

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

Conditions for providing boarding for cats

Part A - GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.0 Licence Display

- 1.1 A copy of the licence must be clearly and prominently displayed on any premises used for the licensable activity.
- 1.2 The name of the licence holder followed by the number on the licence holder's licence must be clearly and prominently displayed on any website used in respect of the licensable activity.

2.0 Records

- 2.1 The licence holder must ensure that at any time all the records that the licence holder is required to keep as a condition of the licence are available for inspection by any inspector in a visible and legible form or, where any such records are stored in electronic form, in a form from which they can readily be produced in a visible and legible form.
- 2.2 The licence holder must keep all such records for at least three years beginning with the date on which the record was created.

3.0 Use, Number and type of animals

- 3.1 No animals or types of animal other than those animals and types of animal specified in the licence may be used in relation to the relevant licensable activity.
- 3.2 The maximum number of animals kept for the activity at any time must not exceed the maximum that is reasonable taking into account the facilities and staffing on any premises used for the licensable activity.

4.0 Staffing

- 4.1 Sufficient numbers of people who are competent for the purposes must be available to provide a level of care that ensures that the welfare needs of all the animals are met.
 - Staffing levels will be up to 1 full-time equivalent attendant per 20 cats kept or a higher ratio of qualified staff.
- 4.2 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.
 - A member of staff with an OFQUAL regulated Level 3 qualification in a relevant subject must be present during the working day.
- 4.3 The licence holder must provide and ensure the implementation of a written training policy for all staff

5.0 Suitable Environment

- 5.1 All areas, equipment and appliances to which the animals have access must present minimal risks of injury, illness and escape. They must be constructed in materials that are robust, safe and durable, in a good state of repair and well maintained.
- Cats must be provided with a design and layout that provides them with choice. This can be achieved by, for example, inclusion of raised platforms.
- 5.2 Animals must be kept at all times in an environment suitable to their species and condition (including health status and age) with respect to –
- a) Their behavioural needs,
 - b) Its situation, space, air quality, cleanliness and temperature,
 - c) The water quality (where relevant)
 - d) Noise levels
 - e) Light levels
 - f) Ventilation
- Ventilation must be a managed, fixed or portable, air system to ensure appropriate temperatures are maintained in all weather. This can be an air conditioning unit or use of removable fans.
 - Temperatures in the sleeping environment must be above 18°C
- 5.3 Staff must ensure that the animals are kept clean and comfortable.
- 5.4 Where appropriate for the species, a toileting area and opportunities for toileting must be provided.
- 5.5 Procedures must be in place to ensure accommodation and any equipment within it is cleaned as often as necessary and good hygiene standards are maintained. The accommodation must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 All the animals must be easily accessible to staff and for inspection. There must be sufficient light for the staff to work effectively and observe the animals.
- 5.8 All resources must be provided in a way (for example as regards, frequency, location and access points) that minimises competitive behaviour or the dominance of individual animals.
- 5.9 The animals must not be left unattended in any situation or for any period likely to cause them distress
- All individual cats must be inspected at least once at an appropriate interval during the out of hours period (eg. 1800-0800)

6.0 Suitable Diet

- 6.1 The animals must be provided with a suitable diet in terms of quality, quantity and frequency. Any new feeds must be introduced gradually to allow the animals to adjust to them.
- 6.2 Feed and (where appropriate) water intake must be monitored, and any problems recorded and addressed.

- 6.3 Feed and drinking water provided to the animals must be unspoilt and free from contamination.
- 6.4 Feed and drinking receptacles must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected, or disposable.
- 6.5 Constant access to fresh, clean drinking water must be provided in a suitable receptacle for the species that requires it.
- 6.6 Where feed is prepared on the premises, there must be hygienic facilities for its preparation, including a working surface, hot and cold running water and storage.

