



## The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

### Dog breeding

### Pre-inspection document

This document highlights the written policies, procedures and records that are required to meet the minimum conditions.

#### **Overview: Dog Breeding**

A business or person must have a dog breeding licence if they:

- breed three or more litters of puppies in any 12-month period - unless they can prove that none of the puppies have been sold as puppies or adults

#### **AND / OR**

- breed dogs and advertise a business of selling dogs - as defined under the business test

A business or a person require a licence regardless of the number of litters produced.

New dog breeding applications are inspected by our veterinary officer. There's a limit on the number of litters that dog breeders can have at any one time and no bitch can give birth to more than one litter in a 12-month period. Licence holders should tell their relevant licensing local authority by email or phone when each litter of puppies is whelped.

For dogs kept within a home environment they must have free access to more than one room and access to an outside exercise area. If dogs are kept in a kennel environment the unit will have an adjoining run or secure outside space. There is a minimum kennel size required dependent on size and number of dogs to be accommodated. Bitches with litters must be provided with double this space allowance.

#### **Minimum kennel sizes**

| <b>Dog weight (kg)</b> | <b>Minimum kennel area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                          | <b>Additional area per additional dog (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>           |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Less than 5            | 4.0   | 0.5   |
| 5 to 10                | 4.0   | 1.0   |
| 10.1 to 15             | 4.0   | 1.5   |
| 15.1 to 20             | 4.0   | 2.0   |
| 20.1 to 30             | 8.0   | 4.0   |
| Over 30                | These sizes must be scaled up accordingly and must be proportionate | These sizes must be scaled up accordingly and must be proportionate |



## **The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**

### **Dog breeding**

### **Pre-inspection document**

Before breeding dogs, it is important to have health tests carried out. No dog may be kept for breeding if it can reasonably be expected, based on 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.

If you're going to breed dogs, you need to know which health tests you should do and these include DNA tests, health screening schemes and avoiding close inbreeding. You can look up all the recommended health tests and screening schemes for your breed of dog on the Kennel Club website [Breeds A to Z | The Kennel Club](#)

You also need to have preventative healthcare plan agreed with your vet. The plan must include vaccination, parasitic control, monitoring of weight and body condition score for your dogs.

The guidance for the activity of dog breeding can be viewed here:

[Dog breeding licensing: statutory guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **Contents of this document**

- **Required written procedures – Pages 3 - 8**
- **Records to keep – Pages 9 - 12**
- **Star rating and higher standards – Pages 13 - 15**
- **Final check list – Pages 16 - 18**

With your completed application form you need to submit the following:

- 1) all your written procedures (these are all listed on pages 3 -8 of this document)
- 2) your preventative health care plan signed by your vet

NOTE: IF ANY MINOR FAILINGS ARE IDENTIFIED DURING YOUR INSPECTION, YOU **MAY** BE GIVEN A 2 WEEK PERIOD TO PRODUCE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION BEFORE YOUR REPORT IS SENT TO YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY. IF THESE MINOR FAILINGS ARE NOT ADDRESSED DURING THIS 2 WEEK PERIOD, THEN THIS WILL RESULT IN A 1 STAR 1 YEAR LICENCE BEING ISSUED IF YOU ARE AN EXISTING BUSINESS OR THE LICENCE BEING REFUSED IF YOU ARE A NEW BUSINESS.



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

**List of required written procedures for Dog Breeding**

These written procedures are your way of demonstrating to us that your business is operated in accordance with the conditions laid out in the guidance with regards to maintaining high standards of animal welfare.

