

Dog Breeding 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Optional (50%)

- Each business must have a full-time, permanent member of staff with an appropriate Ofqual regulated Level 3 qualification.
- A competent person must be on site at all times.
- Businesses must appoint a qualified behaviour expert and record all discussions that are had.
- 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.
- Businesses must have a noise management plan in place that's proven to reduce noise for the dogs
Measures can include:
 - physical barriers
 - sound absorbing materials

-positive reinforcement training to keep barking down
-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:
 - date of birth
 - microchip number
 - registration body (if applicable)
 - details of any inherited diseases that the breed is prone to
 - any screening tests