Hart District Councils – Conditions for Dog Breeding Establishments

July 2017


The Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 requires anyone breeding dogs for commercial purposes to be licensed, whether they are at commercial or domestic premises. Other legislation to be considered when licensing and dog breeding establishment are, the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order England 2006.

Anybody breeding dogs for commercial gain, MUST hold a local authority licence. Dog Breeding licences help to ensure dogs are properly looked after, by setting standards for the premises and for the level of care given. In particular, it ensures that breeding bitches are properly treated, and that the puppies are well looked after. We regularly inspect these premises for safety, and a vet accompanies where appropriate us to ensure that animal welfare standards are met.

The Definition of a Breeding Establishment

The 1999 Act amends the definition of a breeding establishment in the 1973 Act. A breeding establishment is defined as any premises where the business of breeding dogs for sale is carried out. The reference to five litters per establishment per year within the legislation should not be considered a minimum threshold for requiring a licence. To be clear, an establishment breeding less than five litters would require a licence, where the dogs are bred for sale as a business. DEFRA advise that it will be a matter for local authorities and their legal advisers to decide whether or not a particular establishment is required to be licensed. In summary, a person is presumed to be carrying out the business of breeding dogs for sale where, they breed and sell more than two litters in a 12 month period, or during any 12 month period, five or more litters are born to his/her bitches which are:

(a) kept by him at any premises during any period of 12 months;
(b) kept by any relative of his at those premises;
(c) kept by him elsewhere; and
(d) kept by any person under a breeding arrangement with him.

This presumptive test will not apply if a breeder is able to prove that none of the puppies born to bitches at their premises or under a breeding arrangement was in fact sold during the 12 month period.

Kennel – is the physical structure and area that consists of an indoor sleeping area and outdoor run.

Run – A run is defined as an area attached to and with direct and permanent access from a kennel.

Outdoor exercise area – a separate area from the kennel itself where dogs may, exercise, play and interact with other dogs and people
**Crate** – a safe, secure area where a dog can go into for short periods of time. Uses include security, transportation or following veterinary advice. NB: this should only be a temporary enclosure for a dog and only where the dog is habituated to it.

**The Applicant's Right of Appeal against Refusal**

Any person aggrieved by the refusal of a Local Authority to grant such a licence, or by any condition subject to which a licence is proposed to be granted, may appeal to Basingstoke Magistrates court; and the court may on such an appeal give such directions with respect to the issue of a licence or, as the case may be, with respect to the conditions subject to which a licence is to be granted as it think proper.

Before being granted a licence the applicant must be able to demonstrate they can comply with the Hart District Councils conditions below;

- **1- Accommodation General Condition** accommodation provided for bitches and puppies must be suitable as regards to its construction, size of quarters, exercising and whelping facilities, temperature, ventilation and the ability to be keep it clean and designed to prevent infection. Accommodation must be suitable for the breed housed. For accommodation requirements obtain the CIEH Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Breeding Establishments January 2014.

  - **Dogs kept in domestic premises** must have free access to more than one room, every dog must be provided with continual access to a comfortable dry, draught-free, clean and quiet place to rest.

  - **1-a Dog crates, Condition** where used (not acceptable as permanent housing) must be of sufficient size to allow each dog to be able to sit and stand at full height, step forward, turn around, stretch and lie down in a natural position and wag its tail without touching the sides of the crate and to lie down without touching another individual. Guidance - Bitches with litters should be provided with further space.

  - **1-b Kennel Construction Conditions** Where kennels are provided, within converted outbuildings, consideration must be given to cleaning, wildlife access, vermin control, natural lighting and ventilation.

Guidance- In new constructions, wood should not be used on exposed surfaces of walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors in the dog kennelling area. Existing buildings may be more expensive to adapt and less efficient to operate than new build kennels. Proposed building works may require approval from the building control department and/or planning department. Where wood has been used in an existing construction it must be smooth and treated to render it impervious. The purpose of avoiding wood on surface structures of kennel interiors is because of the possibility of damage to the material caused by scratching or chewing by dogs. Worn and splintered material is difficult to clean, harbours bacteria, viruses and so on, and allows the splinters to penetrate the animal’s skin.

