area in which it is situated for registration as a Dog Breeding Establishment.
- 1.2 The application should be completed without delay and returned to the relevant local authority accompanied by all relevant documentation. Unless the premises is fee exempted as described by Section 9 (18) of the Act, it must be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee. Any false or misleading information will invalidate the application and will be an offence under the Act. Fee exempt premises include registered hunt clubs<sup>2</sup>, charitable organisations (Charities Act 2009 or having a Revenue CHY number), and commercial boarding kennels.
- 1.3 In processing the application, the local authority will visit the premises and may also request further information. In such instances the local authority will give at least 24 hours' notice for the initial assessment visit. Subsequent visits may be unannounced inspections.
- 1.4 If registration is granted the applicant will be notified within 14 days. A registration certificate will be issued to the applicant who must display this certificate in a prominent location at the establishment. The details of the registration will also be entered into a register maintained by the local authority and will include details of the applicant, the address of the dog breeding establishment, the maximum number of bitches over 6 months that may be kept and, if applicable, any conditions attached to the registration.
- 1.5 Where a local authority proposes to either attach conditions or refuse the application, it will notify the applicant in writing and the applicant may make representations to the local

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of these guidelines, fee exemption under the "hunt club" means a registered hunt or game club—

(a) registered with a national hunting association that is a member of—

- (i) the Hunting Association of Ireland or
- (ii) the Irish branch of the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE),

and

(b) that operates in accordance with the guidelines for kennel management issued by the HAI.

authority within 14 days after receiving this notification. These representations will be considered by the Local Authority Veterinary Officer.

- 1.6 The local authority shall notify the applicant of its decision within 14 days of making that decision. Appeals against a refusal or against any conditions attached to the registration may be made to the appropriate District Court within 14 days of receipt of the notification, or such longer period as a judge of the District Court may determine.

## **2. Personnel**

- 2.1 Personnel must comply with all dog welfare legislation and must have experience in handling dogs. Formal training in animal care is desirable. There must be an induction and training Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all personnel. The SOP must detail exactly what personnel are required to do with all dogs on site and provide sufficient knowledge to allow personnel to undertake their duties competently. For dog breeding establishments licensed for over 30 bitches it will be a requirement to have at least one member of personnel formally certified to have undertaken training to appropriate standards. For all dog breeding establishments the operator must ensure that there must at all times be one person who will have overall responsibility for day-to-day activities relating to animal welfare, animal health and husbandry, exercise regimes, breeding and socialisation. That person will be responsible for notifying a veterinary surgeon in the event a dog requires veterinary treatment.
- 2.2 All personnel must be competent and trained so that they are aware of their responsibilities.
- 2.3 An adequate number of personnel must be available, appropriate to the size of the establishment and the number of dogs being kept. It is recommended that this will be equivalent to one fulltime equivalent per 25 breeding bitches. A documented workforce plan must be in place outlining how the Dog Breeding Establishment is staffed. In assessing the appropriate ratio for individual establishments, the workforce plan, the risk assessment of the premises, previous compliance history and the overall standard of animal care will be considered.
- 2.4 Appropriate personnel must be available on site at weekends and to cover sick leave and holidays, etc.

### **3. ANIMAL CARE**

- 3.1 Grooming must be to a standard appropriate for that breed. Coats must not be left dirty, tangled or unkempt. Long haired breeds must be groomed at least once a year.
- 3.2 Dogs must be protected from illness, distress or injury.
- 3.3 Dogs must be protected from excessive or rough handling. The operator must ensure that its staff are monitored to ensure that any handling of dogs is calm and positive. Rough handling or the use of punitive training methods must not be used. Dogs will be trained, using reward based training methods, so that they can basically walk on a lead, return when called and be comfortable with handling and grooming to facilitate calm interactions during every day activities and exercise.
- 3.4 Dogs must be fed adequately and regularly with age appropriate food to maintain good health as appropriate to their breed and age. It is recommended that for most dogs in breeding establishments two meals should be provided daily. Pregnant bitches will require increasingly frequent meals of higher quality food as their pregnancy progresses, often up to 50% more in the final stages of pregnancy. Lactating bitches also need frequent high quality food to prevent excessive weight loss, often 2-3 times more than normal. Pups should be feeding exclusively on their mothers' milk until 3 weeks of age after which time they can be offered soft moist food. Pups should be weaned at 6-8 weeks of age at which point they must initially be offered food five times a day. Each pup must have its own bowl and staff must ensure that each pup takes the correct share of the food offered. Dog weights must be maintained appropriately.
- 3.5 Clean water must be available to all dogs at all times. It is always preferable to supply drinking water from a bowl as it is more beneficial for their development and more in accord with their natural instinct to lap water. However, where the operator can demonstrate that this method proves impracticable, automatic nipple feeders which are specifically approved for dogs may be permitted. Drinking water in a bowl must always be made available to pups. Bowls must be checked at least twice daily and must be cleaned daily. In the case of automatic devices or nipple drinkers these must be checked at least twice daily to ensure proper function and cleanliness and disinfected as appropriate.
- 3.6 Bedding must be appropriate and cleaned at suitable intervals. If bedding is chewed or destroyed it must be replaced.