| Procedure   | Condition            | What the guidance states   |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b><u>Staff training policy</u></b><br><br><b>The licence holder and any staff as a minimum must have received canine first aid training.</b><br><br><b>If you have staff, your training policy could include your standard operating procedures which will cover the training for a new member of staff.</b><br><br><b>Your training policy needs to also include annual appraisals, how staff keep their knowledge up to date and relevant (this is what we refer to as continuous professional development or CPD), training courses such as canine first aid.</b><br><br><b>Even if you have no staff, as the licence holder you are expected to keep a log of all continuous professional development or CPD. This could be a record of training courses, online research, reading books, keeping up to date with any research or developments for specific breeds or health conditions.</b> | <b>4.2 &amp; 4.3</b> | <p>The licence holder or a designated manager and any staff employed to care for the animals must have competence to identify the normal behaviour of the species for which they are caring and to recognise signs of, and take appropriate measures to mitigate or prevent, pain, suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour.</p> <p>Businesses must train their staff, so they're able to carry out the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• animal welfare (including recognising poor welfare)</li><li>• animal handling</li><li>• animal behaviour</li><li>• cleanliness and hygiene</li><li>• feeding and food preparation</li><li>• disease prevention and control</li><li>• recognition and first aid treatment of sick or injured animals</li></ul> <p>The licence holder must keep a record of their staff's training.</p> <p>The licence holder must provide and ensure the implementation of a written training policy for all staff.</p> <p>Businesses must review and update their training policy every year.</p> <p>The review should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an annual appraisal</li></ul> |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
|   |            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>planned continued professional development</li><li>recognition of any knowledge gaps</li></ul> <p>This applies to all staff including the licence holder.</p>  |
| <p><b><u>DEFRA Authorisation Type 1 or 2 / Animal Transport Certificate</u></b></p> <p><b>A transporter is anyone who transports animals in connection with an economic activity. If you transport purchased puppies to the client's home, then the transportation of the puppies will be part of an economic activity</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Transporting animals in Great Britain - GOV.UK</a></u></b></p> <p><b><u>DEFRA Transporter Authorisation Type 1 or 2</u> - required for all businesses which move animals more than 65km as part of an economic activity. There are two types of Transporter Authorisation:</b></p> <p><b>“short journey” authorisation (Type 1) is required for journeys over 65km which last no more than 8 hours</b></p> <p><b>“long journey” authorisation (Type 2) is required for journeys that are over 8 hours duration</b></p> <p><b>Animal transport certificate – if you transport animals, you must have a written record which confirms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>origin and ownership</li><li>place of departure</li><li>date and time of departure</li><li>intended place of destination</li><li>expected duration of the intended journey</li></ul> <p><b>For local journeys up to 65km and under 8 hours only the Animal Transport Certificate is required</b></p> | <b>5.6</b> | <p>The animals must be transported and handled in a manner (including for example, in relation to housing, temperature, ventilation and frequency) that protects them from pain, suffering, injury and disease.</p> <p>All animals must be transported according to the regulations laid down in current legislation. <u><a href="#">The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006</a></u></p> |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b><u>Diet of pregnant bitches</u></b><br><br><b>It is important that the nutritional needs of your pregnant bitch is met. Tell us about the diet, amount of food and quantity.</b>  | <b>6.1</b>                                      | The licence holder must be able to show how they manage the diet of pregnant bitches and have an appropriate procedure in place for doing so.   |
| <b><u>Enrichment policy</u></b><br><br><b>Tell us how you will provide enrichment; will toys/enrichment items be available?</b>  | <b>7.1</b>                                      | <p>A facility must create a written programme that shows how they provide an enriching environment both inside and outside.</p> <p>The enrichment programme must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• grooming</li><li>• socialisation</li><li>• play</li></ul> <p>All dogs must receive appropriate toys and feeding enrichment unless a vet advises otherwise.</p>  |
| <b><u>Dealing with difficult dogs &amp; abnormal behaviour</u></b><br><br><b>You will need to monitor the behaviour of your dog(s), and any undesirable behaviours will require you to do something about it. Tell us what steps you would take if a dog displayed undesirable behaviour.</b>  | <b>8.1</b><br><br><b>Specific condition 5.3</b> | <p>A protocol must be in place for dealing with difficult dogs. This needs to include members of staff trained in dog handling and the use of appropriate equipment.</p> <p>Procedures must be in place for dealing with dogs that show abnormal behaviour. These procedures will include people competent in understanding and handling difficult dogs and the use of appropriate equipment. Professional advice must be sought as necessary and any advice applied.</p> |
| <b><u>Introduction of a new dog policy</u></b><br><br><b>How will you introduce a new bitch or stud to your existing group of dogs?</b>  | <b>8.2</b>                                      | A policy must be in place for monitoring the introduction of new dogs to other dogs in either domestic or kennel environments. This is to avoid stress to either the new or resident animals.   |