- **1-c Condition** All internal surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, ceilings, partitions, doors and door frames must be durable, smooth and impervious, easily cleaned and disinfected. Kennels must be free from hazards and there must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury.

Sleeping areas of kennels must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature. The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured.
Guidance - All exterior wood should be properly treated against wood rot, e.g. tanalised. Only non-toxic products should be used.

2 Security Condition The construction must be such that the security of the dog is ensured. Fencing material must be safe and secure.

Guidance - Where galvanised welded mesh is used for fencing and cages or kennels, the wire diameter should not be less than 2mm (14 standard wire gauge) excluding any covering and the mesh size should not exceed 5cm (2in) fencing material must be safe and secure.

3 Walls and Partitions Condition

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

Guidance - Where concrete or other building blocks or bricks are used, they should be sealed to be smooth and impervious, and resealed as necessary. Junctions between vertical and horizontal sections should be coved. If impractical in existing premises, all joints should be sealed. It is suggested that partition walls between kennels and individual exercise areas should be of solid construction and of sufficient height to prevent direct nose-to-nose contact between dogs. Partition construction may be solid from floor to ceiling, but this should not be to the detriment of other welfare considerations such as the dog’s outlook, lighting, ventilation. Suitable materials for the construction of partition walls include properly surfaced impervious brick/block constructions, moulded plastic, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and pre-formed plastic surfaced board. Constructing a solid partition provides a physical barrier to infection.

4 1-a Floors Condition

Flooring must be non-slip, urine-resistant material, prevents the pooling of liquids. Slatted or wire mesh floors must not be used.

Guidance - It is recommended that new kennels should incorporate a damp proof membrane. All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent pooling of liquids.

1-b Condition

Floors of all buildings, individual exercise areas and kennels must be of smooth, impervious materials, capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected while providing sufficient grip for the animal to walk or run without sustaining injury.

Guidance - 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. Communal exercise areas should also be suitably drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

5 Ceilings Condition

Ceilings must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected.
6 Doors Condition

Kennel doors must resist impact and scratching and must be capable of being effectively secured.

Guidance - where metal bars and frames are used, they should be of suitable gauge with spacing adequate to prevent dogs and puppies escaping or becoming entrapped. Where metal edging is used, this should not present a risk of injury to the dog. Door openings should be constructed such that the passage of water/waste is not impeded, or allowed to accumulate due to inaccessibility. When designing kennel doors, regard should be had to the health and safety of the person working in the kennel, for example, large dogs may push against the door which may give rise to difficulties in securing the door and even to accidents to the person on the opposite side of the door when it opens outwards. A door which opens inwards may also reduce the possibility of escape.

7 Windows Condition

Windows must not pose a security risk, risk of injury and must be escape proof.

Guidance - It is recommended that welded mesh or reinforced glass, polycarbonate or other impact resistant material is used.

8 Drainage Condition

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

Guidance - Drainage channels should be provided near to the kennel edge so that urine cannot pass over walk areas in corridors and communal access areas. A separate drainage channel may be needed in the exercise area. Advice concerning waste water outlets should be sought from the Environment Agency and/or, the local authority.

9 1-a Lighting Condition

During daylight hours light must be provided to exercise and sleeping areas so that all parts are clearly visible.

Guidance - Where practicable this should be natural light.

1-b Condition

Lighting must be of sufficient standard to enable efficient working both during and after daylight hours. Supplementary lighting, adequate to allow inspection, must be provided throughout the establishment.

Guidance - It is recommended that breeding establishments should have a low level night light for use after daylight hours.

10 Ventilation Condition

Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the sleeping area.
Guidance - A balance should be struck between providing adequate ventilation while avoiding unnecessary loss of heat. Checks need to be made during the day and night to allow for temperature fluctuations. Ventilation is important in disease control. It provides protection against accumulation of odour and prevents excessive humidity. High humidity increases the risk of infectious bronchitis ('Kennel Cough).