- 3.7 To ensure bio-security, all reasonable measures must be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease. This also applies to both staff and persons visiting the premises. Footbaths containing an appropriate disinfectant should be used to help prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases. Isolation facilities must be available away from other kennels with adequate facilities such as footbath, handwash/steriliser station to prevent the spread of diseases. Cleaning procedures, including cleaning procedures when an infection has taken place must be documented in a Standard Operating Procedure.
- 3.8 Each adult dog must be examined by a registered veterinary practitioner at least once a year. A suitable animal health programme agreed with/by a registered veterinary practitioner will be required and must be implemented. This will include vaccination programmes, control programmes for endo and ecto parasites, a responsible breeding programme and a bitch/stud dog retirement plan.
- 3.9 Pups must not be permanently removed from their mothers before the age of six weeks of age.

#### **4. EXERCISE, HABITUATION AND SOCIALISATION <sup>3</sup>**

- 4.1 All dogs must be exercised daily. Such exercise regimes will facilitate dogs to urinate and defecate, stretch limbs, allow contact with humans and other dogs and allow dogs to be visually checked for movement, behaviour and signs of ill health.
- 4.2 A written programme showing exercise, socialisation, enhancement and enrichment must be made available to the local authority inspector for inspection on request and must be implemented. All pups must be socialised before being sold and re-homed and all training must be rewards based.

Enhancement is an increase in the quality of life for the pups and dogs and will improve their daily experience. Enrichment makes the lives of pups and adult dogs more meaningful, substantial or rewarding and helps to meet their behavioural needs. Examples of environmental enrichment include play, contact with humans (e.g. grooming, training or playing) exercise toys (particularly chewy toys) and food finding activities (e.g. puzzle feeders or scavenging exercises).

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<sup>3</sup> It is accepted that requirements for hounds in Hunt Clubs may vary from the requirements in this section.

- 4.3 All dogs must have access to an exercise area and must be allowed a minimum of two periods daily, each of at least 30 minutes to run free. From approximately 3 days after parturition, bitches should be given short periods of exercise away from their litter. Separation of bitches from pups must only be for short periods at this stage and must be carried out in a manner that minimises stress and separation anxiety for both bitches and pups.
- 4.4 Exercise must be provided by lead-walking individual or small groups of dogs as well as by access to an exercise run appropriate to the size and breed of dog. All dogs and pups (of a suitable age) must be involved in activities which provide further enrichment such as access to puzzle feeders, swimming, where appropriate, or fetching a suitable object.
- 4.5 Pups must be handled regularly from shortly after birth to habituate them to human contact, to examine them for any sign of disease and to ensure they are feeding properly. Handling should consist of gently picking up and examining each pup all over, including lifting the feet, tail and ears. This must be done at least twice daily.
- 4.6 From 3 weeks old pups must be habituated to events likely to be encountered in a domestic environment. This should include gradual exposure to noises and recordings such as those produced by household appliances, radio, tv, babies and children crying, fireworks and traffic noises. Introduction to the noises should be gradual with sounds played at low volume initially so that none of the pups show signs of fear and anxiety. The volume of sounds should be increased incrementally over the period of a week, ensuring that pups remain calm and relaxed during periods of exposure.
- 4.7 Pups must be exposed to as varied an environment as possible in order to enable them to become accustomed to a range of different situations. Pups must be introduced to a variety of surfaces on which to walk e.g. carpet, timber floor, tiles, etc. A variety of toys, chews, puzzle feeders must be provided and rotated appropriately. A variety of household items must be introduced to the pups as early as practicable e.g. buggies, prams, outdoor clothing, etc.
- 4.8 Appropriate toys and activity feeders that are changed regularly are ideal enrichment and must be provided to occupy all pups in kennels. There must 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 must be provided.
- 4.9 Pups must be maintained as a litter or with pups of a similar age and size. However, pups must be separated from litter mates and the bitch for short periods from the age of six weeks. During periods of separation there must be increased human social contact. Pups must be separated to habituate them prior to rehoming. Periods of separation must initially

be very short, such that pups do not show signs of distress. The period of separation should then be gradually increased.