| <b><u>Standard operating procedures</u></b><br><br><b>Your written procedures are very much a guide to how your business operates and you should aim to provide at least a paragraph of text for each procedure.</b><br><br><b>For example, for your feeding procedures tell us what food will be fed, where is food normally stored food and how often will</b> | <b>9.1</b>                                      | <p>Written procedures must—</p> <p>(a) be in place and implemented covering—</p> <p>(i) feeding regimes, (ii) cleaning regimes, (iii) transportation (iv) the prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease, (v) monitoring and ensuring the health and welfare of all the animals, (vi) the death or escape of an animal (including the storage of dead animals);</p>   |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |                   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| <p><b>dogs be fed and where? You need to also include the weaning of puppies.</b></p> <p><b>Cleaning: tell us how you will ensure the premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition / what disinfectant is in use / how often?</b></p> <p><b>Transport; you could include vehicle details, how dogs will be restrained etc. Even if you will not be transporting dogs how will you take a dog to the vets in an emergency?</b></p> |                   | <p>(b) be in place covering the care of the animals following the suspension or revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency.</p>   |
| <p><b><u>Isolation plan</u></b></p> <p><b>Your plan should tell us how you will isolate an ill, injured or potentially infectious dog. This could be within a separate room inside your home or an isolation kennel or at your nominated veterinary practice (if they have isolation facilities – confirmation of this is required).</b></p>  | <p><b>9.3</b></p> | <p>Appropriate isolation, in self-contained facilities, must be available for the care of sick, injured or potentially infectious animals.</p> <p>There must be facilities to isolate of animals that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sick</li><li>• injured</li><li>• infectious</li><li>• reasonably expected to be carrying serious infectious diseases</li></ul> <p>In a kennel environment, there must be isolation facilities for dogs with infectious diseases.</p> <p>In a domestic environment, it must be demonstrated as to how a dog can be kept an appropriate distance from any litters of puppies or places where the litters go for 14 days.</p> <p>If the isolation facility is at another location, such as a local veterinary practice, the licence holder must be able to show evidence that the location is prepared to provide such facilities (for example, a letter from the practice).</p> <p>All staff must understand the procedures to prevent the spread of infectious disease between any infected animals and the other dogs.</p> |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b><u>Emergency plan</u></b></p> <p><b>Your emergency plan should be one to two sides of A4 and cover all the requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fire and evacuation (include fire prevention)</b></li><li>• <b>Loss of power / heating / other emergencies</b></li><li>• <b>Extremes of weather (hot / cold / abnormal weather conditions)</b></li><li>• <b>Plan for where dogs will be housed if home is uninhabitable</b></li><li>• <b>Emergency contact list (include fire / police)</b></li></ul> | <p><b>10.1 &amp; 10.2</b></p>        | <p>A written emergency plan, acceptable to the local authority, must be in place, known and available to all the people on the premises used for the licensable activity. It must be followed where necessary to ensure appropriate steps are taken to protect all the people and animals on the premises in case of fire or in case of breakdowns for essential heating, ventilation and aeration or filtration systems or other emergencies.</p> <p>An emergency drill programme must be in place with annual testing, or as determined by fire risk assessments. All new members of staff must have an emergency drill as part of their induction programme.</p> <p>There must be a plan to house the dogs should the premises become uninhabitable.</p> <p>There must be a written policy in place for dealing with emergencies, including extremes of hot and cold temperatures and abnormal weather conditions.</p> <p>There must be an effective contingency plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• essential heating</li><li>• ventilation</li><li>• aeration and filtration systems</li></ul> <p>The plan must include details of the emergency measures to be taken for the extrication of the animals should the premises become uninhabitable and an emergency telephone list that includes the fire service and police.</p> |
| <p><b><u>Puppy habituation and socialisation programme</u></b></p> <p><b>Puppy socialisation is the process of exposing a young puppy to people, other animals, environments and experiences</b></p>  | <p><b>Specific condition 4.1</b></p> | <p>The licence holder must implement and be able to demonstrate the use of a documented socialisation and habituation programme for the puppies.</p>  |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>in a positive and controlled manner. It helps the puppy to become comfortable and well-adjusted in different situations. The critical period for socialisation is between 4 – 12 weeks.</b></p> <p><b>You need to create a week-by-week socialisation plan for your puppies.</b></p>  |  | <p>The facility must have in place an adequate programme to socialise puppies and prepare them for life in the environment they will live in. Procedures must be available so that all staff know how to appropriately socialise puppies.</p>   |
| <p><b><u>Preventative health care plan</u></b></p> <p><b>The aim of your plan is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Minimise infection and disease</b></li><li>• <b>Promote health and welfare</b></li></ul> <p><b>The plan needs to be signed by your nominated vet and should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Annual veterinary health for all adult dogs</b></li><li>• <b>Vaccinations and parasitic treatments for all adult dogs</b></li><li>• <b>Veterinary health check of puppies prior to sale</b></li></ul> | <p><b>Specific condition</b><br/><b>6.12</b></p> | <p>A preventative healthcare plan agreed with the vet with whom the licence holder has registered under paragraph 9(8) of Schedule 2 must be implemented.</p> <p>The facility's appointed vet must be consulted and a written health plan provided. This must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• vaccination</li><li>• internal and external parasite control</li><li>• monitoring of weight</li><li>• body condition score</li></ul> |





