

GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT

1. Registration

1.1 Any premises containing six or more female dogs over 6 months of age and capable of breeding, shall be deemed to be a Dog Breeding Establishment.

1.2 The operator of a Dog Breeding Establishment shall apply to the local authority within which it is situated for registration as a Dog Breeding Establishment. For existing Dog Breeding Establishments, an application for registration must be submitted within 6 months of the commencement of the Act.

1.3 The application shall be completed without delay and returned to the local authority and, unless the premises is fee exempted as described by section 9 (18) of the Act, it shall be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee. Any false or misleading information will invalidate the application and will be an offence under the Act.

1.4 In processing the application the local authority may visit the premises and/or may request further information.

1.5 If registration is granted the applicant will be notified within 14 days. A registration certificate will be issued to the applicant who will cause this certificate to be displayed 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 shall 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.

1.6 Where the local authority proposes to either attach conditions or refuse the application it shall notify the applicant in writing and the applicant may make representations to the local authority within 14 days after receiving this notification.

1.7 The local authority shall notify the applicant of its decision within 14 days of making that decision. Appeals against a refusal or to 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. Staff

- 2.1 Staff must comply with dog welfare legislation and must have experience in handling dogs. Formal training in animal care is encouraged.
- 2.2 Staff should be competent and be aware of their responsibilities.
- 2.3 An adequate number of staff shall be available, appropriate to the size of the establishment and the number of dogs being kept

3. Animal Care

- 3.1 Grooming must be to at least a minimum standard of care required for that breed.
Coats should not be left unduly dirty, tangled or unkempt.
- 3.2 Dogs should be protected from distress or injury.
- 3.3 Dogs should be protected from excessive or rough handling.
- 3.4 Dogs should be fed at least twice daily, and more frequently as required.
- 3.5 Clean water must be available to all dogs at all times.
- 3.5 Bedding, where provided, should be appropriate and cleaned at suitable intervals
- 3.6 To ensure bio-security all reasonable measures should be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease.
- 3.7 A suitable treatment and prevention programme to control endoparasites (e.g. Roundworms, tapeworms) and ectoparasites (e.g. fleas, lice) should be in place
- 3.8 A suitable vaccination programme, as advised by a veterinary practitioner, should be in place.
- 3.9 All dogs should be exercised appropriately. Such exercise regimes will facilitate dogs to urinate and defecate, stretch limbs, allow contact with humans and dogs if appropriate, and allow dogs to be checked for signs of ill health

4. Hygiene

4.1 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.

4.2 Faeces should be removed at least once daily.

4.3 Kennels and associated housing and exercise areas should be cleaned daily and disinfected at least once each weekly and more frequently as appropriate, eg before new dogs or puppies are introduced or after an outbreak of infectious disease.

4.4 After cleaning/disinfection, housing or kennels must be free of surface water.

4.5 Cleaning and disinfection agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions in respect of the correct use, dilution and contact time for the product.

4.6 A suitable vermin control programme should be in place

4.7 All waste shall be collected and stored in suitable, closed, lidded, leak proof containers held in a dedicated waste storage area. Waste removal or storage shall not be a source of nuisance or public health risk.

5 Health Checks

5.1 Each dog should be checked at least once a day to monitor its health and well-being, and more frequently as appropriate, as in whelping bitches.

5.2 The person checking the dogs should observe their general health, for instance checking that they are eating, drinking, defecating, urinating and are of normal appearance.

5.3 Any change in the health status of any dog should be reported promptly to the person in charge. Prompt veterinary attention should be obtained as appropriate.

5.3 Dogs known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease should not be admitted to the premises or else placed in suitable isolation.

6 Veterinary Care

6.1 The operator of the premises must engage the professional services of a veterinary practitioner in order to ensure the health and well-being of all dogs in the Dog Breeding Establishment.

6.2 Prompt veterinary attention must be obtained for any dog showing signs of disease/ill-health.

6.3 Veterinary attention must be obtained immediately in cases of suspected exotic diseases such as Rabies.

7 Records and Identification of Dogs

7.1 A Dog Breeding Establishment operator shall establish and maintain a system to record the details of births, deaths, sale, movement or other event relating to dogs kept within the establishment. These records must include all microchip details, dates of whelping of each bitch, number of pups in each litter including the number live and dead pups, and details of sale or disposal. The premises shall also have a separate record of all bitches, over 6 months of age and capable of breeding.

7.2 For a period of 12 months after this Act comes into force, all dogs over 12 weeks of age on the premises must be micro-chipped and the details recorded on a suitable database.

7.3 After this 12 month period, all dogs over 8 weeks of age on the premises must be micro-chipped and all dogs must be micro-chipped prior to being moved out of the premises.

7.4 Records of all micro-chipped dogs must be recorded in a register maintained at the Dog Breeding Establishment and this register shall be available for inspection by an authorised officer.

7.5 The requirement to microchip shall not apply to a dog breeding establishment that is a registered hunt or game club member and the dogs concerned are registered in a register maintained by the Hunting Association of Ireland, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conversation of the European Union or the Irish Hunt Clubs Association. The register held by these clubs and/or evidence of registration, which shall be available for inspection by an authorised officer, shall contain the following details;

- A reproduction of the mark implanted on the skin or coat of the dog
- The name and address of the dog owner
- The address of the Dog Breeding Establishment where the dog is kept
- The date of birth and sex of the dog
- The dog's colouring and any particular distinguishing marks

7.6 The operator of a dog breeding establishment shall notify, in writing, both the local authority and the person charged with maintaining the database of the particulars of any sale or transfer of a dog kept at the establishment.

8 Inspection of Dog Breeding Establishment by an Authorised Officer

8.1 A person appointed by a local authority as an authorised officer under this Act shall be allowed to inspect a dog breeding establishment at all reasonable times.

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

8.3 In cases of significant deviation from the standards outlined in the Act an authorised officer 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 need to be completed. An Improvement Notice may be appealed in the District Court within 7 days of service.

8.4 In cases where the authorised officer is of the opinion that a serious and immediate threat exists to public health or animal welfare 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 shall 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 shall be affixed to the premises by the local authority who shall also cause this notice to be published. This notice may be appealed in the District Court within 7 days of service.