11 1-a Kennel Design (Size, layout and exercise facilities) Condition

Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas. Kennels must be provided with an adequate size of sleeping area, such that dogs can stand, turn around, stretch and lie down flat in a natural position, with sufficient space for the door to open fully.

Guidance - Special consideration should be given to whelping bitches and bitches in season. Kennels should cater for the maximum number of puppies having regard to the size of the breed and litter size

When constructing kennels, an appropriate design and correct materials should be used to overcome problems of noise emission and to ensure energy conservation. This is in order to minimise discomfort to the dog and risk of nuisance to persons in the vicinity of the site. All parts of the kennel should be easily accessible to undertake thorough cleaning by staff.

11 1b-Condition

Adequate exercise areas must be provided for all kennels. How much space will depend upon the size of the dog as well as the circumstances of each breeding establishment. Dogs must be able to walk, turn around easily, wag their tails without touching the kennel sides, and lie down without touching another dog.

Kennels and runs must open onto secure corridors or other secure areas so that dogs are not able to escape from the premises. Exercise areas must not be used as sleeping areas. Outdoor areas where animals exercise and interact cannot have strict temperature regulation. Dogs must not be restricted to such areas when climatic conditions may cause them distress. They must have constant access to fresh clean water, shade and shelter so they can avoid rain, wind, snow, ice or direct sunlight, etc. In adverse weather conditions, the responsible person must decide whether or not dogs are given free access to their run. The run must be at least partially roofed to provide the dog with sufficient protection against all weathers.

Guidance - Depending upon the breed, consideration should be given to covering the whole of the runs.

12 Beds and Bedding Condition

The bed must have clean bedding and be large enough for each dog to lie flat on their side. Beds must be suitable to allow dogs to be comfortable, i.e. of durable construction, be sited away from and offer protection from draughts and be of a suitable size for the size and type of dogs kept. Bedding must be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected.
Guidance - All bedding material in use should be clean, non-irritant, parasite free and dry. Chewing or destruction of bedding should not result in restricted access, rather alternative materials should be tried.

13 - Number of Dogs Permitted Condition

The maximum number of dogs to be kept at any one time is to be determined by the Local Authority. The number of dogs permitted must relate to the number and size of the kennels or space available and should be stipulated clearly on the front sheet of the licence. The decision regarding the number of dogs permitted to be kept must take into account the maximum likely litter size as well as the effectiveness of site management.

Guidance - This figure should include any dogs kept on the breeders’ premises which are not being used for breeding and must not be exceeded.

14 - Temperature in Accommodation 1-a Condition

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

Guidance - There should be some part of the sleeping area where the dog is able to enjoy a temperature of between 10°C -26°C. Temperature should be relevant to the type and breed of dog. If necessary, heating and/or automatic cooling/ventilation should be used to achieve this. The materials used on the kennel exterior should offer adequate protection against temperature variations throughout the year. The difficulty of maintaining the ideal temperature is acknowledged; however, these are realistic temperatures and should not be exceeded in normal circumstances.

1-b Condition

Devices used for heating and cooling must be safe and free from risk of burning or electrocution. Manufacturer’s instructions must be followed. Open flame appliances must not be used.

Guidance - There should be the ability to record temperatures at dog level. There will be periods in the year where ambient external temperatures will cause temperatures to fluctuate above or below the recommended levels. If the higher temperature level is exceeded due to structural shortcomings rather than normal ambient temperature, then artificial means of counteracting this high temperature should be introduced. Where temperatures fall below the recommended level, the use of individual heating lamps for dogs may prove adequate. In some circumstances additional background heating will also be required. Failure to give adequate attention to construction and insulation may cause dogs to suffer and increase running costs. Geographical orientation will affect temperature, e.g. north facing openings make it difficult to maintain adequate heating levels. Correct orientation of the kennel will allow maximum use of natural light.

