

JERSEY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF

BREEDING DOGS

THE CODE

The Code of recommendations for the welfare breeding of dogs is intended to encourage those responsible for looking after these animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. These recommendations are additional to recommendations for boarding kennels which are likely to be relevant in large breeding establishments. 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 AND 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

1. Dogs should be kept in accommodation suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, numbers of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

Walls and Partitions

2. Walls with which dogs may come into contact must be of smooth impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned. 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.

3. There must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

4. Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be coved. If impractical in existing premises, joints should be sealed.

5. Partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction to a minimum height of 1.2 m (4 ft).

6. Fencing material should be secure and safe.

Floors

7. Floors of all buildings, individual exercise areas and kennels should be of smooth, impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned. It is recommended that new kennels should incorporate a damp proof membrane.
8. All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.
9. 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.
10. Communal exercise areas should be suitably drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

Ceilings

11. Ceilings must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected

Doors

12. Kennel doors should be strong enough to resist impact and scratching and should be capable of being effectively secured.
13. Where metal bars and frames are used, they should be of suitable gauge with spacing adequate to prevent dogs escaping or becoming entrapped. Where metal edging is used, this should not present a risk of injury to the dog.
14. Door openings should be constructed to allow easy passage of water and waste.

Windows

15. Windows should not pose a security risk and should be escape proof.

Drainage

16. The establishment must be connected to mains drainage or an approved sewerage disposal system.

Lighting

17. During daylight hours light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas. Where practicable this should be natural light
18. Adequate supplementary lighting must be provided throughout the establishment.

Ventilation

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

Maintenance

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

SLEEPING AND EXERCISE FACILITIES

21. Kennels should be provided with an adequate size of sleeping area.
22. Bedding should be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable. Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and sanitised and sited away from draughts. All bedding material in use should be clean, parasite free and dry.

23. Adequate exercise areas must be provided for in all kennels.
24. Kennels should have a minimum height of 1.8 m (6 ft) to allow adequate access by kennel staff for cleaning.
25. Kennels and exercise areas should open onto secure corridors or other secure areas so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises.
26. Exercise areas should not be used as sleeping areas

KITCHEN FACILITIES

27. Hygienically constructed and maintained facilities should be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs.
28. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided.
29. A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking bowls. A separate hand basin with hot and cold water should be provided for staff.
30. Containers for storing foods should be provided and should be constructed and maintained to guard against insects and other pests.

ISOLATION FACILITIES

31. Facilities for isolation should be available where there is more than 1 dog.
32. An adequate area to prevent the spread of infectious disease between the isolation case and any other dogs must be provided.
33. Adequate facilities and practices to prevent spread of infectious disease between the isolation unit and other units must be in place. A disposable overall or boiler suit for use solely in the isolation unit is recommended. Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities.

MANAGEMENT

34. Dogs will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised and visited at suitable intervals.

Supervision

35. A fit and proper person should always be available to exercise supervision and deal with emergencies.
36. Dogs must be checked regularly throughout the day.

Temperature in Kennels

37. Heating facilities must be available and used if required.
38. There must be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a minimum temperature of 10 C (50F) and a maximum temperature of 26 C (79 F).
39. Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated to prevent extremes of temperature.

Food and water

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

41. Eating and drinking bowls must be 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.

Disease Control, Vaccination and worming

42. All reasonable precautions should be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious or contagious diseases and parasites. Your veterinary surgeon's advice should be sought and followed.

43. All dogs should be vaccinated against canine infectious diseases your veterinary surgeon's advice should be sought and followed.

44. Advice from a veterinary surgeon must be sought where a dog shows signs of disease, injury or illness. Any advice given by a veterinary surgeon must be strictly followed.

STAFF TRAINING

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

EMERGENCIES / FIRE PREVENTION

46. All appropriate steps must be taken for the protection of the dogs in case of fire or other emergency. Use of a smoke detector is recommended.

47. 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.

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

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

50. Heating appliances should not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to dogs.

51. Precautions should be taken to prevent any accumulation of material which may present a risk of fire.

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

TRANSPORT

53. All vehicles used by the establishment for transporting dogs must be regularly serviced and clean. They must be capable of being fitted with or contain secure units for the safe transportation of dogs and be provided with adequate ventilation. All vehicles must be secure and should not be left unattended when transporting dogs, except for loading and unloading.

54. All appropriate steps should be taken to ensure dogs are provided with suitable food, drink and bedding material when being transported to or from the breeding establishment.

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BREEDING BITCH

Mating

55. Bitches should not be mated if they are less than one year old.

Maximum Number of Litters

56. Bitches should not give birth to more than six litters of puppies.

Time between Litters

57. Bitches should 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.

RECORDS

58. Accurate records should be kept for each breeding bitch providing the identification of the bitch, date of birth, address where she is kept, breed, date of mating and details of sire. Licensed dog breeders must also keep a record of any litters, including the sex of the pups, date of birth, weight, description and total number in the litter. The record must also show the details of sale, namely the date of sale, name and address of purchaser and should be managed in accordance with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018:

59. It is recommended that all dogs and pups bred are microchipped by a veterinary surgeon.

LEGISLATION

60. The following legislation is relevant:

- Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004
- Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016
- Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999
- Community Provisions (Welfare of Animals during Transport) (Jersey) Regulations 2013

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