

JERSEY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF DOGS IN BOARDING FACILITIES

THE CODE

The Code of recommendations for the welfare of dogs in boarding facilities is intended to encourage those responsible for looking after these animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. It takes account of five basic needs, known as the "Five Freedoms".

The Five Freedoms are:

1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST

- by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;

2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT

- by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;

3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE

- by prevention or by rapid diagnosis and treatment;

4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;

5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS

- by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

HOUSING

KENNELS

1. All exterior wood should be smooth and properly treated against wood rot. Only products which are non toxic to dogs should be used. In new units, dogs should not have direct access to wood. In existing units where dogs have direct access to wood, this should be replaced as soon as reasonably practical.

2. All internal surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, partitions, doors and door frames should be durable, smooth and impervious. There must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

3. Sleeping areas of units should be insulated to prevent extremes of temperature.

4. Fencing material must be secure and safe. There should be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

5. The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured.

6. All areas to which the dogs have free access must be roofed or of sufficient height to prevent escape. In cases where there is no roof, the top of the fence should have an internal overhang.

Walls

7. The walls with which the dogs come into contact should be of smooth impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected. 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.

8. Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be covered. If impractical in existing premises, these joints should be sealed.

9. Full length and height sneeze barriers should be provided where the gap between units is less than 625 mm (2ft).

Floors and Concrete Bases

10. The concrete base and floors of all buildings and units should be of smooth, impervious materials, capable of being easily cleansed. In new kennels, should incorporate a damp proof membrane.

11. Floors of all units and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.

Ceilings and Roofing

12. Ceilings should be capable of being easily cleansed and disinfected.

13. All exercise areas attached to the sleeping area and the safety passages should be covered with mesh or equivalent.

Doors

14. Doors must be strong enough to resist impact and scratching and must be fitted to be capable of being effectively secured.

15. Where metal edging is used, this must not present a risk of injury to the dog.

16. Construction should prevent and control the spread of infectious disease particularly by droplet infection.

Windows

17. All windows which pose a security risk must be escape proof at all times.

Drainage

18. Kitchens used for producing/preparing animal meals should be connected to mains drainage or an approved, localised sewage disposal system.

19. Individual drainage is required in cases where the drain is inside the kennel to which the dog has access

Lighting

20. During daylight hours, light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas. Where practical, this should be natural light.

21. Adequate supplementary lighting must be provided throughout the establishment.

Ventilation

22. Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive localised draughts in the sleeping area.

Maintenance

23. Maintenance and repair of the whole establishment must be carried out regularly and recorded.

SLEEPING AND EXERCISE FACILITIES

24. In new constructions, each unit should have a sleeping area and an adjoining exercise area, which is exclusive to that unit.

25. In new constructions, each unit should be provided with a sleeping area of at least 1.9 sq m (20 sq ft).

26. Units should have a minimum internal height of 1.8m (6ft) to facilitate adequate access by kennel staff for cleaning.

27. Suitable clean bedding must be provided and must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected, if it is to be reused. Bedding material should be checked daily and must be maintained in a clean, parasite-free and dry condition.

28. In any new construction, each unit should be provided with an exercise area of at least 2.5 sq m (26 sq ft) (for dogs up to 60 cm (24 inches) high at the shoulder) or 3.4 sq m (36 sq ft) for larger dogs. The exercise area should be separate from the sleeping area and exclusive to that kennel, for free use by the dog at all times, except at night. The exercise area should be attached to the kennel with a connecting door or hatch.

29. Units should open onto secure corridors or other secure areas, so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises.

30. Exercise areas to which there should be direct and voluntary access, must not be used as sleeping areas.

KITCHEN FACILITIES

31. In kennels with the capacity to board more than six dogs, exclusive facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, must be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs.

32. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided.

33. A sink with hot and cold water must be provided for the washing of food equipment and eating and drinking bowls. A separate wash-hand basin with hot and cold water should be provided for staff use.

34. Containers must be provided for the storage of foods. These should be vermin proof and capable of cleaning and disinfection.

ISOLATION FACILITIES

35. Isolation facilities must be provided.

36. When any dog is showing signs of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease, it must be isolated.

37. These isolation facilities must comply with the other requirements but must be separate and physically isolated from the main units. This separation must be a minimum of 5m (15ft).

38. Adequate facilities and practices to prevent the spread of infectious disease between the isolation unit and other units must be in place. Disposable overall or boiler suit for use solely in the isolation unit is recommended. Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities

MANAGEMENT

39. The maximum number of dogs to be boarded at one time must be appropriate for the facilities.

40. Each dog must be provided with a separate unit except for dogs from the same household who may share a unit of adequate size at the request of the dogs' owner. When sharing occurs, each dog must have its own bed in which it can lie down comfortably in the sleeping area. There should be sufficient space for the door to open fully. Dogs from different households must not be mixed at any time.