15 - Cleanliness Condition 1-a

All kennels, corridors, common areas, kitchens and so on must be kept clean and free from accumulations of dirt and dust so that disease control is maintained. An agreed SOP must be followed. Each occupied kennel must be cleaned daily at a minimum.

Guidance - Regular disinfection should be demonstrated by keeping records of disinfecting regimes.
1-b Condition

All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas used by the dogs as necessary. All sleeping areas and bedding must be kept clean and dry. Facilities must be provided for the proper reception, storage and disposal of waste.

Guidance - Advice should be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority concerning removal of waste such as dog faeces, soiled material and infectious material.

16- Pests Condition

Suitable pest control measures must be in place.

Guidance - Pests should be adequately dealt with by an accredited pest control company.

17- Foul Water Condition

Foul waste water must be disposed of by discharge to the appropriate drainage system.
Guidance - There is a range of cleaning regimes. The regime, for which all establishments should have an SOP, should include:

1. Removal of solids
2. Washing
3. Disinfection
4. Drying

The physical collection of faeces is usual (‘poop scoop’ or shovel and bucket). The use of detergent and water will ‘wash down’. Pressure hoses or steam cleaning will wash down more effectively. Bacteria, viruses, fungi need to be controlled by the sanitising process. Because disinfectant is washed away after a short period of time, the long term activity of chemicals used to control viruses, bacteria and fungi should be considered.

Great care should be taken when using any chemicals and manufacturer’s instructions must always be followed, including the correct dilution ratio. Chemicals and materials must be stored correctly. The following link includes DEFRA’s approved disinfectant list for statutory use on disease control. http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/Default.

Staff should be trained in good kennel hygiene. Complete disinfection of kennel and equipment should be carried out between occupancies.

18- 1a Whelping Facilities Condition

There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each whelping bitch in which to whelp. There must be direct access to the whelping area for kennel personnel without disturbing the general kennel population. Once separated there must be increased social contact with humans.
Guidance - Bitches should be moved to their whelping accommodation 60 days after mating or sooner if signs of imminent whelping are shown.

18-1b Condition

Each whelping pen must be constructed of easily cleanable impervious materials. The area must be cleaned regularly and a record kept of cleaning procedures. The whelping pen must have a divider to allow the bitch to access an area where she cannot be reached by the puppies. There must be natural daylight. There must be a whelping bed raised off the floor and with sides high enough to prevent new born puppies from falling out. The bed must contain sufficient bedding to ensure a soft surface for the bitch and to enable the absorption of mess resulting from whelping. The bed must be constructed of easily cleanable impervious material and must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between litters.

Guidance - Where a bitch is whelped in a domestic environment it is acceptable for a temporary disposable covering to be used. Varnishing wood will make it impervious.

18-1c Condition

The whelping area must be maintained at an appropriate temperature. The bitch must be able to move away from heat spots.

Guidance - There should be an area maintained between 26-28 degrees Celsius. This can be achieved with a local heat source such as a heat lamp. Puppies under four weeks of age should be kept at a temperature between 26°C (79°F) to 28°C (82°F) with provision for the bitch to move to a cooler area.

18-1d Condition

Bitches must be adequately supervised during whelping and records kept of:

- time of birth of each puppy
- puppies’ sex, colour and weight
- placentae passed
- any other significant events.

Bitches must be allowed a minimum of four periods a day for toileting and exercise away from their puppies.

18-1e Bitches in Season

Guidance - Consideration should be given to separating bitches in season and they should not be kept with entire male dogs.

19. Management General Condition

Dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised, and visited at suitable intervals; BDA 1973 S.1(4)(b).
The 1999 Act strengthens the requirements for dogs to be visited at suitable intervals. The Animal Welfare Act (2006) sets out the Duty of Care which must be met by the person responsible.

20. Supervision Condition

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

Guidance - Any person with responsibility for supervision should be over the age of 16. Where staff are employed, a written training policy must be provided. Training of staff, whether permanent or temporary, should be demonstrated (via appropriate training records) to have been carried out on all aspects of the care of all ages of dogs and updated regularly. Staff should be adequately trained in the work they are expected to carry out.

