

## **Home Boarding Higher Standards**

For each activity, a number of higher standards have been agreed. Meeting the higher standards is optional but is the only way to gain a higher star rating. The higher standards are classified in to two types: required and optional and are outlined in the relevant guidance documents for the activity in question. To distinguish required standards from optional ones they have each been given a specific colour which is used in each guidance document. Higher standards that appear in blue text are required, whereas those that appear in red text are optional. To qualify as meeting the higher standards, the business needs to achieve all of the required higher standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher standards. During an inspection, the inspector should assess whether or not the business meets the required number of higher standards.

### **Required:**

- There must be at least one full-time member of staff per 8 dogs.
- There must be a clear plan setting out 2 walks per dog each day for a minimum of 20 minutes each. There must be an alternative form of enrichment planned for dogs that cannot be exercised for veterinary reasons for the same periods of time.
- For a boarding premises that keeps multiple dogs at once, there must be an overnight trial stay for all stays longer than 3 nights. Only one dog can be trialed at a time unless the dogs are from the same household.
- Dogs must be exercised at least twice per day. Each dog must have a written daily exercise regime including lead exercise and free running in a secure area. There must be an alternative form of enrichment planned for dogs which cannot be exercised for veterinary reasons for the same periods of time.

### **Optional: (50%)**

- Bathrooms, hallways and partitioned rooms are not used as designated rooms.
- There must be a member of permanent, full-time staff with an appropriate Ofqual regulated Level 3 qualification.
- 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.
- There must be a designated other person or member of staff who can cover any emergency, so that the dogs are never left alone.
- Any outside space will have 2 secure physical barriers between any dog and any exit.
- Only dogs from the same household are boarded at any one time.