41. Holding kennels may be provided for temporarily kennelling a dog for not more than 24 hours. Holding kennels, if provided, must comply with conditions required for the main kennels. Holding kennels should be a minimum area of 2.3 sq m (5 sq ft).

42. Where stray dogs are accepted by the kennels, they must be kept in a separate area away from boarded dogs. Kennels for strays should comply with other boarding requirements. Appropriate measures must be taken to minimise the risk of cross infection between stray dogs and boarders.

Temperature in Units

43. Heating facilities must be made available in the unit and used according to the requirements of the individual dog.

44. Sleeping area temperature should be in the range 10° - 26°C.

45. Extremes of temperature should be avoided.

46. In isolation units, there should be a means of maintaining the temperature at a level suitable for the conditions of the dog and dependent on veterinary advice.

Cleanliness

47. All areas must be kept clean and free from dirt and dust in order to maintain disease control and dog comfort.

48. Each occupied unit must be cleaned daily. All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs at least daily and more often if necessary.

49. All bedding must be kept clean and dry.

50. Each unit must be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and dried upon vacation. All fittings and bedding must also be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected at that time.

51. Facilities must be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of all waste. Particular care should be taken to segregate clinical waste arising from the treatment and handling of dogs with infectious diseases. Clinical waste must be incinerated

52. Measures to control the risks from rodents, insects and other pests must be undertaken without endangering the health or welfare of the dogs.

Food and water

53. All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. At least two meals a day should be offered at approximately eight hours apart, unless the owner has specifically requested otherwise. One large meal a day is not advisable in a kennel situation. Fresh, clean water must be available at all times and changed daily.

54. Eating and drinking bowls must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected and must be maintained in a clean condition.

55. Eating bowls must be cleaned after each meal.

56. Drinking bowls must be cleaned at least once a day.

RECORDS

57. A register must be kept of all dogs boarded. The information kept must include the following and should be managed in accordance with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018:

- date of arrival
- name of dog, and any identification system such as a microchip, number or tattoo
- description, breed, age and gender of dog
- name, address and telephone number of owner or keeper
- name, address and telephone number of emergency contact person
- name, address and telephone number of dog's veterinary surgeon
- anticipated and actual date of departure
- health, welfare and nutritional requirements
- vaccination status

58. The register must be kept readily available for a minimum of 24 months.

59. Where records are computerised, a back-up copy must be kept.

Identification of units

60. Each unit must be clearly identified. Relevant information about the dog in that unit should be readily available.

Supervision

61. A fit and proper person must always be available to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.

62. Dogs must be visited at regular intervals, as necessary for their health, safety and welfare.

Disease Control and Vaccination

63. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious and contagious disease and parasites amongst dogs, staff and visitors.

64. Proof must be provided that dogs boarded or resident have current vaccinations against infectious canine diseases. Your veterinary surgeon's advice should be sought and followed. The course of vaccination must have been completed in

accordance with manufacturers' instructions or veterinary advice. A record of current vaccination status should be kept. Any dog, other than strays, which is not vaccinated, must not be accepted.

65. Stray dogs must be accommodated and managed remote from boarding.

66. Advice from a veterinary surgeon must be sought in the case of signs of disease, injury or illness. Any instructions for its treatment which have been given by a veterinary surgeon must be strictly followed.

STAFF TRAINING

67. A written training policy should be provided. Staff training records should be kept.

EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION

68. Appropriate steps must be taken for the protection of dogs in the case of fire or other emergencies. Use of a smoke detector is recommended.

69. A proper emergency evacuation plan and fire warning procedure must be drawn up in consultation with the Fire Safety Officer and posted on the premises.

70. Fire Safety equipment must be provided in accordance with advice given by the Fire Safety Officer.

71. All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition. There should be a residual current circuit breaker system on each block of units.

72. Heating appliances must not be sited in a location or manner which may present a risk of fire.

73. Precautions must be taken to prevent any accumulation of materials which may present a risk of fire or risk to dogs.

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

TRANSPORT

75. All vehicles used by the establishment for the transportation of animals must be regularly serviced and kept clean. They must be fitted with cages of adequate size for the safe transportation of animals and be provided with adequate ventilation. All vehicles must be secure and should not be left unattended when transporting animals, except for loading and unloading.

LEGISLATION

76. The following legislation is of relevance:

- Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004
- Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016
- Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999

01-02 AWC (31/01/07) (legislation amended 19/10/17)