**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

**Records to be kept by operator and will be checked during inspections:**

*All records must be available to view at inspections. Records must be retained for three years. Electronic records must be backed up.*

| Condition | Details of what to record   |
|-----------|---|
| 4.2       | The licence holder must keep a record of their staff's training.  |
| 4.3       | <p>The licence holder must provide and ensure the implementation of a written training policy for all staff.</p> <p>Staff participation can be shown by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• records of the courses they are taking</li><li>• records of written or online learning</li><li>• keeping up to date with any research or developments for specific breeds</li><li>• annual appraisal documents</li></ul> <p>Evidence of staff attendance or completion of the training must be provided.</p>   |
| 6.1       | The licence holder must keep a record of the type, quantity, frequency of food each dog receives.   |
| 6.2       | <p>Feed and (where appropriate) water intake must be monitored, and any problems recorded and addressed.</p> <p>Weekly records of weight and Body Condition Scoring (BCS) must be kept to ensure the health of puppies and to allow any issues to be tracked.</p>   |
| 7.3       | <p>The animals' behaviour and any changes of behaviour must be monitored. Advice must be sought, as appropriate and without delay, from a vet or, in the case of fish, any person competent to give such advice if adverse or unusual behaviour is detected.</p> <p>The behaviour of each dog must be monitored every day. Changes of behaviour must be recorded and the owner must be told if there are signs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• suffering</li><li>• stress</li><li>• fear</li><li>• aggression</li><li>• anxiety</li></ul> <p>Records of these assessments must be kept.</p> |
| 9.4       | <p>All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among animals and people of infectious diseases and parasites.</p> <p>An up-to-date veterinary vaccination record must be seen to show that dogs have current vaccinations against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• canine parvovirus</li><li>• canine distemper</li><li>• canine adenovirus</li><li>• infectious canine hepatitis</li></ul>  |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• leptospirosis</li><li>• other relevant diseases</li></ul>  |
| <b>9.7</b>  | Routine and documented treatment must be in place for internal and external parasites (adult dogs and puppies must be wormed and given flea and tick treatment as appropriate).  |
| <b>9.12</b> | <p>Only a vet may euthanise a dog.</p> <p>The licence holder must be able to demonstrate which veterinary practice is to be called. They must keep a record of all euthanasia and the identity of the qualified vet that carried it out.</p>   |
| <b>9.14</b> | <p>Any signs of pain, suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour must be recorded and the advice and further advice (if necessary) of a vet (or in the case of fish, of an appropriately competent person) must be sought and followed.</p> <p>Businesses must record all observations. Records and any checklists must be made available to inspectors.</p> <p>Presence or absence of faeces and urine must be monitored daily. Anything unusual must be recorded and acted upon.</p> |
| <b>6.7</b>  | <p>Breeding bitches must be adequately supervised during whelping and the licence holder must keep a record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the date and time of birth of each puppy</li><li>(b) each puppy's sex, colour and weight</li><li>(c) placentae passed</li><li>(d) the number of puppies in the litter</li><li>(e) any other significant events</li></ul>   |
| <b>6.8</b>  | <p>The licence holder must keep a record of each puppy sale including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the microchip number of the puppy</li><li>(b) the date of the sale</li><li>(c) the age of the puppy on that date</li></ul>  |
| <b>6.9</b>  | <p>The licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) its name</li><li>(b) its sex</li><li>(c) its microchip and database details</li></ul>  |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <p>(d) its date of birth</p> <p>(e) the postal address where it normally resides</p> <p>(f) its breed or type</p> <p>(g) its description</p> <p>(h) date or dates of any matings, whether or not successful</p> <p>(i) details of its biological mother and biological father</p> <p>(j) details of any veterinary treatment it has received</p> <p>(k) the date and cause of its death (where applicable)</p> |
| <b>6.10</b> | <p>In addition to the matters mentioned in sub-paragraph (6.7), the licence holder must keep a record of the following in relation to each breeding bitch:</p> <p>(a) the number of matings</p> <p>(b) its age at the time of each mating</p> <p>(c) the number of its litters</p> <p>(d) the date or dates on which it has given birth</p> <p>(e) the number of caesarean sections it has had (if any)</p>    |
| <b>6.11</b> | <p>Breeders have a responsibility to care for their animals and must be able to document how puppies that do not sell, or bitches and dogs that are no longer able to breed, are cared for or rehomed.</p>   |
| <b>6.13</b> | <p>The licence holder must keep a record of any preventive or curative healthcare (or both) given to each dog.</p>   |