7.0 **Monitoring of behaviour and training of animals**

- 7.1 Active and effective environmental enrichment must be provided to the animals in inside and any outside environments
 - **Provision must include a choice of hiding places and different levels/shelves.**
- 7.2 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 veterinarian suggests otherwise.
- 7.3 The animals' behaviour and any changes of behaviour must be monitored. Advice must be sought, as appropriate and without delay, from a veterinarian or, in the case of fish, any person competent to give such advice if averse or abnormal behaviour is detected.
 - **Behavioural observations must be recorded daily.**
- 7.4 Where used, training methods or equipment must not cause pain, suffering or injury.
- 7.5 All immature animals must be given suitable and adequate opportunities to –
 - a) Learn how to interact with people, their own species and other animals where such interaction benefits their welfare, and
 - b) Become habituated to noises, objects and activities in their environment.

8.0 **Animal Handling and Interactions**

- 8.1 All people responsible for the care of the animals must be competent in the appropriate handling of each animal to protect it from pain, suffering, injury or disease.
- 8.2 The animals must be kept separately or in suitable compatible social groups appropriate to the species and individual animals. No animals from a social species may be isolated or separated from others of their species for any longer than is necessary.
 - **Where more than one cat share a unit daily behavioural observations are recorded – these should especially focus on any signs of stress/aggression.**
- 8.3 The animals must have at least daily opportunities to interact with people where such interaction benefits their welfare.

9.0 **Protection from Pain, Suffering, Injury and Disease**

- 9.1 Written procedures must -
 - a) Be in place and implemented covering-
 - 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 carcasses).
- b) Be in place covering the care of the animals following the suspension or revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency
- 9.2 All people responsible for the care of the animals must be made fully aware of these procedures.
- 9.3 Appropriate isolation, in self contained facilities, must be available for the care of sick, injured or potentially infectious animals.
- Designated on site isolation facilities must be available and must follow the same size and facility requirements as normal cattery unit.
- 9.4 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among animals and people of infectious diseases and parasites.
- 9.5 All excreta and soiled bedding for disposal must be stored and disposed of in a hygienic manner and in accordance with any relevant legislation.
- 9.6 Sick or injured animals, must receive prompt attention from a veterinarian or, in the case of fish, an appropriately competent person and the advice of that veterinarian or in the case of fish that competent person must be followed.
- 9.7 Where necessary, animals must receive preventative treatment by an appropriately competent person.
- 9.8 The licence holder must register with a veterinarian 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 veterinarian must be readily available to all staff on the premises used for the licensable activity.
- 9.9 Prescribed medicines must be stored safely and securely to safeguard against unauthorised access, at the correct temperature, and used in accordance with the instructions of the veterinarian.
- 9.10 Medicines other than prescribed medicines must be stored, used and disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer or veterinarian.
- 9.11 Cleaning products must be suitable, safe and effective against pathogens that pose a risk to the animals. They must be used, stored and disposed of in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and used in a way which prevents distress or suffering of the animals.
- 9.12 No person may euthanase an animal except a veterinarian or a person who has been authorised by a veterinarian as competent for such purpose or –
- a) In the case of fish, a person who is competent for such purpose
 - b) In the case of horses, a person who is competent, and who holds a licence or certificate, for such purpose.
- 9.13 All animals must be checked at least once daily and more regularly as necessary to check for any signs of pain, suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour. Vulnerable animals must be checked more frequently. Any signs of pain, suffering,

injury, disease or abnormal behaviour must be recorded and the advice and further advice of a veterinarian must be sought and followed.

10.0 Emergencies

- 10.1 A written emergency plan, acceptable to the local authority, must be in place, known and available to all staff on the premises used for the licensable activity, and 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, aeration or filtration systems or other emergencies.
 - 10.2 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.
 - 10.3 External doors and gates must be lockable.
 - 10.4 A designated key holder with access to all animal areas must at all times be within reasonable travel distance of the premises and available to attend in an emergency.
- [A competent person must be on site at all times.](#)