21. 1-a Numbers of staff

**Condition:** Numbers of staff must be appropriate for the breed/type and number of dogs being bred. Numbers must be sufficient to provide the level of care set out in these model conditions.

21 1-b Condition

Sufficient adequately trained staff must be available every day to carry out all the interactions and procedures with dogs specified in this document.

21 1-c Condition

Establishing the number of staff required will require an assessment of the conditions at the establishment. As a guideline, it may be considered that a full time attendant may care for up to 20 dogs. In domestic environments, it is advisable for other members of the household, or dog sitters to be provided with guidance notes in regard to general day to day care – feeding, grooming, cleaning, exercise and compatibility issues – especially where several dogs, or breeds of dogs, are involved.

21 1-d Condition

Dogs must not be left alone for long periods and must be checked at the start and end of every working day and regularly by a member of staff at least every four hours during the day.

22 1-a Environmental Enrichment and Exercise Condition

Dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment.

Guidance - Regularly changed toys and activity feeders are ideal enrichment. There should 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 should be provided.

22 1-b Condition
Breeding establishments are the permanent home for some dogs and therefore provision of exercise facilities must be adequate for long term dogs. Dogs must not be kept permanently confined. Arrangements must be made for the dogs to be exercised at least twice a day.

23 Handling and habituation Condition

Breeding dogs must be handled and examined regularly to identify changes in health, weight and behaviour and to ensure dogs are familiar with being handled. This is particularly important for bitches, as fear of people will influence development of puppy behaviour.

24 Food and Water Supplies Condition

All dogs must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed at least daily. Dogs must be fed a diet appropriate to their age, breed, activity level and stage in the breeding cycle. Dogs must be fed individually with separate bowls. Food must be stored in vermin-proof containers and fresh food must be refrigerated.

The dog’s weight should be monitored and recorded at least quarterly and diets adjusted where necessary, unless otherwise advised by a veterinary surgeon or a significant change in the dog’s weight/body condition is noticed.

24 Condition

Eating and drinking vessels must be capable of being easily cleansed and disinfected to prevent cross contamination. They must be maintained in a clean condition and cleaned and disinfected or disposed of after each meal.

24 Condition

Dogs must be fed sufficiently well to maintain health.

Guidance - If necessary, advice from a veterinary surgeon should be sought. Special dietary considerations should be given to young, old dogs and to whelping and nursing bitches. Nutrition is particularly important during pregnancy and lactation and consideration should be given to the varying nutritional requirements of individual dogs. Inspectors should observe the general condition of the dogs and check on the quantity of food in store and the process of preparation.

25 Weaning Procedures Condition

Puppies must start the weaning process as soon as they are capable of ingesting food on their own. The food offered must be appropriate for the stage of development of the puppies. Puppies at weaning must initially be offered food five times a day. Each puppy must take the correct share of the food.

Guidance - Weaning should normally commence at 3-4 weeks old. The initial diet may be liquid progressing to solid food over the ensuing period.

25 Condition

During lactation, the bitch must have sufficient food to satisfy the demands being made upon her.
26 1-a Kitchen Facilities Condition

Facilities, hygienically constructed and maintained, must be provided for the storage and preparation of food for the dogs. Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities must be provided. Food contamination must be avoided. A sink with hot and cold running water must be available for washing kitchen utensils and eating and drinking vessels.

Guidance - A separate hand basin with hot and cold running water should be provided for staff.

26 1-b Condition

Containers for storing foods must be pest proof, cleanable and in good condition.

Guidance - Dishes and bedding should be washed separately from domestic items.

27 First-Aid Kit for Dogs Condition

A fully maintained dog first-aid kit suitable must be available and accessible on the premises.

Guidance- A veterinary surgeon should be consulted concerning its contents and a competent member of staff should be in charge of its maintenance.

28 Isolation Facilities 1-a Condition

Veterinary advice must be sought for any animal with a potentially infectious disease.