**Consent (if any dogs used for breeding purposes are not owned by the operant)**

| <b>Condition Number</b> | <b>Details of consent</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>7.2</b>              | <p>For species whose welfare depends partly on exercise, opportunities to exercise which benefit the animals' physical and mental health must be provided, unless advice from a vet suggests otherwise.</p> <p>The owner must consent to their dog being walked with others.</p> |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

**Veterinary (which we need to see evidence of during the inspection)**

| <b>Condition</b> | <b>Details</b>   |
|------------------|--|
| <b>9.3</b>       | Appropriate isolation, in separate self-contained facilities, must be available for the care of sick, injured or potentially infectious animals. If the isolation facility is at another location, such as a local veterinary practice, the licence holder must be able to show evidence that this is ready to use (e.g. A letter/email from the practice)   |
| <b>9.8</b>       | The licence holder must register with a vet with an appropriate level of experience in the health and welfare requirements of any animals specified in the licence and the contact details of that vet must be readily available to all staff on the premises used for the licensable activity.  |
| <b>6.12</b>      | <p>A preventative healthcare plan agreed with the vet with whom the license holder has registered with whom the licence holder has registered under paragraph 9(8) of Schedule 2 must be implemented.</p> <p>The facility's appointed vet must be consulted and a written health plan provided.</p> <p>This must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• vaccination</li><li>• internal and external parasite control</li><li>• monitoring of weight</li><li>• body condition score</li></ul> |



# The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

## Dog breeding

### Pre-inspection document

#### Star ratings:

As part of the Regulations each premises will receive a star rating following their formal inspection. To achieve the best star rating possible each premises will need to have covered all the minimum conditions and have all records, policies and procedures in place.

New businesses are automatically classed as high risk as there is no compliance history. New businesses are also not permitted to have any minor failings, therefore if any of the minimum conditions aren't met then a licence will not be issued.

Existing businesses may be categorised as low risk at the renewal inspection.

| Scoring Matrix |             | Welfare Standards  |  |  |
|----------------|-------------|--|--|--|
|                |             | Minor Failings<br>(existing business that are failing to meet minimum standards) | Minimum Standards<br>(as laid down in the schedules and guidance)              | Higher Standards<br>(as laid down in the guidance)                             |
| Risk           | Low Risk    | <b>1 Star</b><br>1yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period   | <b>3 Star</b><br>2yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period | <b>5 Star</b><br>3yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 36 month period |
|                | Higher Risk | <b>1 Star</b><br>1yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period   | <b>2 Star</b><br>1yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period | <b>4 Star</b><br>2yr licence<br>Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period |

The local authority is also required to carry out one unannounced mid-licence inspection during the term of the licence. The intention of the mid-licence inspections is to confirm ongoing compliance with the animal welfare requirements of the regulations.

Higher standards have been agreed for each licensable animal activity. It is optional to meet these. Meeting the higher standards is the only way to gain a 4- or 5-star rating.

If you would like to qualify for the higher standards, your business must meet:

- All the minimum conditions
- 100% of the higher standards classified as required
- 50% (or more) of the higher standards classified as optional