Part B – Specific Conditions for Boarding for cats

1.0 Suitable environment

- 1.1 Cats within the premises to which the licence relates must be prevented from coming into direct contact with other animals from outside the premises.
 - 1.2 There must be a safe, secure, waterproof roof over the entire cat unit.
 - 1.3 A cat unit may only be shared by cats from the same household.
 - 1.4 Communal exercise areas are not permitted.
 - 1.5 Each cat unit must be clearly numbered and there must be a system in place which ensures that information about the cat or cats in each cat unit is available to all staff and any inspector.
 - 1.6 Each cat unit must provide the cat with sufficient space to—
 - a) Walk,
 - b) Turn around,
 - c) Stand on its hind legs,
 - d) Hold its tail erect,
 - e) Climb,
 - f) Rest on the elevated area; and
 - g) Lie down fully stretched outWithout touching another cat or its walls.
- [Units must be 1.5 times the minimum sizes stated.](#)

- 1.7 Each cat unit must have sufficient space for each cat to sit, rest, eat and drink away from the area where it urinates and defecates.
- 1.8 Cats must have constant access to their sleeping area.
- 1.9 A litter tray must be provided at all times in each cat unit. A safe and absorbent litter material must be provided. Litter trays must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- 1.10 Each cat unit must include an elevated area.
- Each cat must have access to at least two raised areas – one of which must be in the sleeping area and one must be in the exercise area.
- 1.11 Adjoining cat units must have solid barriers covering the full height and full width of the adjoining wall.
- There must be completely opaque sneeze barriers rather than translucent upto 600mm and behind any shelves.
- 1.12 Any gaps between cat units must be a minimum of 0.6 metres wide.
- 1.13 Any cat taken out of a cat unit must be secured in a suitable carrier.
- 1.14 The sleeping area must form part of the cat unit and be free from draughts.

2.0 Monitoring of behaviour and training

- 2.1 There must be an area within the unit in which the cat can avoid seeing other cats and people if it so chooses.
- 2.2 Each cat unit must include a facility for scratching. Any surface within a cat unit available for scratching must either be disinfected between uses by different cats or disposed of.
- 2.3 All cats must be provided with toys or feeding enrichment (or both) unless advice from a veterinarian suggests otherwise.
- 2.4 All toys and other enrichment items must be checked daily to ensure they remain safe and must be cleaned and disinfected at least weekly.

3.0 Records

- 3.1 A register must be kept of all the cats on the premises which must include—
 - a) the dates of each cat's arrival and departure,
 - b) each cat's name, age, sex, neuter status and a description of it or its breed,
 - c) each cat's microchip number, where applicable,
 - d) the number of any cats from the same household,
 - e) a record of which cats (if any) are from the same household,
 - f) the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of the owner of each cat and emergency contact details,
 - g) in relation to each cat, the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of a local contact in an emergency,
 - h) the name and contact details of each cat's normal veterinarian and

details of any insurance relating to the cat,

- i) details of each cat's relevant medical and behavioural history, including details of any treatment administered against parasites and restrictions on exercise,
- j) details of each cat's diet and related requirements,
- k) any required consent forms,
- l) a record of the date or dates of each cat's most recent vaccination, worming and flea treatments, and
- m) details of any medical treatment each cat is receiving.

4.0 Protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease

- 4.1** A cat must remain in its assigned cat unit, except when it is moved to an isolation cat unit or to a holding cat unit.
- 4.2** Where any other activity involving animals is undertaken on the premises, it must be kept entirely separate from the area where the activity of providing boarding for cats takes place.
- **Where applicable, there must be a completely separate unit for any other activities such as rescue or breeding.**
- 4.3** All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected before a cat is first introduced into a cat unit.
- 4.4** A preventative healthcare plan agreed with the veterinarian with whom the licence holder has registered under paragraph 9(8) of Schedule 2 must be implemented.
- 4.5** A holding cat unit must only be used in an emergency and must not be used for longer than is necessary and in any event for no longer than a total of 12 hours in any 24-hour period.
- 4.6** In this paragraph, "holding cat unit" means a cat unit, separate from any other cat unit, in which a cat may be housed temporarily.