Guidance-Where advised, the dog should be isolated immediately and the procedure documented.

28 1-b Condition

Facilities for isolation must be available when required. Isolation facilities must be used where the presence of infectious disease is suspected or known.

Guidance - Procedures should be in place, and understood by all staff, to prevent the spread of infectious disease between isolated animals and the other dogs.

28 1-c Condition

Isolation facilities must be in compliance with the other licence conditions but must be physically separate from other dogs.

Guidance - Intervening buildings and construction detail (ie window and door positions) should be taken into account. Isolation facilities should be at least 5 m away from other dogs due to the risk of airborne infection.

28 1-d Condition
Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other dogs. Protective clothing, footwear and equipment, for use only in the isolation facility, must be used to reduce the spread of infection and must not be worn outside the isolation facility.

Guidance - The use of disposable clothing is recommended. Complete disinfection of the isolation facilities and equipment must be carried out once vacated. Suitable written standard operating procedures for isolation devised and implemented where necessary.

**29 DISEASE CONTROL, VACCINATION AND WORMING Condition**

All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among dogs of infectious or contagious diseases; BDA 1973 S.1(4)(c). Licence holders must take all reasonable steps to protect the animal from pain, suffering, injury and disease. All breeding establishments must be registered with a Veterinary Practice and ensure full details are made available to the Licensing Authority.

Guidance - Registered breeders should produce a health and welfare plan approved by a veterinary surgeon. This should be updated on an annual basis and needs to take into account the health, preventive treatment, socialisation, and welfare of the animals.

**30 EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION Condition**

There must be Emergency Evacuation and Contingency Plans in place which meets approval of the local authority.

Guidance - Contingency plans should also include consideration for alternative housing for a large number of dogs.

**31 TRANSPORT**

Section 1(4)(e) of the 1973 Act is concerned with safeguarding the welfare of dogs ‘when being transported to or from the breeding establishment’.

**31-a Condition**

Dogs and puppies being transported to and from breeding establishments must be properly supervised to ensure compliance with the obligations under the Welfare of Animals Transport Order (England) 2006.

All appropriate steps must be taken to ensure dogs will be provided with suitable food, drink and bedding material and adequately exercised when being transported to or from the breeding establishment. Bitches must not be transported in the last stages of pregnancy, not from 54 days after mating, unless to a veterinary surgeon for treatment. Bitches must not be transported for 48 hours after whelping unless it is to see a veterinary surgeon for treatment.

Guidance - It is recommended that records are kept of the vehicles used when dogs are transported, as well details of journeys undertaken.

**31-b Condition**
Whenever dogs are transported they must be fit and healthy for the intended journey. Injured and/or diseased dogs must not be transported (except for minor illness or injury, as determined by trained and competent staff) unless they are being taken to a veterinary surgery.

Guidance - The transporting of distressed dogs should be avoided whenever possible. When transporting animals, there is a general duty of care to protect them from injury or unnecessary suffering and to also ensure they are transported in suitable containers.

31-c Condition

Puppies must not be transported before eight weeks of age without their dam unless a veterinary surgeon agrees otherwise for health and/or welfare reasons, or in an emergency (See Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (England) 2006 – Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005).

Guidance - Where possible, puppies should be trained to stay calmly in a crate by using reward-based training prior to transportation.

32 HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE BREEDING STOCK AND LITTERS Mating Condition

Bitches must not be mated if they are less than one year old. BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (f)

Guidance - It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure both sires and bitches are in good health prior to mating. This includes checking for the presence of both infectious and genetically inherited diseases which may affect the health of either parent or resulting puppies. Where necessary, veterinary advice should be sought. Breeding stock should be selected on their temperament and genetic health. Dogs that have required surgery to rectify an exaggerated conformation that has caused adverse welfare (e.g. an excessively flat face or short nose or eyelid abnormalities etc.) should not be bred from. Dogs with exaggerated conformations that may be associated with adverse welfare should not be bred from.