- 4.10 Pups must be introduced to a variety of people (including adults of both sexes) wearing a variety of clothing styles.
- 4.11 A SOP for the retirement of breeding bitches and stud dogs must be in place and implemented. This must detail the procedures in place to adequately prepare all such dogs for retirement and all necessary arrangements to place them in suitable homes. For these dogs, the amount of exercise and participation in social interaction with other dogs and humans should be at an appropriate level in preparation for their retirement. A plan or record of the number of dogs due for retirement must be in place and updated regularly.

## **5. BREEDING**

- 5.1 Bitches must not give birth to more than 6 litters of pups each.
- 5.2 During any period of 3 years, not more than 3 litters of pups must be born to a bitch.
- 5.3 In addition to the specific reasons outlined in Sections 5.1 and 5.2, dogs must not be used for breeding if it is not appropriate to do so for any reason. This may be due to their age, medical history, adverse traits (including temperament traits), the suitability of the mate or the mates breed, their health, or for any other reason.
- 5.4 Unsuitable breeding stock must be provided with veterinary care, as appropriate, neutered and retired in accordance with the retirement plans indicated.

## **6. HYGIENE**

- 6.1 In order to facilitate cleaning and disinfection, dog kennels, housing and exercise areas must be kept clean and maintained in a good state of repair. A disinfectant approved for use against parvo virus and enteric viruses is required.
- 6.2 Faeces must be removed at least twice daily.
- 6.3 Kennels and associated housing and exercise areas must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at least once a day, and also on a risk basis e.g. before new dogs or pups are introduced or after an outbreak of infectious disease.
- 6.4 After cleaning/disinfection, housing or kennels must be dry before dogs are returned to them.

- 6.5 Cleaning and disinfection agents must be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. The manufacturer's instructions in respect of the correct use, dilution and contact time for the product must always be followed.
- 6.6 A suitable pest control programme must be in place.

## **7 HEALTH CHECKS**

- 7.1 Each dog must be checked at least once a day, by a competent person, to monitor its health and well-being, and more frequently as appropriate, for example in the case of whelping bitches.
- 7.2 The person checking the dogs must observe their general health, including checking that they are eating, drinking, defecating, urinating and are of normal appearance and behaviour. Any abnormalities must be recorded.
- 7.3 Any change in the health status of any dog must be reported promptly to the person in charge and entered in the establishment's records. Prompt veterinary attention must be obtained as appropriate.
- 7.4 Dogs known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease must not be admitted to the premises or must be placed in suitable isolation.

## **8 VETERINARY CARE**

- 8.1 The operator of the premises must be a client of a veterinary practice.
- 8.2 Any dog(s) showing signs of disease/ill-health must receive timely and appropriate treatment including, where necessary, veterinary examination and treatment. All details of illness and treatments administered must be recorded.
- 8.3 Veterinary attention must be obtained immediately in all cases of suspected infectious diseases and any suspicion of exotic disease such as rabies. Where advised the dog must be isolated immediately.
- 8.4 A suitable and secure medicines cabinet must be available for the correct storage of medicines, with suitable refrigeration as necessary. A record of medicine usage must be kept.



- 8.5 A fully maintained canine First Aid Kit must be maintained on the premises. The First Aid Kit must be checked and restocked regularly and must contain a selection of dressings, bandages, cotton wool, suitable antiseptic solution, wound cream, scissors, tweezers, torch, suitably sized muzzles and the contact details of the attending veterinary practice, including out of hours contact details.
- 8.6 Pups due for export must be micro-chipped, have a completed pet passport and must have received a rabies vaccination from a veterinary practitioner.

## **9 RECORDS AND IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS**

- 9.1 A Dog Breeding Establishment operator must establish and maintain a detailed records keeping system to record the details of births, deaths, sale, movement (and reason for movement) or other events relating to all dogs and pups kept within the establishment. These records must include all microchip details, age, sex, breed, dates of whelping of each bitch, number and sex of pups in each litter (including the number of live and dead pups), and details of sale or disposal. Each pup must have its dam and sire's microchip number listed in its records. The premises must also have a separate record of all bitches, over 6 months of age and capable of being used for breeding purposes. All such records must be maintained for five years and made available for inspection on request by an authorised person.
- 9.2 Records of all micro-chipped dogs must be recorded in a register maintained at the Dog Breeding Establishment. A Register must be maintained of all pups sold or given away free of charge, showing the name and contact details of the purchaser, the pup's microchip identification number and the date of sale/gift. Microchip records must be an integral part of the breeders' records and must be kept manually or electronically or both, as requested by the local authority authorised person. This register must be kept for five years and must be made available for inspection on request by an authorised person.
- 9.3 Records of all veterinary consultations, surgery, treatments, medicines administered or other veterinary intervention must be kept for a period of five years and made available for inspection on request by an authorised person.
- 9.4 Records of all complaints must be maintained for a period of five years and made available for inspection on request by an authorised person.