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

**Higher standards for dog breeding**

| <b>Higher standards (Required)</b>  |
|---|
| One staff member should not be responsible for more than 10 adult dogs.   |
| All individual dogs must be checked at least once at an appropriate interval during the out of hours period (6pm to 8am) by CCTV or in person. When there are litters, they must be checked in person.  |
| The licence holder must keep a record of all checks made during both normal hours and out of hours, including the date and time of each check.  |
| The design and layout of the facility must give the dogs a choice of areas.   |
| Dogs must be fed twice a day. Each dog must have a feeding plan that balances feeding with food enrichment such as use of scatter feeders. Inspector must see the enrichment tools and plan for each dog.   |
| A minimum of a week's supply of the puppies' current diet must be included when they go to their new home.  |
| There must be a clear plan setting out 2 forms of exercise per dog each working day for a minimum of 20 minutes each. There must be an alternative form of enrichment planned for dogs which cannot be exercised for veterinary reasons.  |
| The breeder will ensure all breeding stock or puppies are recorded in the UK with a registration organisation which must make available record of parent or lineage including coefficient of inbreeding and record of health screening test results.  |
| All bitches must be at least 18 months old before they are used for mating.   |
| A bitch must not be mated if she is 8 years of age or older.  |
| A bitch must not give birth to more than four litters of puppies in total.  |
| A bitch must not be bred from if they have had one caesarean.   |
| Licence holders must test all breeding stock for hereditary disease using the accepted and scientifically validated health screening schemes relevant to their breed or type. They must carefully evaluate all test results and follow any breeding advice issued under each scheme prior to breeding.  |
| No mating must take place if the test results indicate that it is likely to produce health or welfare problems in the offspring or affect negatively the relevant breeding strategy (or both).  |
| Surgery to correct exaggerated conformation must be reported to the registration organisation.  |
| A vet must check each puppy before sale. Proof of the check must be held and available to the puppy buyer.  |
| A puppy contract must be used, which must include undertakings and warranties around health, vaccinations and socialisation carried out by the seller prior to sale, and also make clear the responsibilities of the buyer relative to the dog. This must then give both parties confidence that a transaction has taken place in good faith. |
| <b>Higher Standards (Optional) 50% required</b>   |
| A competent person must be on site at all times.  |
| Each business must have a full-time, permanent member of staff with an appropriate Ofqual regulated Level 3 qualification.  |
| Businesses must appoint a qualified behaviour expert and record all discussions that are had.   |
| Businesses must have a noise management plan in place that's proven to reduce noise for the dogs. Measures can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical barriers</li> </ul>   |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound absorbing materials</li><li>• Positive reinforcement training to keep barking down</li></ul> Kennel design to prevent noise generation with demonstration of effectiveness  |
| The breeder must give all details of the sire and bitch to the buyer including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date of birth</li><li>• Microchip number</li><li>• Registration body (if applicable)</li><li>• Details of any inherited diseases that the breed is prone to</li></ul> Any screening tests |
| The licence holder must make sure that the microchipping database is amended with the puppy buyer's details.  |
| No bitch must be intentionally mated when the Coefficient of Inbreeding (Col) of the puppies would exceed the breed average or 12.5% (if no breed average exists as measured from a minimum 5 generation pedigree).   |
| Ventilation must be a managed fixed or portable air system to maintain temperatures in all weathers. This can be an air conditioning unit or removable fans installed safely away from animals.   |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

**Final checklist before your inspection**

Once you apply for a licence you are telling the Council that you are ready to start operating a business as a dog breeder. You are therefore saying that your premises are suitable and compliant with the legislation and statutory guidance and that you have all the necessary paperwork in place. If you do not have the necessary paperwork in place then your application may be refused and you will need to re-apply when you are ready.

This final checklist is not an exhaustive list of everything within the guidance but has been created to help you prepare and covers the minimum requirements. Please ensure you have all the following in place and ready to check during the inspection:

| Summary  | What you need to have available   | ✓ |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Staff training</b><br>4.2 & 4.3   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training certificates including an up-to-date canine first aid training certificate for licence holder and any staff employed to care for the dogs</li><li>• Evidence of continuous professional development (CPD log) for licence holder and all staff</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Environment</b><br>5.1, 5.2, 2.1,<br>2.2, 2.3, 2.4,<br>2.5, 2.6, 2.8,<br>2.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If dogs have access to mesh, the thickness of the wire must be a minimum of 2mm thick (British Standard 14 gauge welded mesh). The square mesh size must not exceed 5cm x 5cm</li><li>• Dogs kept in a kennel environment: Doors must open inwards and each unit must have a minimum headroom height of 2 meters. The units must have an adjoining run or secure outside space. The size of the unit must meet the minimum size requirement which is dependent on the size and number of dogs. Bitches with litters must be provided with double the space allowance.</li><li>• Dogs kept in a home environment: At least two secure physical barriers between any dog and any exit. Dogs must have free access to more than one room.</li><li>• The area where dogs sleep should be kept above 10°C and below a maximum of 26°C</li><li>• Heaters and electrical equipment must not be placed where they could burn, electrocute or give an electric shock to a dog or human.</li><li>• Each dog must have access to a sleeping area</li></ul> |   |
| <b>Transport</b><br>5.6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suitable methods of restraint for dogs during transport. This could be a dog crate, harness or a dog guard.</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Food storage &amp; feeding</b><br>6.1, 6.3, 6.4,<br>6.5                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fridge available for wet food storage</li><li>• Dry food must be stored in a cool and dry place and protected from vermin (such as within containers with lids)</li><li>• Feed and drinking receptacles must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected, or disposable.</li></ul>  |   |
| <b>Hygiene</b><br>6.6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot water and soap must be available</li></ul>  |   |