33 Maximum Number of Litters 1-a Condition

Bitches must not give birth to more than six litters of puppies in their lifetime; BDA 1973 S.1 (4) (g)

Twelve Months Between Litters

1-b Condition

Bitches must 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; BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (h)

34 Social Contact for Dogs and Socialisation of Puppies

1-a Adult Dogs Condition
Social contact is very important, and all dogs used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows adequate social contact with both other dogs and people.

I-b Puppies Condition

Puppies must be handled regularly from after birth for short periods (e.g. gently picking up and examining) to become familiar with human contact and to be examined for any sign of disease and to ensure they are feeding properly.

I-c Condition

From 3 weeks old puppies must be habituated to events likely to be encountered in a domestic environment.

Guidance - This should include the sights and sounds in households, such as appliances, as well as differing surfaces on which to walk. Introduction to novel sights and sounds should be gradual so that puppies do not show a fearful response such as startling or withdrawal. Puppies should also be introduced to a variety of people including adults of both sexes, children of different ages, and wearing a variety of clothing styles.

I-d Condition

To learn social skills with other dogs, puppies must be maintained as a litter or with puppies of a similar age and size.

Guidance - They should also ideally be introduced to nonaggressive and healthy, vaccinated adult dogs in addition to the bitch. However, it is also important for puppies to start to learn to be separated from others, so should be separated from litter mates and the bitch for short periods from the age of six weeks.

35 Record Keeping Condition

Accurate records in a form prescribed by regulations as shown below must be kept at the premises and made available for inspection there by any officer of the local authority or any veterinary surgeon, authorised by the local authority to inspect the premises; BDA 1973 S. 1(4) (i) The Breeding of Dogs (Licensing Records) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999 No 3192) prescribe the form of records to be kept by licensed breeding establishments. These records must be accurate and kept on the premises and made available to local authority inspectors or any veterinary surgeon authorised by the local authority. A record must be kept by every licensed dog breeder for each breeding bitch providing the name of the bitch, date of birth, address where she is kept, breed, description, date of mating and details of sire. Licensed dog breeders must also keep a record of any litters, including the sex of the puppies, 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 who was supplied and the status of the purchaser.

Guidance - Additional records will provide useful information to the local authority inspectors should problems arise. It is suggested that this information should include:
• The details and number of all dogs kept on the premises, including movement on and off the premises;
• oestrus dates of breeding bitches;
• microchip or tattoo numbers or other suitable permanent identification. If the dogs are KC or breed association registered, these numbers should also be recorded;
• where dogs are under a breeding arrangement, the details of such dogs, together with their whereabouts;
• vaccination and worming records and details of other veterinary treatment given;
• cleaning and disinfecting regimes (see also SOP);
• feeding and exercise routines;
• accommodation temperatures;
• details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place;
• details of vehicles used for transporting dogs, as well as time and length of journeys taken. Records should also show which dogs are transported and their destination;
• date and cause of death if known;
• Number of dogs required to be euthanised, reason for euthanasia, date of euthanasia and the name of the veterinary surgeon in attendance;
• Number of breeding bitches retired, details of each individual breeding bitch’s microchip (or other permanent identification) number, outcome for the bitch e.g. rehomed and to where
• If dogs have come from abroad, specific additional information should be recorded.
This list is by no means exhaustive. Additional conditions may be added to any dog breeding licence following guidance from a veterinary surgeon.

All first time licences must involve the inspection of the premises by a vet and ourselves. Subsequent inspections may be by ourselves alone though we may call a vet if we feel the need to.

Offences against the Act

The Act provides for the following offences-

(a) keeping a breeding establishment for dogs without a licence .
(b) contravening or failing to comply with any of the conditions of the licence .
(c) obstructing or delaying any person in the exercise of his powers of entry or inspection
Where a person is convicted under this Act or any other animal related legislation the Court also has power to cancel the licence to keep the breeding establishment for dogs and to disqualify such person from keeping a breeding establishment for dogs for such a period as the Court thinks fit.