9.5 In accordance with the relevant national legislation, either S.I. No. 63 of 2015 or its replacement, all dogs must be micro-chipped by a third party and registered on a Database referred to in that legislation. All other aspects of that legislation, including requirements relating to the sale and supply of dogs, must also be complied with.

## **10 INSPECTION OF A DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT BY AUTHORISED PERSON**

10.1 A person appointed by a local authority as an authorised person under Section 18 of the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 (the Act) is allowed to inspect a dog breeding establishment at all reasonable times. Inspections may be unannounced and may be carried out at any reasonable time including evenings and weekends where necessary. The authorised person must not be the registered veterinary practitioner of the Dog Breeding Establishment.

10.2 An authorised person may inspect, take copies or remove and detain any books, records or other documents found in the course of an inspection and may also require the operator to answer any questions relative to the dog breeding establishment. Obstruction of an authorised person is an offence under the Act.

10.3 In cases of significant deviation from the standards outlined in the Act, an authorised person may serve a Fixed Payment Notice or an Improvement Notice. An Improvement Notice will outline the remedial actions required and the time scale within which these actions are required to be completed. An Improvement Notice may be appealed in the District Court within 7 days of service.

10.4 In cases where the authorised person is of the opinion that a serious and immediate threat exists to public health or animal health and welfare, a closure notice may be issued, requiring the operator of the dog breeding establishment to cease the breeding and keeping of dogs at the premises and to surrender the registration certificate. A closure notice must state the grounds for this action, and will outline the measures required to be taken by the operator to enable any dogs affected to be kept at suitable alternative accommodation at the expense of the operator. A copy of the notice will be affixed to the premises by the local authority who will also publish the notice. This notice may be appealed in the District Court within 7 days of service.

## ANNEX 1<sup>4</sup>

### **Transportation of Dogs**

The transportation of dogs and pups to and from a commercial dog breeding establishment is covered by specific European legislation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1 of 2005). The authority responsible for enforcing this legislation is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The requirements of this legislation in relation to commercial dog transport are summarised in the DAFM “Guidelines for the Welfare of Non-farming (“Other”) Species During Commercial Transport” which are available at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/>

Operators of dog breeding establishments must familiarise themselves with the contents of these guidelines. It is their responsibility to ensure that dogs and pups in their care are transported in line with all relevant national and EU legislation, in particular in relation to the following:

- Fitness for transport (section 1.1 of the DAFM guidelines provides a detailed list of conditions that would render a dog unfit for transport),
- Transport practices (issues such as appropriate segregation of dogs during transport, feeding/watering requirements and care of sick or injured dogs).
- Transport vehicles (including general requirements applicable to all vehicles used to transport dogs and additional requirements, including the need for DAFM approval, for vehicles transporting dogs on journeys greater than 8 hours in duration).
- Requirements for commercial dog transporters to be authorised by DAFM if they are transporting dogs on journeys in excess of 65km.
- Premises from which dogs are sent commercially from Ireland to another EU Member State, must be registered premises with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This is commonly known as “Balai Registration” after the name of the EU Directive on this issue (EC 92/65). Further information and the application form to register a premises is here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets/registrationofpremisesanimals/>.

Further information on any of the issues included in the DAFM guidelines can be obtained from the DAFM website or by contacting the DAFM Transport Section on 01 5058647.

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<sup>4</sup> Please note that this Annex does not solely apply to Dog Breeding Establishments.

## Annex 2

### Minimum requirements for Sizing of Kennels <sup>5</sup>

#### Small Dogs (<10kg)

No. dogs	Free access to exercise <sup>6</sup>	Limited access to exercise <sup>6</sup>
1	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
2	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
3	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
4	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

#### Medium Dogs (10-20kg)

No. dogs	Free access to exercise	Limited access to exercise
1	2.5 sq m	4.5 sq m
2	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
3	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

#### Large Dogs (>20kg)

No. dogs	Free access to exercise	Limited access to exercise
1	4.5 sq m	6.5 sq m
2	6.0 sq m	8.5 sq m

All kennels must have a minimum length of 1.5m and a minimum width of 1.5m. All kennels must be of a breed appropriate height in order to allow for visualisation of dogs.

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<sup>5</sup> For Hunt Clubs the Guidelines for Hunt Kennels in Ireland 2016 may apply.

<sup>6</sup> Free access means where the dog is free to move independently from the kennel into a bigger yard or area. Limited access means the dog is not free to move independently from the kennel into a bigger yard or area; these dogs would still have access to exercise as outlined in these guidelines.