**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Resources</b><br>5.8   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If multiple dogs are boarding multiple resources (in terms of beds, water bowls, toys) must be available to them</li></ul>  |  |
| <b>Written policies and procedures</b><br>4.3, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.3, 10.1, 10.2, 4.1, 5.3, 6.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All the procedures listed on pages 3 - 8 need to be available to view</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Dogs in isolation</b><br>9.3   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protective clothing and footwear (latex gloves, coveralls) must be available.</li><li>• Separate food and water bowls, bedding and cleaning equipment must be available for dogs in isolation.</li><li>• There must be facilities available to isolate animals that are sick / suspected of carrying an infectious disease<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In a kennel environment, there must be isolation facilities for dogs with infectious diseases.</li><li>- In a domestic environment, it must be demonstrated as to how a dog can be kept an appropriate distance from any litters of puppies or places where the litters go for 14 days.</li><li>- If the isolation facility is at another location, such as a local veterinary practice, the licence holder must be able to show evidence that the location is prepared to provide such facilities (for example, a letter from the practice).</li></ul></li></ul> |  |
| <b>Safety</b><br>8.1  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A range of muzzles of varying sizes and a suitable dog catching device must be kept on site</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Vaccinations</b><br>9.4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An up-to-date veterinary vaccination record must be seen to show that all adult dogs have current vaccinations against:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- canine parvovirus</li><li>- canine distemper</li><li>- canine adenovirus</li><li>- infectious canine hepatitis</li><li>- leptospirosis</li></ul></li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Vet's details displayed</b><br>9.8   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You must register with a veterinary practice that is within a reasonable travel distance from the premises. The details must be displayed.</li></ul>  |  |
| <b>Medication</b><br>9.9  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fridge available for medication required to be kept at low temperatures</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Disinfectant</b><br>9.11   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This must be effective against bacteria and viruses – we recommend using a product which is effective against canine parvovirus</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Emergencies</b><br>10.1  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A fire extinguisher (ensure this it is not expired) or fire blanket</li><li>• At least one working smoke detector</li><li>• A carbon monoxide detector</li><li>• Canine first aid kit</li></ul>   |  |



**The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**  
**Dog breeding**  
**Pre-inspection document**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Health testing</b><br>6.5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Records of health testing screening results</li></ul>   |  |
|   | <b>For renewals</b>   |  |
| <b>Licence display</b><br>1.1 & 1.2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your licence must be clearly and prominently displayed</li><li>Name of licence holder and licence number must be clearly stated on your website / social media (if you have one in use)</li></ul> |  |
| <b>Records</b><br>4.2, 4.3, 6.1,<br>6.2, 7.3, 9.4,<br>9.7, 9.12,<br>9.14, 6.7, 6.8,<br>6.9, 6.10,<br>6.11, 6.13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All your records (listed on pages 9 - 12) must be available to view during the inspection.</li></ul>  |  |

NOTE: IF ANY MINOR FAILINGS ARE IDENTIFIED DURING YOUR INSPECTION, YOU **MAY** BE GIVEN A 2 WEEK PERIOD TO PRODUCE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION BEFORE YOUR REPORT IS SENT TO YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY.  
IF THESE MINOR FAILINGS ARE NOT ADDRESSED DURING THIS 2 WEEK PERIOD, THEN THIS WILL RESULT IN A 1 STAR 1 YEAR LICENCE BEING ISSUED IF YOU ARE AN EXISTING BUSINESS OR THE LICENCE BEING REFUSED IF YOU ARE A NEW BUSINESS.